

SEEKING GOD'S WAYS

As we seek God's way, we move from believing that we must earn our nourishment, our privileges, even our identity as God's children, to an understanding that abundant life is a gift from God to all.





Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered – Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

9:45 a.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

*Gathering and Praising

Come to the Water VT #35

What a Friend We Have in Jesus VT #628

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55 Pew Bible p. 388

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Special Music

Abide With Me and *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Holy, Holy, Holy and *Take My Life and Let It Be*

Lenten Prayer of Confession

Scripture Reading

Luke 13: 1-9 Pew Bible p. 551

Message

"From Earning to Receiving"

Offering Prayer

Responding and Sending

I Sought the Lord VT #161

Precious Lord, Take My Hand VT#610

*Benediction

Postlude

*please stand if you are able

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

www.HMCFreeman.org

Call to Worship:

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

People: whose ways are not our ways, whose thoughts are beyond our thoughts.

Leader: Today we accept God's invitation to the feast,

People: where there is water in the desert and delightful food to share

Leader: As we worship, we receive the abundant gifts of God

People: without money and without price.

All: So let us praise God and sing for joy.

Lenten Prayer of Confession:

(adapted from Isaiah 55)

Leader: Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

People: We call upon you while you are near.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts and our ways are not your ways.

People: Forgive us if we have acted as if we must earn your love. Open us to receiving your love as a gift.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey, let us see your way more clearly.

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

TODAY March 20, 9:45 am Third Sunday of Lent

Accompanist: Charlene Friesen

Worship Leader: Suzanne Koerner

Song Leader: Aprille Birkey

Children's Time: Pastor Randall

Puppeteers: Cole Hofer & Jaden Thomas

Puppets: Louis & Penny

Special Music: Egan and Isaac Mettler

arranged by Rodney and Amanda Mettler

Message: Pastor Randall

Coffee Time: Cameron and Rina Hofer

Children's Sunday School following the service

Adult Sunday School following coffee time

NEXT SUNDAY March 27, 9:45 am Fourth Sunday of Lent

Accompanist: Amy Hofer Vetch

Worship Leader: Amanda Mettler

Song Leader: Les Rensink

Special Music: arranged by LeRoy and Kathy Pullman

Children's Time: Cole Hofer, Jaden Thomas, & Pastor Randall

Message: Pastor Randall

Coffee Time: John and Monica Clem

Children's Sunday School following the service

Adult Sunday School following coffee time

Today, we are singing our **Hymn of the Month**, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, which was selected by Mary Rensink.

Congregational Ministries Project for March: Soap or Hygiene Kits,

Soap bars of all sizes and kinds. MCC Hygiene Kits that include:

* 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer's pkg)

* 1 large bar bath soap (in pkg)

* 1 nail clipper (good quality)

* 1 wide tooth comb

* 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16" x 26")

Rural Revival to meet March 28: The Rural Revival monthly meeting will be at 8 pm in the Freeman Public Library, downtown Freeman

HMC Preparations for MCUSA Special Delegate Assembly:

On Wednesday, March 30, at 7 pm in the HMC fellowship hall, our congregation is having an informational meeting with Sharon Waltner, the chair of CPMC's Faith, Life, and Procedures Team. Sharon will spend the majority of our time together explaining the resolutions that are coming to the MCUSA delegate assembly in May so that we, as a congregation, can use that information to discuss the resolutions further and offer guidance to the two delegates that our church is sending to Kansas City. The focus of the first meeting will be information only with open time for clarifying questions about the resolutions and their implications for church and conference.

On the following Wednesday, April 6, at 7 pm in the HMC fellowship hall, our congregation will have another meeting, a time of discussion and sharing, in which all who attend will have the chance to share their thoughts, concerns, and opinions about the resolutions. The comments offered will give the church board and the two delegates going to Kansas City a better sense of where our church is with the resolutions. If you are interested in reading or reviewing the resolutions, you can view them at <http://www.centralplainsmc.org/mc-usa-delegate-resources.html>

If you are interested in serving as a delegate at the special delegate assembly on May 27-30, please contact Todd Koerner.

Donations sought for Country Kitchen market: Homemade sausage, ethnic foods and other baked goods will be sold March 26 and April 2 from 2 to 7 p.m. on the Freeman Academy campus. **Donations of baked items of any kind** would be appreciated. Contact Amy Waltner, 605-648-3772, or Kathy Kleinsasser, 605-925-7952 for more information. Also, join Freeman Academy representatives for a **town hall meeting on Saturday, March 26** in the Sterling Hall band room at 1:00 pm. We would like to share and hear feedback about possibilities for Schmeckfest in a post-Covid era. We will also share updates on the Freeman-Marion-Freeman Academy sports co-op.

