



FMC Weekly

November 13 -20

Worship this Sunday, November 15

Guest speakers, Rhoda Blough and Theda Good, MMA Representatives, will focus on stewardship.

For a listing of future worship services and the choir schedule, go the FMC website at <http://www.fmcdenver.org>.

Education this Sunday, November 15

For Children

The lesson title is "renewing the covenant." The scripture/Bible story is Nehemiah 9-10. The people confess their sins before God. They affirm God as just, faithful and loving even when they went astray. They renew their covenant with God. The faith focus is "we say thank you to God" for younger children; "we respond to God's faithfulness with confession and gratitude" for older children. The children's fall mission project is collecting gift items for Broadway Assistance Center to distribute.

For Adults

The Godfather and the Old Testament Part 2: Tory Doerksen will offer Part 2 of his reflections and discussion about the Godfather movie trilogy and the Old Testament. The second session will look at moral decisions and ethics of Don Corleone alongside the likes of Abraham and others in Genesis. Please watch the film ahead of time so you'll have a good grasp of what's going on. (After this Sunday we'll be moving to Godfather II if you want to get ahead on your moving watching.) Room B-21

Making Your Wishes Known. MMA reps. Rhoda Blough and Theda Good will present "Making Your Wishes Known", which deals with end of life issues. Meets in Sanctuary.

Formation 101: Who and what is First Mennonite Church of Denver? - Vern Rempel. Meets in B-18.

For information about upcoming Adult Education, go to <http://firstofdenver.co.us.mennonite.net/Education/Adult%20Ed>

Events November 13–20

November 14

Previously announced choir rehearsal on Saturday has been canceled.

November 15

Choir rehearse at 8:30 am
MYF Auction/Potluck at noon

November 18

Leadership Council at 7:00 pm

November 20

Round Table, FMC, 10:15 am

Happy Anniversary

13 - Ernie and Roberta Kandel
15 - Lois and Norm Dewhurst

Happy Birthday

13 - Eric Boschmann
13 - Ruth Neufeld
13 - Mel Stjernholm
17 - Larry Leaman-Miller
17 - Jessi Stoltzfus

Attendance November 8

Adults - 192
Children - 42
TOTAL - 234

Sermon, November 8

There is no written sermon available for posting to the website from the November 8 service.

Prior sermons are available at <https://secure.mennonite.net/.cWadmin/Worship/Sermons?&aC=0d428c4ec892eeb5f220980d1bc71649&id=firstofdenver.co.us.mennonite.net> Look at the left side of the web page under "Recent Sermons."

Menno Focus

November issue of *Menno Focus* is available at www.fmcdenver.org/Newsletters or on the Welcome Table in the foyer.

Conference Connections

The November issue of *Conference Connections* is available at <http://www.mountainstatesmc.org/.cWtools/download.php/mnF=October2009Newsletter.pdf,mnOD=Newsletters,mnOD=My%20Documents,dc=mountainstates,dc=mennonite,dc=ne> or on the Welcome Table in the foyer.

Our FMC Community

Proposed 2010 Budget Revision: Thank you to all who participated in the congregational discussion November 1 about the proposed 2010 budget. We appreciated your thoughtful feedback. After hearing your thoughts regarding the accompanist funding, the Finance Committee proposed to the Leadership Council that \$3,000 be added back into the budget under Worship for accompanist funding. The Leadership Council approved this proposal and is recommending a revised budget to the congregation. The revised budget increases the Worship line item to \$8,300. The total amount of contributions needed to support this revised budget will be \$474,464, an increase of 5.1%. Copies of the revised proposed budget (green sheet) are available on the Welcome Table. We will be voting on this budget November 22. In addition, we will be providing additional information in the coming months regarding Mennonite Mission Network, MCC, FMC's designated fund balances and Mountain States Mennonite Conference. – FMC Leadership Council

Last Sunday's slideshow: If anyone would like a copy of the slideshow of peoples' artwork that was shown on the wall last Sunday, but was not really visible due to the light from the window, I would be happy to make copies onto CD. People can just request it to me at NicoleKandel@yahoo.com and I'll leave the CD in their church mailbox.

Choir rehearsal previously announced for Saturday afternoon, November 14, has been canceled. -- Nikki KandeLind

Left behind: Some prayer beads and a photograph were left on the memento table November 1. Please claim your item in the church office.

Reminder! If you missed signing the card for Connie last Sunday, please stop by the table in the Community Center this Sunday to add your signature and good wishes.

