



March 19

Campership meal, noon

April 2-9

Family Promise rotation

April 16

Easter Sunday!

April 29

MSMC Faith and Life Forum, 9:00-noon
Beth-El Mennonite Church, Colorado Springs

July 4-8

Mennonite Church USA Convention
Orlando, Florida

August 4-6

MSMC Annual Assembly
Larkspur, CO

September 9-10

Annual Church Retreat
Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp



FROM THE



PASTOR

This year the month of March and the season of Lent begin at the same time. March 1 is Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday we remember that we are “ashes to ashes, dust to dust.” Often Lent is experienced as a time for solemn and somber

thoughts, for giving things up, for self-denial. That can be helpful. But this year, in this time of political upheaval and uncertainty about the future, I suggest that we take another focus. Let’s remember instead that we are “light from Light, love from Love, and life from Life.”

Instead of fasting for Lent, let’s feast on the fruits of the spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23).

Joy is the first one. Joy springs from the deep knowledge that we are known and loved. We are children of a loving God and there is nothing we can do that will separate us from God’s love. Let joy bubble up from that place in the center of your being that belongs to God. Let this joy overflow into your relationships, your interactions and out into the world.

Peace is a gift from God. It is the certainty that all is well, even when we don’t understand exactly how that is possible. God’s peace calms our anxious spirits and allows us to open our hearts and imaginations to working for reconciliation in ways that might not have seemed previously possible.

Patience – ah, that’s a good one. The ability to wait. Like watching a seed sprout and grow, day-by-day, into what it will become – a tree, a fruit, a vegetable, a flower. Patience trusts the inherent goodness of the process. Patience allows the best of what is to come forth.

Kindness seems so simple and basic and yet it has a powerful effect. When we first got to know Hassan Latif, he told us how he had never experienced kindness – didn’t really

MARCH

ANNIVERSARIES:

19 – Nina & Tim Hoffert
22 – Linda & Merritt Welty

BIRTHDAYS:

3 - Holly Freeman
10 - John Simpson
12 - Brenda Bartel
12 - Elvira Schierling
13 - Eunice Brenneman
14 - Butch Bartel
15 - Sadie Yoder-Horst
20 - Joyce Hofer
22 - Ardith Eigsti
23 - Delmer Miller
27 - Bruce McCrae
28 - Melissa Kauffman
29 - Greg Eigsti



Adult Sunday School schedule

March 2017

- March 5:** Intergenerational gathering
- March 12:** “Back to the future: Studying prophets and prophecy,” led by Nathan Graber-McCrae
- March 19:** “Holistic stewardship: A three-legged stool,” led by Rhoda Blough
- March 26:** “The Bible Story - Salvation History,” led by Bruce McCrae

From the Pastor, continued

believe in it – until it was offered to him by someone he learned to know in a prison program. Receiving kindness changed his life.

Generosity means to live freely and with an open spirit. Practicing generosity is like being a conduit, a hose, through which God’s love flows out into the world. It is living out of abundance instead of circling the wagons of scarcity. It comes from the unshakeable belief that God will provide.

Faithfulness is being trustworthy. Being someone who is true to oneself and to God. Someone who can be counted on. God is faithful; God’s steadfast love endures forever. We ground ourselves down into that love and offer our best and truest selves to the world.

Gentleness has a lot in common with patience and kindness. It is a commitment to carefulness, to handling with care. It is respectful and deeply aware of what causes pain. Gentleness is always focused on the well-being of the other.

Self-control is a sign of maturity. We will always feel anger, impatience, and dislike, but we do not have to let these feelings shape how we act and interact. Being able to stop, reflect, pray and then choose what is best to do or say, means that more often than not, hurt will not get the upper hand and connections will remain intact.

These are the fruits of the God’s Spirit living in us. With a little care and tending, some good fertilizing and frequent watering, they will grow and flourish. And they will multiply so that there is always enough to share with others. This Lenten season, we offer each other and the world a feast!

Your pastor,





Restore us, O God!

Lent 2017

Our world is filled with many voices and distractions that call us away from God – violence and fear, consumerism and materialism, hectic schedules and constant busyness, to name just a few. As Christians we are not immune to the side effects of living in this environment and can feel afraid, filled both with doubt and an inner restlessness.

So what is an antidote to this perpetual bombardment? Enter the season of Lent. Lent is a 40-day period in the Christian calendar that provides a chance to step back and create space, offering opportunities for reflection. It is a time to repent, to renew our commitment to God's ways, and to empty ourselves of what distracts us from hearing God's voice. Lent is often referred to as a wilderness, a space where the familiar is stripped away and we face our brokenness. Jesus began his ministry alone in the wilderness, where he faced temptation, fasted and prayed.

The scripture texts of this Lenten season contain a call to be restored. You are invited to enter into this Lenten journey of new life. This is not a journey of perfection, but one where we face both the limits of our humanity and our need for divine transformation.

Restore us, O God!

Lenten theme song: "You are all we have," STJ 29

Lent #1, March 5, 2017 – "Restore us, O God! We hunger."

Scripture passages: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

Focus statement: As humans, we hunger for many things. God, our Provider, knows our deepest longings, offering both sustenance and deliverance from temptation.

Lent #2, March 12, 2017 – "Restore us, O God! We wonder."

Scripture passages: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

Focus statement: In our humanness, we want to know, to define, and to have concrete answers for everything.

