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**April 28, 2024**

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## **I. GATHERING FOR WORSHIP**

**Prelude** "Voluntary G Major" – Walond

**Call to Worship** (*from 1 John 2:24-28*)

**Leader:** Whoever confesses Jesus Christ the Son has his Father also.  
Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what  
you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will  
abide in the Son and in the Father.

**People:** **And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.**

**Leader:** The anointing that you received from him abides in you, and  
teaches you everything true, and teaches you to abide in him.

**People:** **Let us abide in Christ, to be confident in him at his coming!**

**Opening Hymn** "Abide, O Dearest Jesus" —MH #308

**Opening Prayer**

**Welcome & Greeting One Another**

**Worship Music** "Come Christians, Join to Sing! – arr. Kempton  
Paul Balzer, soloist

**Confession & Reconciliation** (*from Psalm 80*)

**Leader:** O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your  
people's prayers?

**People:** **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!**  
**We have fed on the bread of tears and drunk tears in full**  
**measure. We have borne fruit for wild beasts of forest and**  
**field to forage, to feed forces of this world, rather than for**  
**you. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we**  
**may be saved!**

**Leader:** Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see;  
have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand  
planted, You brought a vine out of Egypt; you cleared ground  
for it and planted it. Deepen our roots and fill the land with  
your vineyard, so that the mountains are covered with shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches, even branches out to the  
sea.

## **II. HEARING GOD'S WORD**

**Anthem** "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus" – arr. Courtney  
Anne Waltner, violin

**Children's Time**

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 27:2-6; John 15:1-8

**Sermon** "Abiding Fruitfully"

**Hymn of Response** "O Blessed Spring" – STS (purple) #100

## **III. RESPONDING TO JESUS CHRIST**

**Announcements & Offerings**

- Today's **Worship offering:** Central Plains Mennonite Conference
- Today's **Sunday school offering:** Camper Scholarships
- **Children's Offering:** Heifer International

**Congregational Sharing & Prayer**

## **IV. SENT WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Closing Hymn** "Thou True Vine" – HWB #373

**Benediction**

Now, Children of God, abide in Christ, and bear much fruit, to the glory of  
God. Amen.

**Postlude** "Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won" —Walther

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**Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Worship Leader:** Peggy Waltner;  
**Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist), Chancel Choir, Linda Schrag & Barb  
Yoder (piano); **Speaker:** Pastor Spencer; **Children's Time:** David Graber; **Coffee:**  
Conference Room Class

## THE CHURCH AT WORK

### TODAY

We welcome all who are worshiping with us this morning! Coffee is available in the fellowship hall following the worship service. There are small cups with lids for children to use.

### THIS WEEK

**Wed. (1<sup>st</sup>)** – Monthly Day of Prayer & Fasting, **7:30 p.m.** – Prayer Meeting

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85365395504>
- **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504 **Passcode:** prayer2020
- One tap mobile +13462487799,,85365395504# US (Houston)
- Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504

### NEXT SUNDAY, May 5

**Speaker:** Pastor Spencer; **Worship Leader:** Everett Waltner; **Musicians:** Kaye Waltner (pianist), Ladies' Ensemble; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Coffee:** Class #18

**Worship Offering:** Vacation Bible School

**Sunday school Offering:** Salem Sunday School

**Children's Offering:** Heifer International

### COMING EVENTS

**May 9** – Church Council Meeting

**May 10** – Fellowship Hall Reserved for Shad Tschetter Graduation Reception  
Handbell Refurbishment in the Conference Room & North Parking Lot

**May 19** – Congregational Conversation & Potluck

### SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

I will be starting my thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail soon and I would love for you to follow along. I'll be posting videos on my YouTube channel: @kleenexhikes. Feel free to subscribe so you get all my videos. The PCT is a 2,650 mile hike from the Mexican border to the Canadian border through California, Oregon and Washington. I expect it to take around 6 months. My dad and sister will be sending some packages to me while I hike, so if you have something small or homemade that you'd like to send you can give it to them to send. They have a list of suggestions. In 2012 I hiked the Appalachian Trail for Swan Lake Christian Camp and I'm excited to take on this adventure. I ask for prayers along this journey. Thanks so much! ~ Renee Neufeld

**Conference Delegates needed** for Central Plains Conference Annual Meeting taking place in Wayland, IA at Sugar Creek Mennonite Church on June 20-23. Our church is allowed to take 7 delegates plus our pastor. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, please contact Vernetta by May 1.

**THANK YOU** to the ladies who helped with kit bags and comforters on our work day! We appreciate your willingness to help people in need. Mission/Service Project Team.

**Vacation Bible School is just around the corner!** This year the joint North and South Church VBS will be held at the North Church on June 3-7 starting at 9:00 AM and ending at 1:15 PM. We are looking for classroom teachers as well as volunteers to help with snacks, music, rec, and drama. If you are interested and willing to help in any capacity, please talk to Bailey Carlson or Libby Miller. There are registration forms and a parent letter in the narthex.

### COMMUNITY & BEYOND

**C. Thomas Shay, who is presenting "A Prairie Love Affair"** at Heritage Hall Museum & Archives (HHM&A) in Freeman on Sunday evening, April 28, will also be signing copies of his recently published book, "Under Prairie Skies." The book, which is on sale at the HHM&A Mercantile, explores the plants and native peoples of the Northern Plains, which is the theme of his illustrated program that starts at 7 p.m. in the historical Bethel Church.

The museum will be open for guests before the program; doors will open at 3 p.m. Museum admission will include the evening program. Admission for the program only will be charged at the door. Admission is free for HHM&A members.

**Are you missing your brothers and sisters** from Central Plains? You'll get to see them soon! Come to Wayland, IA on June 20-23 for Annual Meeting 2024. Our theme is "How can we know the way?" Children, youth, and adults welcome! Register by May 31 to get early bird rates! [www.centralplainsmc.org](http://www.centralplainsmc.org)

**The Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, May 8 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

The Freeman Ministerial Assoc. invites you to the 2024 **Community Baccalaureate Service** for Freeman High and Freeman Academy. It will be held on Sunday, May 5 at 4:00 pm, at the Freeman Community Center. Join us as we celebrate this milestone in the lives of our graduates, and invite God's blessing on their future endeavors. This year's speaker is Pastor Stuart Curry, of the Salem M.B. Church. If you are not able to join us in person, we invite you to join us online, as the event will be live streamed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/@salemzionmennonitechurch8051>. Following the service, we extend a warm invitation for you to join us for a taco luncheon. It's a perfect opportunity to continue celebrating our graduates.

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Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/ Sunday School – Following Worship  
Amy Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553  
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com  
Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331