



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, February 18, 2024

9:45 a.m.

First Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Call to Worship and Prayer

*Welcoming One Another

*Gathering and Praising

I Know Not Why God's Wondrous VT # 590

Spirit, Open My Heart VT #636

Scripture Reading

Psalm 25 Pew Bible p. 294

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Worship Music

"I Love Him Better Every D-A-Y"

Prayer of Confession

Scripture Reading

Genesis 9:8-17 Pew Bible p. 5

Message

Christ Among Us: Repent and Believe

Offering Prayer

*Responding and Sending

Far, Far Away/I Will Arise VT #300

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines On Me VT #429

*Benediction

Postlude

***please stand if you are able**

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

www.HMCFreeman.org

TODAY Feb. 18, 2024 9:45 a.m.. First Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader: Kenneth Birkey

Accompanist: Paige Hofer

Song Leader: Morgan Koehler

Worship Music: Sunday School Children's Choir

Children's Time: Paige Hofer & Torrie Zachariasen

Message: Pastor Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: Gordon Waltner

Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult

Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.

NEXT SUNDAY Feb. 25, 2024 9:45 a.m.. Second Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader: Les Rensink

Accompanist: Amy Hofer Vetch

Song Leader: Randall Koehler

Worship Music: Chad & Rebecca Hofer

Children's Time: Kenneth Birkey

Message: Christ Among Us: Sharing Our Faith; Pastor Randall

Scripture: Psalm 22; Mark 8:31-38

Coffee Time: Cameron & Rina Hofer

Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult

Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.

Calendar:

February 21: Winter Midweek Bible Study on Zoom at 7 PM

HMC Church Board Meeting on Zoom at 8:15 PM

March 7: HMC Deacon Team Meeting at 9 AM

March 24 - 27: Holy Week Services at HMC at 7 PM

March 28: HMC Annual Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM in
the Fellowship Hall

HMC Congregational Ministry Project for February:

MCC Infant Kits

Barbie Hofer has offered to purchase items and assemble the kits. If you are interested, please give Barbie \$20 per kit.

Call to Worship:

One: Teach us your pathways, O God—our eyes and our souls are trained on you.

Many: For you are the greatest guide, and your map is always good.

One: Other paths have left us lost; other ways have left us confused.

Many: You guide us along the trail of your mercy, drawing sinner and saint down this well worn way.

All: All your paths are love, made smooth by your faithful walking. We are led into your truth by following the tread of your feet.

Prayer of Confession:

One: God, on Ash Wednesday, we remembered our humanity, our fragility, our limits, our sinfulness, our need for repentance. Today, we come to you with this fresh on our minds as we continue our Lenten journey.

Many: Be with us in this wilderness.

One: We so often focus on the difficulty of our walk with Christ.

Many: Forgive our self-focused minds.

One: Forgive us, Lord, when on our journey, we forget your extensive, covenantal love for the world.

Many: May we partner with you and your church to remember.

All: (looking at one another) You are beloved.

Our **Lenten Visuals** this week are the footprints you see throughout the sanctuary and the bowl at the end of the path. The footprints represent our journey, some footprints larger than others, to depict those who are guiding, teaching, and mentoring younger Christians. The bowl is a reminder of how God wants to fill us and the roundness of it reminds us of God's never-ending love for each person.

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Birthdays:** Sylvia Hofer on February 20 and Rebecca Hofer on February 24.
- Pray for Pastor Randall and his family as they travel to Illinois and Indiana this week. Randall is participating in Pastors and Leaders at AMBS, while Morgan works in-person on-campus with her colleagues at the seminary. Vivi and Wynnie will spend the week with their grandparents. Pray for an enriching, uplifting week for all.
- Tomorrow, members of the Community of Anabaptist Theological Institutions will gather for a four-day meeting in Mexico. Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for the leaders of Anabaptist seminaries in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and the United States, as they collaborate to expand Spanish-language opportunities for church leadership development.
- Pray for your sister churches in Southeastern Iowa: First of Iowa City, West Union, Wellman, East Union, Kalona, Washington, Wayland, Sugar Creek, Pleasant View, and Zion Mennonite Churches.
- On this first Sunday of Lent, we think about how our journey toward God leads us on a path. We may stray from time to time, but God is always with us, gently guiding us back.

Pastor Randall's contact information:

Office: call or email to make an appointment

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

OAA Hours: Thursday mornings

Church Email: hutterthal@goldenwest.net

Church Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

It is the policy of Hutterthal Mennonite Church to have a **Congregation and Pastor Review** every three years. The Congregation-Pastor Review Team has completed the review document and is distributing it today. Please have reviews returned by March 3. The Review Team requests that you take the time to prayerfully consider your responses to the questions, being asked about Congregational life and the Pastor's ministry. If you have questions please feel free to contact one of the members of the Review Team: Todd Koerner, Brigitta Hofer, Monica Clem or Brandon Waltner. Please watch for additional information that will be sent out via email.

Everyone remembers Theo Odhiambo, who worshiped here with us at Hutterthal in 1997. Theo has reached out to us at Hutterthal to keep him and his daughter Lucille in our prayers as they accepted a mission trip back to Tanzania this summer. Working through the Tanzania Mennonite Church, they will be helping finish a new church building, hosting worship services, teaching a short course at a theological college, as well as other evangelism. The deacon team and Pastor Randall have decided to have a **love offering to help Theo and Lucille** meet their \$4500 goal for travel, lodging, food, and other evangelistic supplies. There will be an offering basket in the foyer today, as well as next Sunday, Feb. 25, for those who want to contribute to Theo's cause. Thank you!