However, life is filled with uncertainty. We trust that God, the great Mystery, is always present with us in our wondering.

Lent #3, March 19, 2017 – "Restore us, O God! We thirst."

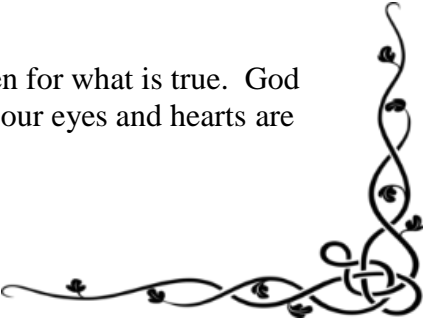
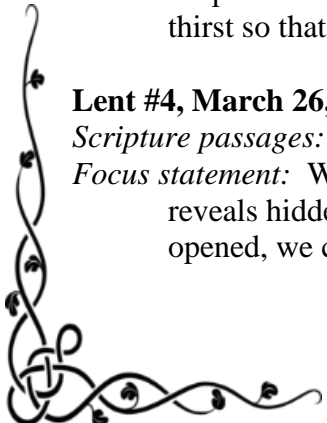
Scripture passages: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

Focus statement: Our bodies know the desperate need for water: We cannot survive without it. Likewise, our deepest selves are parched and yearn to be drenched in God's love. God, who is Love, quenches our thirst so that we can live into the fullness of life.

Lent #4, March 26, 2017 – "Restore us, O God! We see."

Scripture passages: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Focus statement: We are bombarded by visual images, and can mistake what is seen for what is true. God reveals hidden truths, surprising us and challenging our assumptions. Once our eyes and hearts are opened, we can see with greater clarity.



Holistic stewardship: A three-legged stool

Adult Sunday School series

Please join me on the following Sundays:

March 19 – Discernment

April 23 - Generosity

May 21 – Hospitality



We will explore the holistic stewardship principles of discernment, generosity, and hospitality. How do these principles interact with our call to Christian stewardship? What are we each doing to further stewardship values like these in our community?

Each week will include a brief introduction to the session's topic, selections from scripture, and questions for reflection. My hope is that this three-week series surrounding holistic stewardship will serve as a beginning point in creating conversations to further the stewardship journey of GHMC.

-- Rhoda Blough

POETRY – A PEACEFUL PLACE

by Keith M. Lyndaker

*existing in this existence
within the middle distance
depressed by inconsistency
in what i say and do*

*seeking more than subsistence
moving from resistance
to a peaceful coexistence
between me and you*

*what it takes is persistence
and some divine assistance
with courageous insistence
but that's what peacemakers do*

yes that's what peacemakers do

*(Editor's Note: This poem was originally published at
peacegrooves.wordpress.com)*

Welcoming Young Families

In her blog, “achurchforstarvingartists,” Jan Edmiston asks, “So how can we be the kind of congregation that welcomes Young Families for more than their energy and wallets?” She offers some suggestions:

1. Be real. Deal with real issues in sermons, classes, retreats, conversations, prayers.
2. Listen to parents’ concerns. Listen to children’s concerns.
3. Ask how we can pray for them. And then pray for them.
4. Allow/encourage messiness. Noses will run and squirming will ensue. There might be running. There will definitely be noise.



5. Check our personal Stink Eye Quotient. Do we grimace when a baby cries? Do we frown when the kids are wearing soccer uniforms?

6. Refrain from expecting everyone to be the church like we have always been the church.

7. Help parents, grandparents, and all adults become equipped to minister to children and youth. How can we learn to offer such loving hospitality to the younger people in our midst that they will always experience church as home?
8. Do not use children as cute props. Yes they say the darndest things during children’s stories, but they are not there to entertain us.
9. Give parents a break. Really. Help struggling parents get coats and hats on their kids. Hold an umbrella. Assist in wiping spills.
10. Give parents a break administratively. Make it easy to participate. Minimize the unnecessary.



This is good advice to remember as we support our kids and their parents here at GHMC.



Game Night





Celebrating Eunice's 40 years of service on our Social Committee.



March 2017 Calendar

Tuesday, March 7 Bipolar/Depression support group, 7 pm

Tuesday, March 14 Sister Care Session, 7 pm

Wednesday, March 15 Elders meeting, 7 pm

Saturday, March 18 Men's breakfast, 9 am

Sunday, March 19 Easter choir practice, 8:30 – 9:15 am

Campership Meal, noon

Tuesday, March 21 Daytime Mennonite Women, 9:30 am

Bipolar/Depression support group, 7 pm

Sunday, March 26 Easter choir practice, 8:30 – 9:15 am

GLENNON HEIGHTS MENNONITE CHURCH

ghmc@comcast.net

303-985-3606

11480 W. Virginia Ave.

Lakewood, CO 80226

www.glennonheightsmenno.org



Pastor Betsy Headrick McCrae

ghmc.betsy@comcast.net

303-985-3930; Cell 303-716-2890

Hours: Tuesday – Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Kate Rempel

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Tuesday, 8 am – 2 pm

Friday, 8 am – 2 pm

Our Mission

To be a faithful community of Jesus Christ

Our Vision

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

We envision growth;

building a community of faith which practices
constructive responses to conflict;

and, in a world driven by fear, promoting a
Christian voice of love and nonviolence.

NEWS & NOTES

Compiled by Betsy Headrick McCrae and Kate Rempel

Layout by Kate Rempel