



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

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March 8, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude *Passiontide* – Higgins

Musical Call to Worship *Humbly I Adore You* – arr. Gingrich

Call to Worship

Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting!

Blessed be the glorious name of the LORD.

Be exalted above all blessing and praise! You are the LORD alone!

Invocation

Opening Hymn *Savior of My Soul* – HWB #549

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin & Assurance of Grace *(from Nehemiah 9)*

Now the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. And they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their ancestors. Standing in place they read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day; for another quarter of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God. Then the Levites said, “Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting.”

Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise.

You are the LORD, you alone.

You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you. You are the LORD, the God who chose and named Abraham, and made covenant with him, and kept your promise for you are righteous. You brought our ancestors out their affliction in Egypt with signs and wonders. You came down on Mount Sinai and gave true laws and good commandments by your servant Moses. You gave bread from heaven for our hunger and water out of the rock for our thirst. But our ancestors acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them.

You in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell. You multiplied their children as the stars of heaven, and you brought them into the land that you had promised, full of all good things, cisterns already hewn, vineyards, olive orchards and fruit trees in abundance. So they ate and were filled and became fat and delighted themselves in your great goodness.

Nevertheless, we were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind our back and killed your prophets, who warned us to turn back to you. We acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your law, which gives life when we follow it. We turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened our neck and would not give ear to obey. Long you have borne with us and warned us by your Spirit through your prophets. Behold, we are slaves this day because of our sins, and we are in great distress. Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of us or forsake us, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

Our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all our hardship seem little to you; though we acted wickedly, yet you have been righteous and deal faithfully. When we turn and cry to you, hear from heaven, and deliver us according to your mercies.

Anthem *Amazing Love* – arr. Larson

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings James 4:1-10 (ESV); Matthew 20:17-28 (ESV)

Sermon *Leaving Something Behind*

III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST’S BODY

Offertory Doxology – HWB 119A

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today’s Worship offering:** Church General Fund
- **Today’s Sunday school offering:** Gideons
- **Children’s Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn *Lift High the Cross* – HWB #321

Benediction HWB #758

Postlude *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* – arr. Johnson

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Cheryle Gering; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Handbell Choir (special music); Barb Yoder (pianist); **Coffee:** Conference Room Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

Lenten study session at 4 p.m. -- *Being Present with the Dying*;
LaVonne Brockmueller

Service of "Grief & Love" -- 7:00 p.m. at the Prairie Arboretum Visitor Center
(details in Community & Beyond)

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 p.m. – Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 11:30 a.m. – Network for Justice & Peace (Public Lib.)

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

8:30 p.m. – Men's Choir & Ladies Ensemble

NEXT SUNDAY, March 15, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Everett Waltner; **Greeters:** Angie Brockmueller & Cindee Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (pianist); Ladies Ensemble (special music); **Coffee:** Conference Room Class; **Scriptures:** Isaiah 9:13-10:4, James 2:1-13, Matthew 23:1-39

Worship Offering: Mennonite Mission Network

Sunday School Offering: Freeman Academy

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Lenten Study Series continues – 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

March 15 – *Planning Your Funeral*; Nathan Walter & Pastor Spencer

March 22 – *Advance Directives on Care at the End of Life*; Lindsey Unruh

"Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

The Endowment Fund Team will accept grant applications until April 1 for projects that could benefit Salem Mennonite Church and/or a mission and outreach aspect of Salem Mennonite Church. Distributions will be made in June 2026.

Based on Endowment Fund policy and account balances, approximately \$10,000 is available for distribution in 2026. If grant funds are still available, another opportunity for grant applications will be offered in October 2026.

Application forms are available on the table in the narthex. An electronic version may also be requested from the church office.

