



## **FMC Weekly - Aug 8, 2019**

*The weekly newsletter of First Mennonite Church of Denver*

### **Sunday, Aug 11**

#### **9:30am Worship**

Come early to enjoy pre-service music from Donna Swartzendruber. 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. Claudia Popp and Elena Stutzman will lead worship, Glenda Kauffman has children's time, and Sonia Graber will lead singing.

#### **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.**

### **FMC Outreach Grants**

Our FMC Outreach budget includes annual money for grants to local individuals or organizations with projects that reflect our values of peace, service and community. The Outreach committee is pleased to announce 2019 Outreach Grants have been awarded to the following recipients. Later this year recipients will give presentations about their organizations and explain how these grants have been used.

**Casa de Paz** is the only organization in Colorado offering shelter to immigrants released from detention and/or their families. CdP provides meals; access to phones, WiFi, and computers; transportation; and visits to detained immigrants as well as emotional support. Detention is a difficult time that tears families apart and creates a financial burden, so services are offered free of cost. Since their doors opened in 2012, they've hosted 2,178 immigrants from 30 countries and the need only continues to grow. Casa de Paz now enjoys a large volunteer base and received \$1000.

**Colorado Circles for Change (previously VORP)**. CCFC's Hueliti (pronounced *way lee tee*) program provides restorative, culturally responsive, healing informed programming to girls involved in the juvenile justice system. The program is focused on healing trauma, developing leadership and creating a service project in the community for the girls to engage in. Ten girls successfully participated in 10 weeks of intentional curriculum and workshops and are now ready to engage in a community service project. We have an opportunity to take

these girls to Puerto Rico to become *Promotores Verdes*, community educators advancing a culture of recreation, conservation, and public health anchored in nature experiences and a sustainable outdoors economy. Youth participants will engage in training and skill building while giving back to the local community through rebuilding and cultural exchange with local youth in Puerto Rico. The most exciting thing is that CCFC youth participants will facilitate a healing circle together with youth in Puerto Rico and share parts of our programming that happen here in Denver. The girls are raising money in addition to the FMC grant of \$2000.

**Bending Bamboo** is a two-week intensive immersion trip for up to 20 FMC members January 1-16, 2020. The purpose of this trip is to create a learning experience which builds upon the rich history of the Mennonite peace stance and wartime alternative service which was behind the planting of FMC Denver. "It hones the consciousness of a peace church community with a case study that asks what Mennonites can learn today from the Vietnamese (2000-2020), and shifts a country-to-country relationship borne of war to a new people-to-people collaboration in an epoch of climate chaos, rural-urban and ethnic inequality, exported pollution, and mass migration (the future)," say tour organizers Elizabeth Holdeman and Dan Wessner. Hopefully this study/travel will stoke the passions of FMC youth and adults alike to consider new ways to engage globally to wage peace in a time when alternative service is not as foundational as it once was in the Mennonite ethos. \$2000 was granted to offset some planning expenses and to defray a portion of the cost for pastoral team participation in this trip.

**Denver Inner City Parish hosts Veggie Rx**, an eight-week curriculum designed to increase education and access around healthy foods for individuals who have been diagnosed with a disease related to obesity, such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke, high blood pressure, gout, some cancers, gall bladder disease and gall stones, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, and asthma. DICP concluded a pilot program with 10 participants, all senior citizens, in April 2019. The program included a collaboration with the Sociology Department at CU Denver, which culminated in the data-driven study and evaluation entitled "Food Security among Clients of the Denver Inner City Parish." The second class is currently in progress. \$1500 was awarded for the Veggie Rx program.

**Grace in Action** is a Littleton neighborhood café where FMC members Brad & Marylou Shelly volunteer. Grace in Action serves an average of 50 meals per day at partial cost or for free. This café coordinates with local churches and sponsors to promote local community building and deepen person to person connections. FMC gave a \$1000 grant to help defray meal expenses.

