



First Mennonite Church of Denver 430 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver, CO 80204 303-892-1038 [www.fmcdenver.org](http://www.fmcdenver.org)

# *FMC Weekly*

*March 19-25*

## ***Worship this Sunday, March 21***

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Worship at 8:30 AM. Lent 5. Our Lenten theme is "Holding On and Letting Go." Pastor Annie Lengacher Browning will preach. The text is John 12:1-8. All will sing the beautiful and reflective Holden Evening Prayer. We will observe Communion. Child care is available.

Worship at 11:00 AM. Lent 5. Our Lenten theme is "Holding On and Letting Go." Pastor Annie Lengacher Browning will preach. The text is John 12:1-8. This service will have strong a cappella four-part singing, sharing and a lectionary-based sermon for Lent. Child care is available.

## ***Education this Sunday, March 21***

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### **For Children**

The title for the lesson is "the arrest of Jesus." The Scripture/Bible story is John 17:1-18:27. Jesus prays for himself, for the disciples and for those who will hear his word and believe. He is betrayed, arrested, and questioned. Peter denies Jesus three times. The faith focus for younger children is "Jesus wants us to be protected;" for older children "We can face fear as Jesus did." Canned food drive for Broadway Assistance Center continues. Looking ahead: Vacation Bible School will be June 7-11 at Glennon Heights Mennonite Church (more information available soon).

### **For Adults**

Vern will lead a discussion about spirituality based on the writing of Paula D'Arcy. Meets in Sanctuary.

## ***Events March 19-25***

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### **March 25**

9:30 AM Hymn sing and Meditation Round Table

## ***Schedule for Sunday, March 21***

8:30-9:30 am: Worship Service

9:30-11 am Coffee/Donuts

9:45-10:45 am: Education Hour/Grocery Card Sales

11:00 am-Noon: Worship Service

## 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

19 - Linda and Richard Wyse  
24 - Arliss and Carol Swartzendruber  
25 - Joe and Karen Mulloy

## Happy Birthday

20 - Claudia Popp  
20 - Carol Rempel  
22 - Carla Stoltzfus  
23 - Lynn Williams  
24 - Brenda Dockery  
24 - Courtney Kauffman  
25 - Arlo Sonnenberg

## Attendance March 14

8:30 Service  
Adults - 54  
Children - 6  
Total - 60

11:00 Service  
Adults - 133  
Children - 35  
Total - 168

## Contact Us

FMC General Mailbox  
fmcdenvr@aol.com

## Our FMC Community

**New this week:** March *Conference Connections*, the monthly newsletter of Mountain States Mennonite Conference.

**Reminder:** Past issues of FMC Weekly are available on the FMC website at <http://firstofdenver.co.us.mennonite.net/Bulletins>. Check the March 11 issue for information about the Palestinian Refugee Family Sponsorship, and subscriptions to Mennonite publications.

**Sign up to participate in the Seder meal/carry in dinner which will take place on Maundy Thursday, April 1.** This has been a special time for many who have participated. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Community Center during the coffee hour this Sunday March 21 and next Sunday March 28.

### **An abundance of Lost and Found items have accumulated!**

Everything will be out on tables in the Community Center the next two Sundays, March 21 and 28. In addition, the coat room has a variety of jackets and coats, children through adult sizes. Whatever is left here after March 28 will be donated to charity.

**Upcoming adult education option:** Beginning April 11, Erin Gotwals will be facilitating a discussion group on *The Story of B* by Daniel Quinn, a provocative novel that ties together anthropology, theology, and biology to redefine the past and future of humankind. Be prepared for an intellectual and spiritual challenge, not because the content is dense or difficult, but because it questions our most deeply ingrained cultural and religious foundations. We hope to gather a diversity of reactions and opinions for discussion. If you would like to order a book, please contact Arden Slotter by email ([slottera@aol.com](mailto:slottera@aol.com)), phone (303-663-3535), or church mailbox by March 28.

**Help with survey:** First, thank you to those who were able to help with my survey on Sunday by completing the written survey. But I would like to see if I can get information from more people, so here is a link to an online survey that I would like to ask everybody to do. It will take about 3 minutes and is totally anonymous. This survey is being done as part of an English assignment for a paper. Thanks for helping me out. Here is the link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GGWW7HJ> Let me know if you have questions. Sincerely, Beth Ferguson

**Bellevue Community Church has invited our congregation to participate in their Slow-Pitch Softball Program.** Is there anyone who

## Sermons

Sermon by Vern Rempel on March 14 is posted on the FMC website.

Prior sermons are also available. Look at the left side of the web page under "Recent Sermons."

Hard copies of recent sermons are available in the literature rack in the Community Center.

## Menno Focus

March *Menno Focus* is available on the Welcome Table in the foyer.

## Conference Connections

March *Conference Connections* is available on the Welcome Table in the Foyer.

## Links

For Mountain States Mennonite Conference  
[www.MountainStatesMC.org](http://www.MountainStatesMC.org)

For Mennonite Church USA  
[www.MennoniteUSA.org](http://www.MennoniteUSA.org)

## Mennonite Church USA News Releases

[http://www.fmcdenver.org/MCUS A\\_Releases](http://www.fmcdenver.org/MCUS A_Releases)

would like to coordinate a team from First Mennonite? If so, please contact Karen Martin for the information.