MYF Auction/Potluck: This Sunday is the MYF's auction/potluck fundraiser. During and after the Sunday School hour, the MYF will host a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. And don't forget your checkbook, because we will also have some great things available to bid on, such as services like babysitting, dog-walking and leaf-raking, as well as homemade desserts, gift baskets and more! This will also be the debut of a world-class auctioneer. Please come to have some fun while supporting FMC's youth, and maybe you'll even go home with some amazing goods or services! -MYF

The Outreach Commission is hosting a gift card drive as a holiday gift for the Head Start families in our building. We'd like to give each family a gift card to King Soopers as a way of connecting with the families and children in the Baker community. Last year the families who received the gift cards expressed gratitude for the extra help around the holiday season. If you are interested in participating, there will be opportunities to buy \$10 gift cards in the Community Center on November 15, 22, 29 and December 6 and 13. This gift card drive is replacing the usual hat and mitten drive, as Glennon Heights Mennonite Church will be supplying the hats and mittens this year. The purchase of a gift card also benefits the scrip program and provides income for First Mennonite Church.

Would you like to become a member of First Mennonite? Pastors Annie and Vern would like to invite anyone who is active at First Mennonite and is not a member to consider joining our congregational community on Sunday, December 6. On that Sunday, we will be offering our membership ritual, which includes responding to the questions, and

Emergency Closure

When weather or any other emergency event necessitates last minute cancellation of worship or other events here at FMC, the following procedure will be followed: 1) Email will be sent to all known FMC email addresses. If you receive the email and know someone who does not have email, please call them to let them know. 2) A message will be left on the FMC Worship and Activities Line. Call 303-892-1038 and press 1 at the prompt. 3) If possible, we'll post the info on Channels 4, 7 & 9.

Links

For Mountain States Conference
www.MountainStatesMC.org

For Mennonite Church USA
www.MennoniteUSA.org

Contact Us

FMC General Mailbox
fmcdenver@aol.com

public response to your commitment. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Annie or Vern (fmcdenverannie@aol.com; fmcdenververn@aol.com)

First Mennonite Church Assistance Program has received a grant from Energy Outreach Colorado for \$34,000 to assist clients with utility bills.

Rocky Mountain Camp Thank You: We at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp would like to recognize and thank the following volunteers from FMC Denver for helping with the new sewer system installation. We would not have been able to complete the system without your steady and excellent help. The number next to names indicates number of days volunteers have contributed. Jerry Donaldson, Randy Friesen, Frank Gaeddert - 3, Lonny Gardner, Leon Graber - 2, Russ Gregory, Jeff Kauffman, Arlen Hershberger, Doug Reed - 2, Howard Schmidt, Vern Stoltzfus - 2, Leon Stutzman - 3, Ardell Swartzendruber - 9, Arliss Swartzendruber, Ron Weaver - 2.

Spirituality in a Time of Budget-making

by Pastor Vern Rempel

What do you think about our capacity to create the kind of world we long for? Community? Congregation? Family? While we cannot just make something happen by imagining it ("if wishes were horses then beggars would ride"), Parker Palmer argues that we have far more ability to be co-creators with the Spirit of God than we often realize. (Let your life speak, pp. 77, 78)

He writes "We... have a long and crippling legacy of believing in the power of external realities much more deeply than we believe in the power of the inner life." By inner life, Palmer is talking about our deep sense of self, our understanding about not only who we are, but who we hear the Spirit of Life naming us to be. What does that voice say to you? One way to connect with this is to think about someone who you greatly admire for their wisdom, joy, and strength. What if this person's wonderful traits were magnified into the utter calm, loving faithfulness of God's Spirit? This is a way of re-imagining God and a way of thinking about a relationship more immediate and influential in your life.

Now having done this work of re-imagination, of spiritual re-connection, think about a conversation you might have with this Spirit of Life. What if you spoke honestly and openly about some of your most present and compelling hopes and fears. How would the Spirit respond? What might be the places of release, of healing, of new definition for you from this deeply safe and loving person?

This is "inner work." Parker Palmer suggests it is far more powerful than we tend to think. He asks "How many times have you heard or said, 'Those are inspiring notions, but the hard reality is...'? How many times have you worked in systems based on the belief that the only changes that matter are the ones you can measure or count? How many times have you watched people kill off creativity by treating traditional policies and practices as absolute constraints on what we can do?" Palmer is talking about a kind of addiction to external markers, using what seem like utter structural/physical constraints as barriers to the kind of the transformation the Spirit would have for us in our lives.

We live surrounded by statements of scarcity and constraint all the time. I think of several examples, often offered as rationales for some reality that does not feel very full of love or compassion: "The only thing they understand is...." "The only thing I could do was...." "Anyone in my shoes

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! Please e-mail your request to the church with "Market Square" in the subject line. It will be run one time. Deadline is midnight Wednesday.

Kantorei Fundraiser: Saturday, November 21st, 7:30 p.m. Help keep the choral arts strong in Denver!