**Ivanna Johnson** requested money to purchase school supplies and materials for teachers and students in local underserved communities. FMC's Women Beyond Borders will help with the collection and distribution of these supplies. This effort is in conjunction with the annual FMC Sunday School effort to make MCC school kits. \$500 was granted.

## ***Our FMC Community***

### **You can help support Cassie Voth's MVS experience in Washington DC!**

I grew up in the FMC congregation and recently graduated from Bethel College. I have accepted a MVS placement in Washington DC. During the next year, I will be working at Community of Hope DC ([www.communityofhopedc.org](http://www.communityofhopedc.org)). I am very excited about the opportunity to serve and learn in the DC area. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support over the next year are all needed. If you would like to donate you can do so at this link: <http://igfn.us/vf/VothC>. You may also send a check to Mennonite Mission Network, 718 N Main St, Newton KS 67114. Be sure to write "Cassandra Voth" on the memo line.

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](mailto:cassandravoth@gmail.com). Thank you! ~Cassie Voth

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## Local and Global Giving Projects- School Supply Collections

This coming year the Sunday School kids and families will be trying something new- collecting needed material goods for local and global communities! We will be expanding our support for MCC school and hygiene kits by collecting and donating similar items to metro area organizations.

Our fall project will be collecting supplies for Denver metro area schools and putting together MCC School Kits. You can drop off any of the following materials to the box in the church office. If you'd like to help make school kit bags or transport donations, please contact Anita Miller. If you'd like to donate funds toward these drives and let our youth do the shopping, please submit a check made out to FMC with "school supplies" in the memo line.

Metro Area School Supplies	<a href="#">MCC School Kits</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● lined paper</li><li>● markers</li><li>● glue sticks</li><li>● scissors</li><li>● backpacks</li><li>● used crayons</li><li>● dry erase markers</li><li>● post-it notes</li><li>● highlighters</li><li>● tissues</li><li>● paper towels</li><li>● gently used books for infants to young adults</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (<i>70 pages</i>)</li><li>● new unsharpened pencils</li><li>● rulers (<i>flat, good quality, must indicate 30 cm</i>)</li><li>● 12 colored pencils (<i>in packaging</i>)</li><li>● large erasers</li><li>● new black or blue ballpoint pens</li></ul>

We also need bags to be sewn for the MCC School Kits. You can find the [directions online](#).

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### FMC Staff Schedules

**Pastor Glenn Balzer**

Aug 12-20: out of the office

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**Attendance Aug 4:** Adults- 103; Children- 7; Total- 110

### **Sunday School- Summer Faith Formation**

**No child/youth Sunday School until September.**

### Save the Dates!

Sun, Aug 11: Get-together for families with kids 3rd grade & younger, contact Anita Miller for more details

Sun, Sept 8: Sunday School Opening Day & Party

Sun, Sept 15: Sunday School Service Day

Sept 20-22: Great Get-Away at RMMC

Sun, Oct 13: Group event for mentor/mentee pairs

## Week 10/12 – Jesus' Life and Ministry

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.

In *Speaking Christian*, Marcus Borg explains, "Easter is the most important Christian festival. It is also the most ancient, significantly older than Christmas." He challenges us to think of Easter as a metaphor or parable rather than simply a "literal-factual" historical event. He writes that Easter has two important meanings. First, Jesus lives: "he continues to be experienced as an abiding reality in the present". Second, Jesus is Lord: meaning "the lords of this world, including the ruler of the empire that executed him, are not supreme... The story of the empty tomb means that death could not hold Jesus, could not stop what he had begun."

Another writer, Jim Burklo, [[tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2019/04/easter-week-a-new-narrative.html](http://tcpc.blogs.com/musings/2019/04/easter-week-a-new-narrative.html)] asks us to remember that after all the emotional ups and downs of Easter week, Jesus' disciples decided "to be the church – to stick together in the community of compassion in which we gather this and every Sunday."

