

FAITH MENNONITE CHURCH

September 5, 2010
Stories of God's People

Prelude Welcome

*Call to Worship: #670 HWB

*Hymns: "I sing the mighty power" #46 HWB (vv. 1 & 2)
"O God, great womb" #155 HWB

Affirmation of Faith based on Psalm 8

All: Sovereign Creator, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of us, mortals that you care for us?

All: Sovereign Creator, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

L: You have made us in the image of God, and crowned us with glory and honor. You have invited us to care for the works of your hands: all the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

All: Sovereign Creator, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Children's gathering song: "Come and see" #20 HWB

Children's time: Backpack blessing & the Story of Mother God

Song: "What is our God like?"

Will you tell me, will you tell me, What is our God like?

God is like a pregnant mother birthing her child.

Earth and sky and oceans, she thought of them and made them;

Living things cre-a-ted—God gave it all to us!

Old Testament Reading from Genesis 1 & 2

Sermon: "God gives birth and we care for the world"

Sharing at the Table in Communion

We will gather at the tables at front and back in groups of 10-12 as the ushers guide. Please hold the bread /cup until all are served and then partake together. The bread is gluten free. The cup is grape juice. All who have made a public commitment to follow Christ and share in the life of Christ's body are invited to the table. Children may come to receive a grape and blessing.

Hymn: "Mothering God, you gave me birth" ~ensemble

HWB: Hymnal Worship Book STJ: Sing the Journey

**Please stand if you are able*

Congregational Sharing

Congregational Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and forever. AMEN

Offering and Offertory

Announcements (please give in writing to worship leader)

Introduction of guests

*Sending hymn: "God of the earth, the sky, the sea" #53 HWB (vv. 1 & 2)

*Benediction

*Passing the Peace / Postlude

Community Time

Fellowship time – 10:45

TODAY: Mother God Labors to Birth the World / Communion

Sermon: Joetta Schlabach

Children's Time: Joan Kreider

Song Leader: Pierre Boberg-Gingerich

Organ: Jim Kuebelbeck

Ushers: Darrell Martin & **volunteer needed**

Nursery: Brooke Derrickson & Shelly Hendricks

NEXT SUNDAY: The parable of leaven (Matthew 13:33)

Worship leader: Adam Nafziger

Sermon: Hermann Weinlick

Song Leader: Anna Gambucci

Piano: Karen Zeug

Ushers: Mike & Paula Okerstrom

Nursery: 2 volunteers needed

Fellowship: Deacons will provide light refreshments during our adult education hour, when we will meet according to geographical areas in which we live.

*Our fall Christian Education program begins next Sunday with classes for all ages. We will share in a **potluck meal at noon** as a way to renew acquaintances.*

***Please bring a dish to share** based on the first letter of your last name: **A-F** should bring a salad or side dish; **G-L** should bring a main dish; **M-R** should bring fruit and **S-Z** should bring beverages or dessert.*

A staffed nursery for toddlers and children up to age 5 is located in the education wing. Please ask an usher if you wish to be guided to the nursery.

Note of Thanks: Anna Dennis and Karen Wiebe send their deep appreciation for the many demonstrations of support since Anna was diagnosed with cancer. They continue to ask for our prayer support as they make decisions about a treatment plan.

Faith Mennonite Church

Pastor: Joetta Schlabach

Ministry Staff Person: Kathleen Remund

Deacons: Kami Blackwell Kinney, Greg Renstrom
Neil Okerlund, Beth Richardson, Hermann Weinlick

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FMC OFFICE HOURS: Sept 6-10

Pastor: Mon 1-5; Wed 11-5; Thurs 1-5; Friday 1-4. Joetta is open to receiving phone calls at home on Monday and Wednesday evening from 7-8:30 p.m.

Ministry Staff Person: Monday 1-3 p.m., Friday 9-Noon.

Office Assistant: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Email all bulletin items before Wednesday evening to:
faithmc@faithmennonite.org. Bulletin is finalized and printed on Thursday.

Aug 29: Attendance: 106 Offering: \$\$2994.51

Note: Our year-to-date offerings at the end of July were \$21,000 below our budgeted needs for this year. Approximately \$3,863 is needed each of the remaining Sundays in 2010 to meet our budgeted ministry goals.

Church Meetings and Events

September 7 – Lectionary Discussion (Matt 23:37; Deut 32:11), 8:30 a.m.

Trotter's, Corner of Marshall and Cleveland, SP

September 7 – Biblical Encounter (Luke 5:1-11), Library, 7-8 p.m.