The deacons and pastor invite you to join our annual winter **midweek study** on Wednesday evenings via zoom at 7 PM. We have been learning about and discussing the continued conflict between Israel and Hamas. Our central text, *I Am Not Your Enemy* by Michael T. McRay, now turns to the conflict in northern Ireland (called the Troubles) between Protestant unionists (loyalists) and Roman Catholic nationalists (republicans). Our next meeting is February 21.

Sunday School Bells Announcement—Christian Ed Committee

For a long time at HMC, the schedule for the bells after the worship service have been a certain way, usually with 15-20 minutes for coffee time and then the ending bells rung at 11:45 and 11:50am as is outlined in the responsibilities for the Sunday School Secretary-Treasurer. Because we want to celebrate and enhance the gifts and talents of our congregants by having multiple voices involved in each Sunday's worship service, the length of the service has fluctuated anywhere from 50 to 80 minutes, which makes planning for music, Sunday School, and coffee time after the service very challenging.

This past summer, the Sunday School Superintendents changed the schedule for ringing bells to make the time for children's music and children's Sunday School consistent each week, no matter when the worship service ends. The new schedule started this past fall with the Sunday School kick-off.

The first bell is now rung 20 minutes after the worship service to signal to people at coffee hour and to the children enjoying music time with Suzanne that they need to move to their Sunday School classes. The second bell (with no 5-minute warning) will be rung then 30 minutes after the first bell so that time in class is consistent from week to week.

For those who have lunch plans after church, and the worship service is long, you may have to leave early from Sunday School to make your plans work. For those who are used to Sunday School lasting until 11:50 no matter what, you might have some Sundays when the worship service is shorter, and the second bell is rung early.

From week to week, the exact timing of the bell may change, but what will not change is the amount of time for music for the little ones among us and coffee for the adults as well as the amount of time that children and adults spend in class. If you have any concerns, questions, or comments to share you can reach out to one of the Christian Education Committee Members (Kathy, Suzanne, or Kenneth).

Is a world without poverty possible? We invite you to join us for a look inside MEDA, where compassion meets creativity to solve some of the world's toughest problems through agriculture and innovation. Come to **Salem Mennonite (South Church) Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 25th, 2:00 p.m.** to enjoy some coffee and dessert while Claude Clodomir from MEDA shares MEDA's vision for a world without poverty. Claude demonstrates how this happens through strategic investment in entrepreneurship and agricultural development. Clodomir is the Chief of Party for the ATTAIn project, a USAID-funded initiative by MEDA. With over 20 years of experience in international development, Claude specializes in implementing USAID-funded projects and believes in the transformative power of incentives. We welcome you to join us!

If you have any questions, you can contact Sharon Waltner at 605-661-3222.

MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton critically low on inventory: An MCC kit cannot be distributed until each item for the kit is assembled, but some supplies in the Material Resources Center are so low that kits cannot be processed for shipping. You can help by filling the following needs: new infant sleepers (6-12 month sizes); bath towels (dark colored, light to medium weight); wide-toothed combs; laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha or Zote brands); shampoo (20 oz min); fingernail clippers (good quality); and hand towels (dark colored). Locally, MCC distributes prisoner care and returning citizen care kits, for those kits we currently need: men's T-shirts (sizes L, XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color); men's underwear (sizes L, XL, 2XL, 3XL -- any color); men's crew socks; lotion (12 oz min); and adult backpacks. Buy online and ship it to MCC or bring items to MCC in North Newton (121 E. 30th St, North Newton, KS 67117). Questions are always welcome, please contact brociamueller@mcc.org or 316.283.2720. A full list of MCC kit contents can be found at mcc.org/kits.

Meals on Wheels here in Freeman is looking for more volunteer drivers. If you are able to and available, call 605-925-4000. When you are able to speak with someone at the front desk, ask for Rick to talk about Meals on Wheels.

Rural Revival will meet on February 26 at 8 PM at the Freeman Library. All are welcome to attend.

Kuchen making days are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 1-2, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the dining hall. If you have glass pie plates we can borrow, please bring them, clearly labeled. We ask that you bring a sack lunch and join us for all or part of the day. Thank you!

Dr. Sheila Klassen-Wiebe will present the 36th Annual Mennonite Bible Study Series in Mountain Lake on February 23-25, 2024, on the theme of "**Lived Faith: Discipleship and the Letter of James.**" This series is sponsored annually by Bethel Mennonite Church and First Mennonite Church in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, with the intent of bringing Anabaptist scholars and practitioners of theology and Biblical studies to the local scene.

The meetings will be held at Bethel Mennonite Church beginning Friday evening, February 23 at 7:00pm. Two Saturday, February 24, sessions will be from 9:00 to 11:30am and at 7:00pm. The Sunday morning, February 25, worship service begins at 10:00am at Bethel Church, followed by a Sunday evening session at 7:00pm.

Dr. Klassen-Wiebe is Associate Professor of New Testament at Canadian Mennonite University in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where she has been teaching since 1993. She completed a PhD in Biblical Studies at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, VA and earned an MDiv from Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries, a BA (History) from the University of Manitoba, and a BTh from CMBC. She is currently working on a commentary on the letter of James for the Believers Church Bible Commentary series.

All are warmly invited to attend these free presentations.