# 2010 Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Theme: "Holding On and Letting Go"

## Sunday Morning Worship during Lent: March 21

Two Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

During the 8:30 AM service, the beautiful and reflective Holden Evening Prayer will be sung each Sunday and communion will be observed. Services at 11:00 AM will include presentations by choir, other ensembles and a cappella hymn singing.

## Thursday Hymn sing and Meditation Round Table: March 18, 25, April 1

Midweek moment of worship, reflection and sharing led by Pastor Vern. The meditation will include hymns, poetry and prayers. 9:30 am.

## Holy Week: March 28 – April 3

### Palm Sunday, March 28, 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

The Holden Evening Prayer will be sung during the 8:30 am service and communion will be observed. On the final Sunday of Lent – Palm Sunday – we welcome people who seek baptism and/or membership at First Mennonite to participate in those rituals during the 11:00 am service. In addition, we will observe communion and continue with our tradition of tossing flowers during the gospel reading and walking around the park to end our service in a "joyful procession."

### Maundy Thursday, April 1, 6 PM

We will share a modified Seder meal from the Jewish tradition at 6 pm. During the course of the Seder, we will also participate in a ritual of handwashing, as an alternative way of offering ourselves to each other in service. "Maundy" comes from the Latin word for "command" (compare "mandate"). The command was from Jesus regarding footwashing, a sign of mutual service. This meal will begin at 6 pm, but it is fine to arrive whenever you can. The meal and ritual will end no later than 8 pm.

### Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 2, 7 PM

On the Friday before Easter, we will join together in our long-standing practice of the Tenebrae service. This will include a final singing of the Holden Evening Prayer, and the ritual of 15 candles, marking the hours of prayer through the night. (This follows a monastic tradition of prayers from 3 pm - 6 am: 9 vespers and 5 lauds, and one remaining to represent the life that is not extinguished.)

### Easter Sunday, April 4

8:30-9:15 AM Choir Rehearsal

8:30-9:30 AM Easter Brunch

9:30-10:00 AM Children's Opening Time

10:00 am Easter Service

This is the great feast and celebration of Christ's Spirit as the Spirit of Life, and will be planned and led by Pastors Annie and Vern. We will observe communion and have the option of anointing during the service. Remember to bring bells to ring as we sing the final verse of "Christ the Lord is Risen Today."

## 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.

Looking for summer nanny job. My name is Tessa Hansen (Cary and Rob Hansen's Daughter). I am looking for a full time summer nanny job (30 to 40 hours a week would be great). The dates that I can work are approximately June 4th through August 20th. I would love to work with kids of any age. I have the most experience with school aged children (ages 5-12). I worked for City of Lakewood Day Care from September 2008-August 2009. I also volunteered once a week tutoring an elementary school aged girl one on one from March 2008-March 2010 through Whiz Kids. I have my own transportation and would be happy to drive your children to their activities. I can also help with light house work. If you are interested, please contact me at:(303)-547-5054 or Tessa.Hansen@du.edu

The Denver DOOR-DWELL program is having a fundraiser on Sunday, March 21, from 5-10 pm at The House Restaurant and Bar, 4363 Tennyson St., Denver. Help support Meghan, Rachel and Hilary by sharing a meal. Ten percent of all food sales for the night will be donated to the Denver DOOR-Dwell program. - Molly Sila

## Spring Retreat: Holding On, Letting Go, Making Peace: April 9-11

In response to the Lenten season, Pastor Annie will lead a retreat to St. Benedict's Monastery in Snowmass, CO. The focus will be on integrating themes from the Lenten series into personal experiences of holding on, letting go and how we integrate these experiences into finding peace and new learning in the spiritual life.

## Mennonite Church USA

**From Mennonite Mission Network:** Mey Aruan and Nora Iwarat minister to Indonesian and Filipino domestic workers at Cheung Chau Christian Center in Hong Kong. Pray that these women may find strength and abundant life in God's word.

**From Mennonite Education Agency:** Pray for the Bluffton University Camerata Singers as they share a music worship program with Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora, Ohio, today. The theme of the service is "Live as true light."

**From MCC:** MCC Central States is currently recruiting for a Resource Generation Assistant to work out of the North Newton, KS office. Please see the job description listed on the MCC website [mcc.org/serve/positions/employment](http://mcc.org/serve/positions/employment), or contact Melissa Waltner, HR Coordinator ([mwaltner@mcc.org](mailto:mwaltner@mcc.org) / 316-283-2720). E-mailed resumes & cover letters will be accepted until March 26, 2010.

**From MCC:** Thank you for the wonderful response to the Haiti earthquake. However, due to a decrease in general giving in the last two years, Mennonite Central Committee has been forced to make cuts to vital programming around the world. As part of these budget reductions, the MCC Central States offices, workroom and warehouse in North Newton, KS will be closed on Fridays, effective April 2010. An "After Hours Donation Drop-Off" room is always open for you to leave material aid donations. Please consider giving a "where needed most" donation to support MCC's work. Send checks to MCC Central States, PO Box 235, North Newton, KS 67117 or donate on-line at [mcc.org](http://mcc.org).