

2010 Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Theme: "Holding On and Letting Go"

Sunday Morning Worship during Lent : February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 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 Meditation Round Table: February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 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. 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."

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.