



FMC Weekly - July 25, 2019

The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver

Sunday, July 28

9:30am Worship

Come early to enjoy pre-service music from Ethan and Isabel Mullett. Zachary Martinez from Sojourn Fort Collins/Greeley will preach from Jeremiah 18:1-10. In 2017, the Washington Post reported that, given declining trends in church attendance, the mainline Protestant Church has 23 years until its attendance is effectively zero. How does the Church confront this information with hope? Is it possible that hope doesn't mean everything turns out "okay"? Anita Miller will lead worship and children's time and Aimee Voth Siebert will lead singing.

Worship will include a time to vote on the pastoral candidacy of Claudia Aguilar Rubalcava.

After worship in the Community Center

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

No youth or adult education.

Our FMC Community

Pastoral candidacy vote: This Sunday members have the opportunity to vote on the candidacy of Claudia Aguilar Rubalcava for the position of Pastor at FMC Denver. An email went out earlier this week with information about the vote and a link for electronic/absentee voting. Please contact Marie if this email missed your inbox. (marie.fmcdenver@gmail.com)

Cassie Voth will join Mennonite Voluntary Service in Washington D.C. in August!

Hello! My name is Cassie Voth and I grew up in the FMC congregation and I recently graduated from Bethel College. I have accepted a Mennonite Voluntary Service placement in Washington D.C. During the next year, I will be working to help ensure that patients at a federally qualified health center in D.C. are able to access the medication and additional services that their health provider deems necessary (www.communityofhopedc.org). I am very excited about the opportunity to serve and learn in the D.C. area. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support over the next year are all needed. If you would like to donate you can do so through the

following link: <http://igfn.us/vf/VothC>. I would be happy to talk with you more about my plans and I would love to hear from you over the course of the next year. If you are interested in contacting me feel free to email me at cassandravoth@gmail.com. Thank you!

MCC School Kits for 2019

It is time for us to begin [School Kits](#) for 2019. Last year 78,035 kits were sent to Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iraq, Zambia, Ukraine, Somalia, Burkina Faso, Canada, and the US. School Kits continue to be the most requested item from MCC.

We need bags to be sewn. You can find the [directions online](#) or use the directions below:

Finished bag size 11 3/4 x 16 3/4 inches. Please use firm cotton or cotton blend woven fabrics.

- 1) Cut one piece of fabric 12 1/2 x 38 inches
- 2) Fold in the edge of fabric 3/8 inch and stitch all around
- 3) Fold down 2 inches on both short ends. Stitch 1/8 inch from fold and the edge to make drawstring casing.
- 4) Fold bag in half and stitch from casing to bottom of bag.
- 5) Cording should be two lengths of 33 inch. Pass one through beginning and ending on one side. Pass the other cord beginning and ending on the other side. Tie off cords.

Please leave your bags in the office. They will be picked up and placed in the quilt room. In prior years we have been able to get long shoe laces for the ties. If this is possible this year we will let you know.

Items for bags are now on sale. You may purchase items at any store you desire. Please see details below for sharpener. There will be a box in the office for you to drop your items.

Items for bags are:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8 1/2 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality: must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small all metal pencil sharpener; one or 2 holes.

All metal sharpeners can be found online at Amazon.com or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. (Please do not buy plastic sharpeners as they will not be used.)

We will be collecting boxes to transport the completed kits to the Sale this fall. If you have access to empty paper boxes, could you please bring them to the office or get them to the Quilters room.

Please consider taking some completed kits to the Rocky Ford MCC Sale this fall. They will then be taken to Newton.

If you would like to contribute to our School Kit supplies but do not want to or are unable to shop, please write a check or give cash which is "ear marked " for school kits. One of the Junior Youth or MYF will shop for you.

Contact Linda Wyse if you have questions.

FMC Staff Schedules

Pastor Glenn Balzer

July 22-28: out of the office

Marie Voth

July 26: out of the office

Aug 5: out of the office

Attendance July 21: Adults- 171; Children- 12; Total- 183

Sunday School- Summer Faith Formation

No child/youth Sunday School until September.

Week 8/12 – The Destruction, Exile, and Return

Every week this summer Anita presents a different section of the Bible storyline. You are encouraged to read these stories directly from the Bible, talk about them with your families, and think about what they mean for us today.

The next section describes the development of the Israelite people after their two kingdoms were destroyed; Israel in 722 BC by Assyria, and Judah in 586 BC by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. In 539 BC, the Babylonian empire falls to Persian King Cyrus II who, one year later, decrees that Judean exiles may return to Jerusalem. The Israelites spread across the area and became known as the diaspora. The term “Jew” began to signify more about ethnicity and/or religion, rather than geography.

Two important themes arise from this section. The first is that God exists and is with us everywhere. Originally the Israelites thought that God ‘lived’ in the Temple in Jerusalem, and that accessing God involved going through special people and rituals. The destruction of the Temple was devastating because people worried God had also been destroyed or displaced. A byproduct of exile was the development of synagogues, the study and teaching of the Torah, and the production of the Talmud, scholarly interpretation of the Torah, by rabbis.

The second theme is one of identity: how to be God’s people in foreign lands. Exiled Israelites were challenged to keep their customs and values in places where there was no freedom of religion. Would they resist and risk death, submit and lose their way, or find a middle ground? The question of what it means to be exiled continued. Early Christians struggled with the Roman Empire, the Anabaptist movement was instigated in relation to Catholics and Protestants, and, in the last 60 years, some Mennonites have worried that urban environments might lead them astray.

