



FMC Weekly - January 3, 2019

The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver

Sunday, January 6

9:30AM Worship

Come early to enjoy pre-service music from Donna Swartzendruber. Pastor Glenn Balzer will preach as we celebrate Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi in Matthew 2:1-12. Tom Bishop will share his faith journey. Judi Nafziger will lead worship, Isabelle King has children's time, and Emily Martin will lead singing.

After the worship service in the Community Center

- ◆ Join us for refreshments and help support our youth
- ◆ Purchase grocery cards to help support the FMC Ministry Plan

10:45AM Education Hour

- ◆ **Sunday School for ages 2-18**
- ◆ **Adult Education:** Darren Knowles and Glenn Balzer will lead a discussion on creation, evolution, and the liberal mind.

Our FMC Community

Please continue give to Joseph's Storehouse, the FMC program that provides direct assistance to people on the Westside needing emergency rent and utility support. The direct assistance program often runs out of funds mid-month for rental assistance. Your gifts help our Westside neighbors remain in their homes.

So far we have raised \$19,400! You can help us reach our goal of \$25,000 by giving generously. Write your checks to FMC with Joseph's Storehouse in the memo line. Contact Debb Reed with questions.

2019 Ministry Plan Pledge Forms: Please return your pledge to support the 2019 Ministry Plan. Pick up a pledge form on the welcome table. You can return your pledge by email (to Tom Bishop or the FMC office), by mail (430 W 9th Ave, Denver CO 80204), or drop it in the lock box by the front office door.

Message from the ad hoc Security Group: Our temporary security group drew up an initial emergency preparedness plan, outlining how to respond to various emergency situations. It calls for the formation of a Safety and Security Team to oversee this responsibility. The team will arrange that, for every

congregational gathering, one of them will be present in the foyer to monitor the inside and the near outside area of the building. This person would take charge in an emergency and could lock the entrance doors, if necessary. Brad Shelly is seeking persons willing to serve the congregation in this way. Please contact Brad Shelly or Ralph Nafziger to indicate your interest in participating in this team.

Report from the Gun Violence Group: Our group is promoting a proposal for FMC to join Colorado Communities United to End Gun violence (CFCU). The purpose of this community of 40 diverse faith organizations is to help end the deaths and injuries in Colorado caused by the use of firearms. Member churches select one or two representatives to take part in the CFCU meetings and activities, along with others from the congregation who are interested. Also, the church would contribute \$100 a year in support of the group. At the Jan 20 Adult Education session David Livingston, Co-chair of CFCU, will speak to us about the organization.

Please retrieve your stranded dishes! Did you enjoy sharing food on Christmas Eve or at last Sunday's potluck? Did your dishes make it home with you? Check the table in the Community Center to collect your dishes/bowls/platters.

As you are putting away your Christmas decorations, you may notice some new or gently used items that you would like to find a new home for. Please consider donating them to the Christmas Booth. If you have any questions or want to make arrangements for the transfer, please contact me at vickymierau@hotmail.com or 720-352-1737. Thank you for your consideration!
Vicky Mierau, Christmas Booth Coordinator

Attendance Dec 30: Adults- 82; Children- 13; Total - 95

Sunday School

New Year, Old Name! We're going back to basics and returning to calling our weekly time together after the service "Sunday School."

Mentor/Mentee Program

Also returning in 2019 is the Mentor/Mentee program! Pastor Glenn, Jordan, and Anita want the program to be flexible and creative as there are many ways to have supportive, encouraging relationships. There are no requirements regarding amount of time or activities completed together. If you are in high school and are interested in getting a mentor you can ask someone directly or email Anita or Jordan to help you get started.

What's happening this week:

PreK, K2, and Venture Club classes: an Old Testament review

For families to do this week:

Make ice lanterns to celebrate the light in the darkness! www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/holidays/how-to-make-an-ice-lantern

Looking ahead:

- ◆Jan 25-27: RMMC Jr High Snow Camp
 - ◆Jan 25-27: MYF retreat at RMMC's Eagle's Nest
 - ◆Feb 15-17: RMMC Sr High Snow Camp
-

Caring for Each Other

Please keep Martin and Wanda Brotherton in your thoughts and prayers as they mourn the sudden passing of their beloved grandson, Bryan Westhoff, due to suicide. A memorial service will be held at 3pm this Sat, Jan 5 at Lutheran Church of the Master (14099 W Jewell Ave, Lakewood CO 80228).

Follow the Burkholder Family blog at: wonderwandertw.wordpress.com

Happy Birthday Jan 4-10

- 4- Connor O'Brian
- 4- Delbert Preheim
- 4- Trevor Stutzman
- 5- Emily Martin
- 5- Isaac Olson
- 7- Ann Forese-Fretz
- 7- Jessica Yoder
- 8- Russ Gregory
- 9- Elizabeth Friesen Birky
- 9- Tom Bishop
- 9- Annika Stutzman

Happy Anniversary Jan 4-10

none

Update from George Varughese and family: My family joins me to wish you a BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. May God continue to bless you as you are a blessing to others.

Thank you for continuing to send us the weekly bulletin which we love so much.

A brief account of our present state of life: Our daughter Roopan is in her first year post graduate programme in Food and Nutrition in Symbiosis University in Pune, Maharashtra, India. She stays with us and commutes daily. Our son Kalyan is in the third year of his medical studies and he hopes to complete it in another three years. He is in our home state Kerala and stays in the college hostel. My wife Gigi has not taken up any assignment yet but she continues to be as busy as others taking care of all of us. In the month of May this year, we moved from Chennai to Pune and currently I teach Pastoral Care and Counselling at the Union Biblical Seminary, Pune, Maharashtra, India. You might be interested to know that the Mennonite Missionaries were the key founders of this Seminary. We are glad to be part of it. This Seminary offers graduate, post graduate, and doctoral studies in Theology, Missions, and allied subjects under the Serampore University and Asia Theological Association.