SD MCC Relief Sale will be July 9, 2022: Last year's Relief Sale netted \$38,862.10. Additional donations, the Larry Waltner concert, and further contributions from Minnesota Mennonite Churches brought the Minn-Kota total to \$68,464.92 for MCC. Thank you! Looking forward to another great sale this year.

“After We’re Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning” webinar: Caring for someone who is dependent due to a significant disability is a major responsibility. Making provisions for that person’s physical, emotional and financial well-being after the death of a parent or caregiver can be complex and confusing. Anabaptist Disabilities Network is partnering with Everence to host a webinar about estate planning for families with a dependent disabled family member. “After We’re Gone: Disabilities and Estate Planning” will take place **Thursday, March 31 at 1 and 7 p.m. Central Time.** For more information and to register, go to: <https://www.anabaptistdisabilitiesnetwork.org/Resources/Webinars/Pages/After-We're-Gone.aspx>.

The March edition of On the Level is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In our current issue: Learn about the partnership between Fraser Valley Church and MDS Canada in response to last year’s devastating flood, read about MDS volunteers making a difference for hurricane survivors in Louisiana, and find out how one volunteer went the extra mile to restore a banjo for a flood survivor. Go to: [On the Level - MDS March 2022 \(constantcontact.com\)](http://constantcontact.com)

MCC response in Ukraine: MCC continues to be in communication with our program partners, many of whom have reduced capacity because of the conflict. Currently, partners are responding in some regions as they are able with supplies they can secure. This includes distributing food, blankets, medications and fuel as well as other emergency supplies. The changing situations in the various cities and regions in Ukraine where there is conflict makes this work difficult and at times dangerous. MCC will continue to determine how it can support short-term needs. However, MCC’s strength continues to be mid and long-term disaster response and we are working to formulate these plans for Ukraine. MCC has been working in Ukraine for 100 years and will continue to serve in Ukraine long after the crisis disappears from the news cycle. Donate today to support these efforts at mcc.org/ukraine

Mennonite Central Committee is hiring a full time Director of International Program. Seeking someone with international development experience who understand and supports MCC’s vision for relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. Come join our team. [Apply online by March 28 at mcc.org/serve.](http://mcc.org/serve)

Make your voice heard! Join MCC in urging President Biden to pursue peaceful solutions in Ukraine. MCC asks the United States government to continue considering approaches that do not rely on military intervention or military support. [Engage with your elected officials on this topic and many others through MCC today!](#)

Heritage Hall Museum & Archives: The Voices of Conscience exhibit at the Museum continues at the historic Bethel Mennonite Church in Freeman [through April 24.](#)

As part of this look at those who questioned involvement in World War I, the museum is sponsoring a related program on [March 25 & 26.](#) It will focus on a local connection to this story – Joseph and Michael Hofer, who died from mistreatment while imprisoned by the United States military system.

It will feature Dora Maendel of the Fairholme Hutterite Colony in Manitoba and Dr. Duane Stoltzfus, professor of communication at Goshen (Ind.) College and author of “Pacifists in Chains: The Persecution of Hutterites during the Great War.” They will present “On the Front Line of Conscience: An Account of Four Hutterites Imprisoned at Alcatraz.” The evening program will be held at [Pioneer Hall at 7:30 p.m.](#) No admission will be charged but donations will be accepted. The program is supported in part by a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Admission to the Voices of Conscience exhibit at the Bethel Church is included with the regular museum admission fee of \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$ for students (grades 1-12). [The museum is open weekday afternoons until 4 p.m., but will extend open hours to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 25 as well as on Saturday, March 26 and Saturday, April 2](#) (as part of the 2022 Schmeck Stop activities). In addition, the museum will open for special group visits evenings and weekends, which include the Voices of Conscience exhibit.

If you have questions or want more information, please call the museum: 605-925-7545.

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- Pray for Marcella Glanzer as she continues to recover from a recent fall and awaits further treatment for a fractured wrist.
- Pray for Juliet Jenith Dias, the MCC IVEPer who has been staying with Shane and Amy for the past 7 months. Her mother was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. Juliet flew back to Bangladesh on Tuesday to be with her family in this difficult time.
- Pray for the family of Jeff Fischer who recently passed away. He was the son-in-law of Moses Glanzer, husband of Nancy.
- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for Austin Roberts, who has worked with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Northern Ireland since 2016. Pray for him as he juggles teaching locally and internationally with pursuing a mostly online doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary in CA.
- Heavenly Father, thank You for the lesson of the fruitless fig tree, which illustrates the barrenness that comes from a hardened heart, which refuses to acknowledge sin and turn to Christ for forgiveness and life. We pray that we may abide in Christ and Christ in us so we may be fruitful branches.

Pastor contact information:

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com

Mailing address - PO Box 384

818 S Albert St,

Freeman, SD 57029

Church Office phone: 605.925.7186

Church Email: Hutterthal@goldenwest.net

Church Website: www.hmcfreeman.org