



FMC Weekly

December 11-17

Worship this Sunday, December 13

8:15 - 8:50 am Service of Contemplation in the Sanctuary.

Isaiah 12:2-6; Children's Christmas program: *The Light that Shines*. (Children in the program should come to the church by 9:00 am and meet in the Commons in the basement.) Gathering Music begins at 9:15 am and will feature Andrew, Elena, Emma and Ethan. Offertory will feature Sam Martin and Jenae.

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

Education this Sunday, December 13

For Children

The title of the lesson for the third Sunday of Advent is "Gabriel brings good news." The Scripture/Bible story is Luke 1:5-66. The angel Gabriel tells Zechariah of the birth of a son who will prepare the way for Jesus. Gabriel visits Mary and tells her that she will give birth to the Son of God. The faith focus is, "here I am."

For Adults

B-21 - B-21 - Tory Doerksen will continue to focus on the 3rd movie of the trilogy as well as female characters in all three movies alongside females in the Old Testament.

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

Events December 11-17

December 11

Jr. Youth Christmas Party, 7-10 pm Betsy's house (see announcement below)

December 12

9:30-11:30 am Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program

December 13

8:30 am Choir rehearsal in Community Center

December 17

Round Table, FMC, 10:15 am

Prayer Requests

We welcome your requests for prayer. Please e-mail your prayer request to the church office with "Prayer Requests" in the subject line. Also, if you would like prayer for any reason and do not want it to be published, feel free to contact Pastors Vern or Annie.

Happy Anniversary

11- Ruth and Scott Weirich

Happy Birthday

11 - Liz Foote
11 - Emily Martin
11 - Jackson Stauffer
12 - Tim Petro
12 - Kevin Yoder
13 - Fiona Pynes
14 - Chase Snyder
15 - Katrina Esch Schrock
15 - Joe Short
16 - Clara Schofield

Attendance December 6

8:15 am Service: 11

9:30 am Service:

Adults - 207

Children - 32

TOTAL - 239

Sermon December 6

Reflections by Pastor Vern Rempel are posted at www.fmcdenver.org/Worship/Sermons. Hard copies of recent sermons are also available in the literature rack in the Community Center.

Menno Focus

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

Conference Connections

December issue of *Conference Connections* is available at on the Welcome Table in the foyer.

Our FMC Community

Advent Retreat: Pastor Vern and others from the congregation are at the Advent Retreat in Snowmass, Colorado this weekend. There is no cell phone reception there, so if you need pastoral care, please call Annie's cell phone.

This Sunday is the children's Christmas program entitled The Light that Shines. Children in the program should come to the church by 9:00. Everyone will meet in the Commons in the basement.

We still want to hear from everyone regarding planned giving to FMC in 2010. As of December 10, the proposed 2010 budget is 68.9% pledged. Last year at this same time in our budget process, we were 78.8% pledged. Our goal is 85% pledged, so please turn your pledge form in as soon as possible. Place your pledge in the offering plate, e-mail the information to Karen Martin or mail it via US mail to the church office. Thank you!

Gift Cards for Head Start. This is the last Sunday to purchase grocery gift cards for Mi Segunda Casa, the Head Start preschool in our building. The gift cards will be given to the Head Start staff on Monday, December 14, so they can prepare the gift packages for the children and families by the time school is out for break on December 17. Thanks for your wonderful support!

Please continue to bring items to share with the Broadway Assistance Center - votive candles, nail clippers, men's gloves, travel size - shampoo, lotion, and hand sanitizers.

Thank you all for the warm wishes for my 30th birthday. I truly appreciated all the cards, emails and phone calls from this congregation, and it helped make "turning" 30 a special and celebrated time in my life. Annie

Christmas Party for Jr. Youth! This Friday (December 11) from 7 pm to 10 pm at Betsy's house. Fueled by sugar and holiday cheer, we'll be making ornaments, playing games, watching a movie and exchanging white elephant gifts (something from home or less than \$5). Please email Betsy (betsyapp@gmail.com) to RSVP and to get her address.

Come join us for a celebration on the eve of Christmas. Service will include much music, favorite carols, Bible readings and reflections, choir numbers, and communion in the context of candlelight and beautiful seasonal art. Gathering Music - 6:15 - 7 pm;
Worship service - 7 - 8 pm; Wassail in Community Center - 8 - 8:45 pm.