Thank God and you again for your continued friendship and fellowship even across the seas.

Upcoming Sundays

Jan 13

Worship: Annie Lengacher Browning will preach

Adult Education: What about Sin? led by Darren Knowles and Glenn Balzer

Jan 20

Worship: Glenn Balzer will preach from John 2:1-11. We will celebrate Communion as part of Mennonite World Fellowship Sunday.

Adult Education: Arden Slotter will give an update from the Gun Violence Group. David Livingston, Co-chair of Colorado Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU), will share about the organization and how FMC may work with them.

Jan 27

Worship: Karin Kaufman Wall from Mennonite Central Committee Central States will preach

Adult Education: The Loss of Turtle Island is a participatory learning experience that depicts the historic relationship between European settlers- including Mennonites- and the Indigenous nations, the original inhabitants, of the land we now call the United States of America. Blankets represent the land and participants represent distinct Indigenous nations who experience colonization, genocide, broken treaties, forced removal, assimilation and termination- all in the spirit of the Doctrine of Discovery. Erica Littlewolf (Indigenous Visioning Circle Program Coordinator) and Karin Kaufman Wall (Peace and Justice Education Coordinator) of MCC Central States will facilitate.

Feb 3

Worship: Glenn Balzer will preach from Luke 4:21-31.

Adult Education: Contemplative living through mindfulness and yoga led by Jill Schmidt and Ben Gerig. Dwelling spiritually involves self-discipline, compassion for oneself and one's neighbor, and a visceral connection to the divine. Come learn how mindfulness and yoga are a bridge to get us back to feeling "at home." Ben and Jill will share their personal experiences with contemplative living through yoga and mindfulness, which has led them on an unexpected journey, sharing it with others.

In the Building this Week

Thurs, 6:30pm- Mindful Yoga (Community Center)

Sat, 4:30pm- FMC Babysitting Cooperative (B2/Nursery)

Mon & Wed, 9:00-11:30am- Direct Assistance Office (Community Center)

Mon, 5:30pm- Denver Children's Choir rehearsals

Mon, 7:00pm- Women Bridging Borders (Office)

Tues, 4:00pm- Colorado Circles for Change (B21 & Commons)

--Contact [Marie](#) to list your team meeting in this section.

Market Square

If you want to sell, buy, trade, get a ride, find a roommate, find an employee, find a job, find sponsors, or advertise an event requiring purchase of tickets, this section is for you. (Note: Official functions of Mountain States Mennonite Conference or its congregations excepted.) E-mail your announcement to the church with "Market Square" in the subject line. It will run one time but may be resubmitted. Deadline is midnight Wednesday.

Around Denver and Mountain States Mennonite Conference

We would like to invite our MSMC community to the **ordination service for Zach Martinez**, pastor of Sojourn Mennonite Church. The service will be Sun, Jan 13 at 5pm at Sojourn MC, located at St. Luke's Episcopal, 2000 Stover St, Fort Collins CO. Email Sojourn MC with any questions (sojournmennonite@gmail.com).

For more information about our conference and latest issue of ZING!, go to mountainstatesmc.org

Mennonite Church USA and Beyond

Mennonite Church USA

Introducing the new monthly **MCUSA Faith Formation Network e-newsletter!** Sign up to receive it at mennoniteusa.org/what-we-do/faith-formation.

The latest episode of the **Holding it(,) Together podcast** is out now, focusing on infertility, miscarriage, and infant loss. Listen on Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, or online at themennonite.org/the-latest/holding-together-podcast.

Mennonite Mission Network: Tomorrow, Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer and their family are returning to Ecuador after six months in the United States. Their two-way mission with Mennonite Mission Network requires many transitions. Pray for wisdom and patience. Pray especially for their daughter, Sierra, who is remaining in the United States for college.

Mennonite Disaster Service is building our team and **searching for qualified, motivated individuals** who have a knowledge of and passion for the MDS mission, vision, and values and a commitment to the Anabaptist church. Current position openings include: (1) Communications Manager in Lititz PA, (2) a Volunteer Training Specialist, home based (US resident), and (3) a Leadership Volunteer Interviewer, home based (US resident). For more information, visit our webpage at www.mds.mennonite.net/who-we-are/employment

Hesston College's Anabaptist Vision and Discipleship Series (AVDS) conference Feb 1-3 will do more than just talk about following Jesus, we will practice spiritual disciplines using our bodies and voices for Jesus. Join Christian spirituality experts Mark and Lisa Scandrette for "Growing More Like Jesus From the Outside In: Transforming Heart and Mind." Register by Jan 28. \$100/person, \$75/each for two or more from your group. Call 620-327-8147 or visit www.hesston.edu/events/avds for more information.

For more information about our denomination, go to mennoniteusa.org

Other Information

Sermons are posted on fmcdenver.org when available.

FMC Emergency Closure: When weather or any other emergency event necessitates last minute cancellation of worship or other events here at FMC, the following procedure will be followed: 1) The cancellation will be posted on the FMC website. 2) A recorded message will be left on the FMC main line at 303-892-1038. 3) The cancellation is posted on Channel 9. 4) The cancellation will be posted on Facebook. You can view closing information online anytime at www.9news.com/closings or by visiting mobile apps for smartphones.

Website: fmcdenver.org

Phone: 303-892-1038

Deadline for announcements is Wednesday midnight. Please send announcements to Marie Voth at marie.fmcdenver@gmail.com. Announcements run one time. Please rewrite and submit a fresh announcement if you want your announcement to run a second time.

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

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[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

