



## FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP

300 E. Oak Street, Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Cell: 970-412-7510

Web: [www.fcmennonite.org](http://www.fcmennonite.org)

Pastor: Steve Ramer

Email: [stevemramer@yahoo.com](mailto:stevemramer@yahoo.com)

Worship 10:00 AM

*We are all ministers in this fellowship*

**MARCH 4, 2016**

### OUR VALUES

- **Commitment and perseverance.** As the body of Christ, we have a commitment to the community through difficult times as well as good times.
- **Faith-filled, grateful attitude.** In God's economy, we have enough resources: enough finances, enough love and nurture, enough volunteers, enough time. Be grateful while also working to grow resources.
- **Every person in this fellowship is a minister.** Every person has a gift and every person should be given an opportunity to give that gift. We are the body of Christ.
- **Spirituality and social justice are integrally interwoven.** We believe and act on this as we emulate the life of Christ, interpret the Scriptures, and meet the spiritual needs of our community. We are unapologetic about being a Christian community that values spirituality; AND we are unapologetic about being a justice and peace community; AND we are unwavering that these are inextricably entwined, and even synergistic.

**We are an open and affirming congregation.**



### 40-DAY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE: A JOURNEY OF CONTEMPLATION AND ACTION

Lent is a holy season of preparation for the renewed life promised by Easter. Lent is also a journey of renewal. An intentional season of actions that takes us out of the ordinary and shakes things up a bit. A journey that leaves behind destructive desires, behaviors and attitudes, and embraces new pathways that can lead us to renewed lives.

#### 1. GATHERING

- Prelude
- Centering Silence
- Call to Worship
- Congregational Singing
- Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ:  
**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**People:** And also with you.  
**Leader:** Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.



#### 2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

- Children's Story
- Scripture: Kristen
- Sermon: *Jonah – More than Just a Whale of a Tale!* (Steve)



Today we hear the story of Jonah, a tale that is about so much more than just being gobbled up by a whale. It is a story that looks at running away from God or from the responsibilities God calls us to. The rationale Jonah gives is a bit surprising; he is an anti-hero in the classic sense and his excuses, self-pity, and myopic viewpoint seem to fit our own modern predicaments in uncomfortable ways.

"But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!" —Jonah 2:9

#### 3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

- Congregational Singing
- Reflections and Discussion
- Joys and Concerns
- Offering & Music
- Family Circle & Sending



#### VISITORS

Please complete a visitors' card (available from the greeter or on the back information table) and place it in the offering basket or return it to the greeter.

#### PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Steve's regular office hours are Wednesdays, from **2-6 pm** and by appointment. You can contact him at: **412-7510** or [stevemramer@yahoo.com](mailto:stevemramer@yahoo.com)

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

Let us know your requests during the "joys and concerns" time of worship, or write them on prayer cards (available in the back of the church) and place them in the offering basket.

If a concern arises during the week or if you would like someone to personally pray with you, Steve would welcome hearing from you: **(970) 412-7510**.

***Please read the back for birthdays, prayers, announcements, and helpful quotes!*** ➔

## MARCH PRAYERS FOR FCMF FAMILIES

- Elizabeth and Norman Bates
- Brad and Johanna Bishop
- Rachel and Jenny Boehs
- Saja Butler
- John Carlson

## WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS



**FCMF:** Pray for Kristen and Marshal as they continue to work on their relationship; for fire and rescue personnel who help our citizens; for those in Hesston and Newton, Kansas after the recent mass shooting; for Martha as she

learns to set limits on her relationship with her brother and family; and for our City Council and State Senate, that they gain compassion for the homeless and work to de-criminalize homelessness.