New Administrative Assistant. A warm welcome to Linda Welty, our new Administrative Assistant. Linda brings many skills and experiences to this job and we are happy to have her as part of the staff. Linda is in the office Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and Friday mornings 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Her e-mail is fmcdenverlinda@aol.com. Linda and her husband, Merritt, attend Glennon Heights Mennonite Church. Linda will be here on Sunday, January 10, to be introduced and get to know people at FMC. – Karen Martin, Congregational Administrator

Stephanie Friesen (daughter of Mary Helen and Randal Friesen) is a volunteer serving in Australia through Radical Journey. Christmas can be a difficult time to be away from friends and family. Let's help show our support by remembering her with Christmas cards. Stephanie's address is: 8 Sydney Ave., Forrest ACT 2603 Australia. Postage for a first class

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) The cancellation will be posted on the FMC website. 2) A message will be left on the FMC Worship and Activities Line. Call 303-892-1038 and press 1 at the prompt. 3) 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. 4) 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

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.

international letter is \$.98.

Jr. High Snow Camp - Save the Weekend! January 22-24 is the Jr. High Snow Camp at RMMC. The cost is \$85 per person for a weekend of fun in the snow with other Jr. Highers from Colorado and Kansas. We would like to send in our group registration by the end of the month. Your favorite Jr. High sponsors will be in touch with you soon with more **details**.

"Celebration of Christmas." All are invited to the "Celebration of Christmas" with Vicky Mierau and Faye Yoder on Saturday, December 19 at 5:00 pm at FMC. Vicky and Faye have participated in FMC's music program over the years as accompanists, organists, pianists, and providing music for special services. In recent years they have performed organ/piano duets. More recently, they expanded their repertoire to include classical music for one piano, four hands and presented "An Afternoon of Music" at First Mennonite Church in May. This "Celebration of Christmas" will include Carol settings for four-hand piano duets, piano solos, organ solos, and piano/organ duets.

2009 Joseph's Storehouse. Each year for the past twenty years or so, we have taken an offering in the season of Advent and Christmas, to benefit shared Mennonite service projects in the Denver area. This offering is called the "Joseph's Storehouse" offering. It is in reference to Old Testament brother Joseph's collection of grain in Egypt during lean years (not the other Joseph of the Christmas season!). The monies from this offering are managed by Mennonite Urban Ministries, which offers grants to Mennonite congregations for service projects. This is a primary source of funding for our congregation's Assistance Program for rental and utility assistance for folks living in neighborhoods near our church. In 2009, the Assistance Program has helped 270 families with rental and utilities bills partially funded by a Joseph's Storehouse grant. To make a donation, write "Joseph's Storehouse" on the memo line of checks made out to First Mennonite Church or put coins and cash in an envelope designated for Joseph's Storehouse.

Worship during Advent and Christmas

Advent 4: Sunday, December 20

Heavenly lights: Blessed is she

Luke 1:39-45

8:15 – 8:50 am

- Contemplative Service

9:30 Service

- Pastor Annie Lengacher Browning preaching.
- An FMC string ensemble will be playing excerpts from the Saint-Saens' Christmas Oratorio.

Christmas Eve Service and Wassail: Thursday, December 24

Heavenly lights: A starry silent night

Gathering Music - 6:15 - 7 pm

Worship service - 7 - 8 pm

Wassail in Community Center - 8 - 8:45 pm. (Bring goodies to share!)

First Sunday after Christmas, December 27: Winter Count

Heavenly lights: Glimmers of divine light in our lives

- A service of bearing witness from our year
- No Christian Education classes.

Second Sunday after Christmas, January 3

- Pastor Annie Lengacher Browning preaching.

Around Mountain States Conference

Please remember Mountain States Mennonite Conference in your year-end giving this season. As of November 30th our expenses are \$22,400 greater than our income. Make checks payable to: Mountain States Mennonite Conference (MSMC). Send to: 21 South Lincoln Street, Denver CO 80209. -Theda Good, MSMC Treasurer

Frontier Village Foundation, a ministry of the Mountain States Mennonite Conference, is now accepting grant applications for 2010. The deadline for completed applications is March 1, and funds will be disbursed in late spring. Priority is given to organizations connected to Mennonite Churches, and to new and creative projects working to meet local needs. Grant sizes generally range from \$500 - \$7,000. For more information, click on the Frontier Village Foundation link at www.mountainstatesmc.org or email Larry Leaman-Miller at korilarry@msn.com.

Mennonite Church USA

From Mennonite Mission Network: People in Sweden celebrate St. Lucia Day with candles on this date just before the winter solstice, a turning point in the darkness of winter. Pray for Disa and Tom Rutschman and their family as they share the light of Jesus through teaching and other youth ministries from their home on the Arctic Circle.