



Sermon on the Mount Mennonite Church

A congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

Weekly Update for April 8, 2018

The Abbey: Story, Imagination, and Table

What to expect when we all gather together

- + On Wednesday, April 11, we will have a provided pizza supper and a conversation on “The Divine in Popular Music” from 6-7:15pm. We will listen to a few pop music songs and discuss how the world is encountering the mystery of God and creatively expressing that encounter in popular music. **Please RSVP by today, Sunday, April 8** for a headcount for supper.
- + Next Sunday, April 15 is the Second Sunday of Easter. Our Scripture lessons will be from Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; and Luke 24:36b-48. We will have a communal meditation on what it means to be witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection in the world. Following the liturgy the covenant partners will gather briefly for a decision-making time on the elder team recommendation. There will be a potluck meal following the gathering.
- + On Saturday, April 21, we will have a group art project on war and peace. We will have several large pieces of paper, markers, crayons, colored pencils, and paint available for us to doodle, draw, and write our images of a world living in peace. It will begin at 4pm, accompanied by music from Holst’s “Planets” and conclude with a provided pizza supper at 5:30pm. **Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 18** if you plan to participate.

Upcoming Events

- + Sunday, April 22 (4th Sunday of Easter) – Liturgy at 10am with a sung liturgy
- + Sunday, April 29 (5th Sunday of Easter) – Liturgy at 10am with communal meditation; Pastor Christopher away at CPMC Annual Leaders Retreat in Schuyler, NE
- + Wednesday, May 2 – “Singing Around the Piano” hymn-sing with provided sandwich supper from 6-7:15pm.
- + Sunday, May 6 (6th Sunday of Easter) – Liturgy at 10am with pastoral meditation; potluck lunch to follow
- + Wednesday, May 9 – “The Ancient Mothers” study on the mothers of the Christian faith throughout history, with a provided supper from 6-7:15pm.

Communities: The Church Beyond Us

Stories and updates from our communities and our denominational partners

- + Reading Rainbow community will not meet this week. Please check with Tom (FTA) or Kate/Beth (Je Mange) about their communities’ meeting time, location, and subject matter for this week.
- + From Central Plains Mennonite Conference: Today Amanda Bleichty, pastor at Washington Mennonite Church in Washington, Iowa, is being ordained. Pray for God’s blessing on the ministry Amanda and Washington Mennonite share.
- + From Mennonite Central Committee: MCC is offering three free webinars this spring for churches who want to learn more about how to address sexualized violence within their congregation and how to encourage healthy sexuality and healthy masculinity among members. The webinars will be led by church leaders and others with expertise in the topics. All three webinars will start at 2 pm and end at 3 pm CST. The first webinar, Healthy sexuality in our congregations will be on April 11. Kathrine Goerzen and Benjamin Reynolds will lead the discussion focusing on what role the church can play in fostering and supporting healthy views of sexuality. May 9’s webinar will focus on Sexualized violence – how should churches respond? And then on June 13, Healthy masculinity. Learn more and register for the webinars at mcc.org/wwwso. Contact karinkaufmanwall@mcc.org with questions.

Numbers Update

- + During March, our average attendance for worship was 13 (YTD 15) and our average attendance for midweek activities was 14 (YTD 12).
- + During March, our congregation invested 695 hours in ministry (YTD 1,963) in the following ways:
 - Worship, Spirituality, and the Arts – 173 hours
 - Hospitality and Community – 180 hours
 - Peacemaking and Social Justice – 225 hours
 - Learning and Discernment – 117 hoursThis includes the time invested by Pastor Christopher (117 hours in March; 314 YTD); Dennis Lehmann, commissioned for full-time service with MDS (160 hours; 440 YTD); and Jack Scandrett, commissioned for full-time service with Hutterthal Mennonite Church (200 hours; 600 YTD).

- + During March, our congregation received \$2,376 (\$7,904 YTD) in contributions and invested \$3,384 (\$10,709 YTD). Our total funds available for investment as of March 31 are \$13,198, with \$5,681 designated for facilities upgrades in the Bartel Legacy and \$7,517 for general investment.