Here are the stories in the Easter Series we teach the kids, fifth grade and younger, in three lessons:

The Easter Series:

Jesus Arrives in Jerusalem – Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet – John 13

The Last Supper – Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22

Jesus is Betrayed, Denied and Arrested - Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13

Jesus is Crucified – Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 22-23, John 19

Jesus' Resurrection – Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20

The Walk to Emmaus – Luke 24

Jesus' Ascension – Luke 24

Reflection for children:

- When have you been very excited to see someone? What do you imagine Jesus' parade into Jerusalem was like on Palm Sunday?
- If a friend asked you, "Why did Jesus die?" what would you say?

Reflection for adults:

- Do you relate to Easter as a "literal-factual" event or as a metaphor?
- How do you understand Jesus' death on the cross, particularly in relation to what it means in other branches of Christianity?
- Imagine all the feelings Jesus' followers must have struggled with that week. How can we relate to both the hope and frustration of being church together?

## Caring for Each Other

**Sarah (Sally) Newcomer** passed away on Fri, Aug 2. Please keep Sarah's siblings, children, family, and friends in your prayers. A memorial service for Sarah will be held at FMC on Sun, Aug 25 at 2pm. All are invited.

**Pray for Kaleigh Kirby**, close friend of Ivanna Johnson. The body of Kaleigh's son, Ryan, was found in the Eagle River after flood waters had receded. Please keep Kaleigh & Ryan's family and friends in your prayers as they navigate this difficult loss.

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**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](http://wonderwandertw.wordpress.com)

## **Happy Birthday Aug 8-14**

11- Alejandro Gomez

12- Derek Miller

13- Isabel Mullett

13- Dawson Voth

14- Sam Martin

## **Happy Anniversary Aug 8-14**

8- Lisa & Mark Longacher

9- Lane & Linda Miller

12- Brad & Marylou Shelly

13- Andrea Wiens & Bobby Larson

## ***Upcoming Sundays***

### **August 18**

**Worship:** Naomi Nishi's meditation 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:** The annual FMC Congregational meeting will be led by the Leadership Board. Agenda items will include: affirming new board members, board annual report, Pastor Glenn's annual report, setting an agenda for the year ahead, and a brief update on the budget process.

### **September 1**

**Worship:** Glenn Balzer will preach. Have you ever experienced an uncomfortable moment or situation? Maybe it happened at a dinner party for all your friends and co-workers to see. This week we will find out how Jesus managed to create his own awkward moment in Luke 14:1, 7-14.

### **September 8**

**Worship:** Glenn Balzer will preach. We will also celebrate the start of the Sunday School year by recognizing students entering kindergarten and high school.

## ***In the Building this Week***

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

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

Mon, 6:00pm- Adult Education Team Meeting (Office)

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

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

## ***Around Denver and Mountain States Mennonite Conference***

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](http://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.*

**Renaissance Faire tickets:** Four Renaissance Faire tickets are free to whomever wants them. Contact Ivanna Johnson.

## ***Mennonite Church USA and Beyond***

### **Mennonite Church USA**

**May God give us the courage to stand for the life and redemption given to us through Jesus rather than death and violence.** Read MC USA's response to the federal government reinstating the death penalty: [mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/death-penalty-reinstatement-response](http://mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/death-penalty-reinstatement-response).

**Mennonite Church USA is currently seeking to hire two Communications positions**, Communications Production Coordinator and Multimedia News Editor. Find the job descriptions and contact information at [mennoniteusa.org/who-we-are/employment](http://mennoniteusa.org/who-we-are/employment).

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For more information about our denomination, go to [mennoniteusa.org](http://mennoniteusa.org)

## ***Other Information***

Sermons are posted on [fmcdenver.org](http://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](http://www.9news.com/closings) or on the 9News app.

Website: [fmcdenver.org](http://fmcdenver.org)

Phone: 303-892-1038

Deadline for announcements is Wednesday midnight. Please send announcements to Marie Voth at [marie.fmcdenver@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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