Join members of Kantorei in an intimate cocktail party setting, and let us entertain you with selected solo works and small group ensembles while you enjoy wine, appetizers, cocktails and desserts! A \$75/person tax deductible donation is requested, payable on the night of the festivities. See Sara Michael for more information (yes, I will be performing!). Please RSVP, as seating may be limited: (303) 316-0360 or e-mail alexmenter@me.com. Location: 6095 S. Chester Way in Greenwood Village (near I-25 and Orchard).

FOR SALE

Oak Kitchen table with six chairs and 1 leaf \$350 OBO
Kenmore gas stove /oven with warming drawer \$275
GE dishwasher \$425 only 2 months old.
GE Profile microwave counter top model \$ 75 OBO
GE stove hood/fan with light \$15 OBO
(303) 470-1606 Rhonda & Greg Polizzotto poligrnd@q.com

WANTED JOB: Greg Polizzotto continues to look for work if you know of companies taking application contact Greg at poligrnd@q.com

would have done the same thing." "There is no way the board would ever...." "In the history of this organization, we have never been able to...." "I don't think we can expect anything more in times like these."

Palmer writes "...the great insight of our spiritual traditions is that we - especially those of us who enjoy political freedom and relative affluence - are not victims of ... society: we are its co-creators. We live in and through a complex interaction of spirit and matter, of the powers inside of us and the stuff 'out there' in the world [*italics mine*].

He goes on to say "The spiritual traditions do not deny the reality of the outer world. They simply claim that we help make that world by projecting our spirit on it, for better or worse." This is why the "inner work" is so important. If what we project is truly world-making, then we have a responsibility to look after those "family photos" and "personal movies" and habitual stories that populate our inner life. Because they go out from us. They become our contribution to what the world is. And it is far more powerful than we may imagine.

Palmer continues "We can make choices about what we are going to project, and with those choices we help grow the world that is...." "Our complicity in world making is a source of... profound hope for change."

This is true in all areas of life: family relationships and friendships, career, and even something so concrete and countable as money. Jesus' attitude toward money is best illustrated, I think, in the way he handled the lack of food in the "feeding of the 5,000." I don't think this was just an abstract miracle where Jesus produced food out of thin air. Some much more profound and wonderful was going on - he motivated people to rethink their sense of scarcity and their ability to be creative and their capacity to share. And lo and behold, there was plenty. More than enough. All because of what Jesus projected in the midst of that moment. He was a person of utter abundance, and people around him found themselves experiencing that in their lives.

To repeat my italicized quote from Parker Palmer "We live in and through a complex interaction of spirit and matter, of the powers inside of us and the stuff 'out there' in the world [*italics mine*]." That exactly what Jesus realized and lived into so wonderfully.

So we may ask ourselves, in this November moment in which we always strive together to create our congregational financial budget for the coming year: what are each of us projecting into this process? How are we managing our "inner work" so that what we project is formed and influenced by the Spirit of Life, the One who is fully defined by wisdom, joy, and strength? How do we address the notions of scarcity and constraint? How does the Spirit of Life respond to what we are "putting out there?" How may we think about our budget in light of Palmer's statement that "Our complicity in world making is a source of... profound hope for change."

My prayer is that each of us, and all together, may find continual opportunity to experience that wonderful discovery of places of release, of healing, of new definition in the most profound depths of our lives, and that together we become those who project these life-giving realities into the world here and wherever we go.

Market Square

Chili Supper Fund Raiser:

Saturday evening November 21, Peace Mennonite Community Church, 13601 E. Alameda, will be hosting a chili supper fund raiser for my cousin, Kathy Yordy. Kathy was recently diagnosed with cancer and needs chemo therapy but does not have insurance. A chili dinner will be served at the church from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for a \$5 donation. Pies, cakes and other baked good will also be available for purchase for your Thanksgiving meals. Your support will be appreciated. -- Leon Stutzman

Around Mountain States Mennonite Conference

Boulder Mennonite Church Celebrating 25 years of Community in the Way of Jesus. Join us in Celebrating! Offer prayers of thanksgiving. Join us for any of our "25 Hours for 25 Years Celebration" activities on Saturday or Sunday, November 21 and 22.

Saturday: 9:00 am Building Work; 4:00 pm Open House; 5:30 Worship Celebration; 6:30 Open Supper; 7:30 Music Making; 9:30 Movie.

Sunday: 9:30 am Worship Celebration; 11:00 Christian Education; 12:15 Lunch for All; 1:00 Annual Fun-Raising Auction. Call 303-443-3889 or email info@bouldermennonite.org for further info.

Mennonite Church USA

From Mennonite Mission Network: The people of the Argentine Chaco are used to getting along with little water, but this year the drought is severe. Pray for rain and for the health of people who are obliged to use unclean water for their daily needs.