Israel’s Fall to Assyria – 2 Kings 15-17

Jonah warns the Assyrian capital Nineveh of their coming defeat by Babylon – Jonah 3

The Fall of Jerusalem – 2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36: 15-19

The Exile to Babylon – 2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36; Lamentations

The End of the Exile – Ezra 1-6

Esther Saves the Jews – Esther 1-8

Ezra – Ezra 7-10

Rebuilding Jerusalem – Nehemiah

Reflection for children:

- Where do you feel close to God? Why do we come to a particular church building?
- When have you said “no” to something that you knew was wrong?

Reflection for adults:

- Listen to the following modern songs that describe exile from Psalm 137:

[Sweet Honey in the Rock – Waters of Babylon](#)

[Don McLean – Waters of Babylon](#)

[“On the Willows” from Godspell](#)

- This is an excellent video from The Bible Project describing the phenomena of exile: thebibleproject.com/explore/way-of-the-exile/
- The Bible Project video on the Book of Lamentations: thebibleproject.com/explore/lamentations/
- The Bible Project video on the Return to Jerusalem: thebibleproject.com/explore/ezra-nehemiah/

Caring for Each Other

Care Line: 720-345-7722 (call or text)

The Care Line will connect you with a member of the Congregational Care Team. Reach out to request prayer, a visit, or other support. All care is kept confidential. Questions? Contact Marylou Shelly or Glenn Balzer.

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

Happy Birthday July 25-31

25- Sarah/Sally Newcomer

26- Santiago Fiz

26- Eric Lantz

27- Lynn Wenger

27- Dan Wessner

28- Lane Miller

28- Tonya Popp

30- David Ammar

30- Dave Harguth

30- Merle Snyder

Happy Anniversary July 25-31

30- Sarah Winter & Jonny Rotheram

Upcoming Sundays

August 4

Worship: Glenn Balzer will preach. Luke 12:13-21 calls us to be a people of generosity, love, and selflessness.

August 11

Worship: Glenn Balzer will preach. It is 2019. Is faith even a thing anymore? If so, what does it mean to be a person of faith? Join us as we look at Hebrews 11:1-3, 29-12:2.

August 18

Worship: Naomi Nishi's mediation will discuss the missing voices of women from the church, historically and currently. She will explore the barriers we all face in listening to and learning from women, and offer spiritual lessons shared by women in our community. Join us as we consider Ruth 1:16-17.

August 25

Worship: Glenn Balzer will preach. Faithful service may necessitate acts of (dis)obedience in inconvenient settings! Luke 13:10-17 is one interesting example. We will celebrate communion.

Adult education: Congregational meeting led by the Leadership Board

In the Building this Week

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

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

Tues, 4:00pm- Colorado Circles for Change (B21 & B8)

Wed, 7:00pm- Leadership Board meeting (Office)

DOOR Group (July 28- Aug 2): Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth MN

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

Around Denver and Mountain States Mennonite Conference

MSMC Assembly: Aug 2-4 in Boulder

Registration is still open for the upcoming Annual Assembly, to be held at Boulder Mennonite Church, August 2-4. Come join the fun! We have added a lot of details online, where you can register: mountainstatesmc.org/assembly-2019/.

We have childcare available all weekend! There will be fun activities for older kids Saturday morning and afternoon. Assembly is a family event!

Assembly begins with a concert Friday night. What a fun, social way to start the weekend! The concert starts at 7:30 and all are welcome, bring your friends!

Assembly Service Project - Did you know our goal is to assemble 2000 hygiene kits?!? Let's live out "Embracing the Impossible!" In order to accomplish this amazing goal, we need everyone's help - even if you will be busy in the delegate session - even if you can't attend Assembly. Let's show MCC that MSMC is embracing the impossible!

- Order supplies and bring them OR have them shipped directly to Boulder Mennonite Church.
- Sign up for what you can bring: www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4BA8AE2DA6FD0-assembly
- Go to the [MSMC website](#) and make a donation towards supplies.
- Join us Saturday morning at 10am to assemble kits.
- Bring empty, sturdy boxes for kits to be stored/transported in (i.e. small moving boxes, liquor store boxes, ream paper boxes, etc)
- Please Please Please help us get them to the Relief Sale in September - plan to take as many as you have space for. All 2000 kits need to get from BMC to Kansas.

Questions? Email Pastor Jeni Umble, jeni.umble@gmail.com

Quilters and others interested in unique art, check out the "broken treaty" exhibit now housed at the art museum on the CU Boulder campus. [Click here for more details](#). The exhibit is free.

The July Zinglet! is available [online](#). You may also pick up a paper copy on the welcome table.

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

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.

FMC Denver seeks a part time Facility Manager. Position includes building and property maintenance, security, and janitorial duties. Requires living in on-site apartment and ability to work flexible hours. Visit www.fmcdenver.org/employment for more information and to apply.

Do you have extra landscaping materials? I am finishing up a backyard project and I don't have enough materials. I am looking for any flagstone, or pavers that you may have lying around that you don't need anymore. I am happy to pick them up. Thank you. ~Ivanna Johnson

Mennonite Church USA and Beyond

Mennonite Church USA

"This is a peace that defies our Western thinking. It's a peace that does not classify people or creation into categories. It's a peace that puts us in right relationship with each other. This includes creation. It's a peace that reconciles us to God, our creator." Iris de León-Hartshorn, associate executive director of operations for MC USA, writes about "The All-Encompassing Cosmic Christ" on the Menno Snapshots blog: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/the-all-encompassing-cosmic-christ.

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 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 on the 9News app.

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.