*"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." — Desmond Tutu*

*"Without struggle, there is no progress". — Frederick Douglass*

*"Many a man curses the rain that falls upon his head, and knows not that it brings abundance to drive away the hunger." — Saint Basil*

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- **Week 1:** Gus Gouvas (03/01)
- **Week 2:** Nathan Gjerstad (03/12)
- **Week 3:** Liz Ruhl (03/19)
- **Week 5:** Cybil Holms (03/28), Allison Goertz (03/31)

## ONGOING EVENTS

- **Potlucks:** Every Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Enter by north door.
- **Mennopints:** First or Second Friday of each month.
- **Elders Meeting:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016.
- **Womynfolk Group:** First Monday of each month. Contact Annie: (970) 294-2646 (c)

## CALENDAR



**Mar. 15:** City Council Meeting on Homelessness

**Mar. 24:** Sedar Meal

**Mar. 26:** Holy Saturday Retreat

**Mar. 27:** Easter

**Mar. 27-Apr. 3:** FFH Families

*"All life demands struggle. Those who have everything given to them become lazy, selfish, and insensitive to the real values of life. The very striving and hard work that we so constantly try to avoid is the major building block in the person we are today." — Pope Paul VI*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**HOMELESSNESS IS NOT A CRIME!** Please write a letter to the editor (The Coloradoan), send an email to City Council, or show up at the **March 15 City Council meeting at 7 pm** to speak out that "homelessness is not a crime!" The city is gearing up to implement more stringent rules that fine the homeless when they try to rest or sleep in public places (even when shelter beds are not available or the weather is deadly). When unpaid fines mount, incarceration results! Do we really want Fort Collins to become the "Choice City for the Chosen Few"?

**SEDAR MEAL.** We will hold our Sedar Meal on **Thursday, March 24, at 6:30 pm**. This symbolic meal involves the retelling of the Passover story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. Please contact Lynette to let her know:

(1) if you plan to attend and (2) If you would like to be a reader during the meal: [lynette\\_mcgowan@yahoo.com](mailto:lynette_mcgowan@yahoo.com)

**SIGN UP FOR FFH.** Visit the Signup Genius link and sign up for an activity you can assist with for our **March 27-April 3** hosting of FFH families at our church: <http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F054FABA82EA5FC1-ffhhosting1>

**HOLY SATURDAY RETREAT.** Mennonite States Conference is guiding a Holy Saturday retreat for children and families on **Saturday, Mar. 26 from 9:00am-11:00am** at Washington Street Community Center (809 S Washington Street, Denver, CO). Holy Saturday is a time in between Good Friday and Easter Sunday when we consider how God is inviting us to rest. As families, we will practice some ways to rest together in mind, body, and spirit while we consider the Easter story. All ages are invited to participate and light refreshments will be served. A suggested donation of \$5 per child is recommended to cover the costs of supplies and each adult is asked to bring a bag of ground coffee or tea to donate to the community center. RSVP Annie Lengacher Browning by **March 20** at [annie@mountainstatesmc.org](mailto:annie@mountainstatesmc.org).

**HELPING MICHELLE.** We have collected some funds for Michelle and want to get them to her soon so we can apply to Everence for matching funds. If you plan to donate, let Ruth know or put your donation in the offering (make the check payable to FCMF with this in the note line: Benevolent Fund – Michelle). You can also visit Michelle's Go Fund Me page: <https://www.gofundme.com/tvfnz5g>

## WORSHIP ROTATIONS

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
<b>Greeter</b>	Lynette	Isaiah	Eliza	Brad
<b>Worship leader</b>	Liz	Kristen	Brad	Katie
<b>Music</b>	Cathy	Geoff	Stan	Mary Beth
<b>Story</b>	Steve	Mary	Martha	Rachel
<b>Scripture</b>	Rachel	Ethan	Mark	Annie
<b>Message</b>	Steve	Mary	Steve	Easter - Steve
<b>Communion Bread</b>	Jeff & Carla	NA	NA	NA
<b>Snacks &amp; Coffee</b>	Annie	Liz	Lynette, Rachel, Eliza	Wes & Angela

### Bulletin Announcements:

Please submit any announcements by Thursday evening to Martha Roden at: [martharoden@gmail.com](mailto:martharoden@gmail.com)

### Worship Rotations:

When a rotation assignment does not work for you, please alert Steve, worship leaders, and Martha in a timely fashion.