September 8 – Church Council, 7 p.m., FMC

September 10-11 – Families Moving Forward, evening, Union

Congregational UCC, 3100 Alabama Ave., St. Louis Park

September 11 – Birthday Brunch, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Schlabachs

September 12 – Christian Education program begins, noon potluck

September 15 – Deacon's Commission, 9:00-11:00 a.m., Richardsons

September 18 – Church work day, 8 a.m.

September 19 – Interior Design Committee, after worship

September 25 – All church fall retreat, 9 am-1pm, Matthews Center & FMC

November 13 – Twin Cities MCC Relief Sale

Announcements

TODAY, 2:30-3 p.m. Monthly Faith Action for Immigration Reform,
Ramsey Co. Detention Center, 425 Grove Street, St. Paul

FMC Custodial Position Open Michelle Hutchins, who served as custodian the past 2 ½ years has resigned and the Trustees are accepting applications for this 10-hour-per-week position. A job description is posted on the foyer bulletin board. Application deadline is September 7.

FMC South Minneapolis Potluck, Fridays, 6 p.m., SE corner of Powderhorn Park, corner of 15th Avenue and 35th Street. New participants welcome! Cancelled for rain.

Biblical Encounter – Tuesday, Sept. 7, 7-8 p.m. The group that met to study the book of Job this summer has decided to continue meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of September and October. We will engage the stories of four encounters that people had with Jesus, recorded in the Gospel of Luke. Our text for Sept. 7 is **Luke 5:1-11**. We will use a “confessional reading” method in which we personally engage with the text asking questions such as: what puzzles us and what would we like to know more about? What draws our attention? What do we want to argue with? Who in the story do we feel drawn to and who do we want to push away? Where does it feel that God may be speaking to us? Everyone is welcome. Our first meeting will be in the **church library**.

September Birthday Brunch, Sept 11 If you or a family member has a birthday in August, Pastor Joetta invites you to her home, 248 Aurora Avenue, St. Paul for brunch. This invitation is for whole families and significant others, not just the birthday person. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship area.

Please bring completed kits by September 12. Next Sunday we will have a prayer of dedication for the school kits we have assembled for Mennonite Central Committee. A few bags & kit content lists are located on the fellowship area table.

FMC Fall Cleaning Day – September 18, 8:00 a.m. Mark your calendars! If you are able, we appreciate many hands making light work for everyone. If you have noticed something in particular around the building that needs attention, please let one of the Trustees (Glenn, Mark, or Nikki) or Joetta know as soon as possible and we'll put it on the list. More details follow...

Registration forms for the September 25 Fall Retreat are in your mailboxes. Please return by **September 15**. Direct any questions to the Retreat Committee (Wolf Bartel, Rhonda Martin, Greg Renstrom, and Joetta Schlabach)

Christian Education Begins September 12

Children's Classes: With over 30 children from fifth grade on down, we are excited about this year's children's program. We will again use the *Gather 'Round* curriculum from the Mennonite Publishing Network. This year we will "go back to the beginning" to the book of Genesis, now that we have completed a four-year cycle exploring the Bible.

This year, our classes will break into the following age groups:

- second through fifth grade
- kindergarten and first grade
- preschoolers (ages three through five)
- a nursery "class" for children ages 12 to 36 months.

Nursery teachers will have available the new *Wee Wonder* curriculum for two-year-olds, which includes Bible stories, simple prayers and songs, and fun play activities (of course!).

Several people have agreed to help educate and nurture our children's faith formation:

- **Nursery:** Rachel Geissinger, Rhonda Martin, Gregg Richardson, Rachel and Shawn Walding
- **Preschool:** Andi Kuenning and Deedee Stevens Neal
- **School ages:** Paula and Mike Okerstrom, Aine McCarthy, Valerie Ong and Gabe Schlabach.
- In addition to our classroom teachers, Matthew Blackwell Kinney will lead the **children's music time**, which will be provided to the school-age children.

Thank you to all who have agreed to help. We're looking forward to the coming year! - *Shelly Hendricks, children's coordinator*

Adult Classes: Adults will meet together in combined sessions during the month of September, before elective options begin in October. The September schedule includes:

September 12th: Getting acquainted. Do you have trouble putting names on faces? Would you like to get to know others better? The deacons will facilitate this session to help us deepen our connections to one another.

September 19th: Report on Central Plains Mennonite Conference annual meeting. FMC delegates to the CPMC annual meeting in June will report on their experiences and take questions you may have about our regional church body.

September 26th: Information session about the Marriage Guidelines Taskforce that is being formed. - *Kathleen Harder, adult coordinator*