Duane Ries, Endowment Fund Team Chairman

Extra copies of "Scattered Seeds" are on the narthex table and also an update on the Arsenic Project.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

A service of "Grief and Love" will be held at the Freeman Arboretum visitor's center on Freeman Academy's campus on Sunday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. The decision to close Freeman Academy after this school year has left many feeling loss and grief. Hosted by Salem-Zion Mennonite, this service will include scripture, singing, prayers, reflections, and lighting of candles. We hope this service will provide a safe space for people to grieve and also place our trust in Christ who is leading us all into the future. All are welcome to join us in this service.

Freeman Academy has an immediate need for volunteers in various departments on campus. We are calling on alumni and friends to help in any of the departments listed below.

Building and Grounds, including preparation for Schmeckfest

Front Office: phone coverage, computer and other tasks

Dorm: weekend staff coverage, meals, and transportation

For these needs, contact Brice Kauffman or Charity Ortman in the school office at (605) 925-4237.

Cheese pockets for the 2026 Schmeckfest Country Kitchen will be made next weekend, March 13-14, in the Pioneer Hall Dining Room. Plans are to begin making the filling and dough at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and assembling the cheese pockets on Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a sack lunch on Saturday. Join the volunteer crew for a great time of work and fellowship and learn how this ethnic favorite is made! Watch the *Courier* or Freeman Academy websites in case of inclement weather.

On Sunday evening, March 22 at 7 pm, Dan Graber and friends will be sharing a recital at Salem-Zion. Solo organ works, along with selections for flute, clarinet and piano will be performed. The recital will conclude with Schubert's Shepherd on the Rock for soprano, clarinet and piano. Performers include: Karl Graber, piano; Rebecca Huberg-Krause, flute; Heather Engberg, soprano.

The SD MCC Relief Sale will be held on Saturday, July 18, in Pioneer Hall in Freeman. Since this is a collaborative effort of the Mennonite Churches, it would be appreciated if you would respect this date by not scheduling anything on it.

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

Dementia Dialogues® Hosted by Freeman Regional Health Services

FREE Dementia Dialogues® training is being offered to the Freeman community. The program is a 5-module, evidence-informed nationally registered training course designed to bring awareness and educate community members and caregivers for people who exhibit signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. **Dinner provided. Class size is limited!** Sponsored by South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care & SD Dept. of Human Services.

Location: **Dewald Street Village (Commons Area), 600 S. Dewald St., Freeman**
7 HOURS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS AVAILABLE for EMS, Dental, Long-Term Care Administrators, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Chiropractors, and CHW / CHR professionals.

Registration Link: <https://osa.cventevents.com/02zrAZ>

Part 1 -March 23rd, 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Module 1 - The Basic Facts: An Overview of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

Part 2 – March 24th, 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Module 2 - Keep the Dialogue Going: Strategies for Effective Communication
Module 3 - It's a Different World: Understanding the Impact of the Environment & Ways to Promote Independence

Part 3 -March 25th, 4:30pm to 7:30pm

Module 4 - It's Nothing Personal: Addressing Challenging Behaviors
Module 5 - Now What Do We Do? Creative Problem Solving

Prayer Seeds for March

We thank you, God,

- For Your justice, mercy, your great love
- For Your sacrificial love and willingness of Jesus to take up the cross for us
- For Spencer's sermons challenging us with the width and depth of Jesus' love and for what it means to follow Jesus
- For changing seasons and the many signs of spring coming
- For friends who stick with us through thick and thin
- For grandchildren and the children in our congregation
- For the healing of our diseases and recoveries after surgeries

We are mindful of the need for your intervening power in

- The preparations for Schmeckfest and need for volunteers for many tasks
- Freeman Academy's ongoing need for volunteers to finish the year well
- Clarification of Freeman Academy's future and the future of present students
- The ongoing need for Daryl's health and spirit to improve and for Peggy as his caregiver
- Renee's mobility—not getting around as well she used to or would like
- The Middle East: we are mindful of
 - ✓ our government's culpability in the deaths of many innocent people, especially women and children
 - ✓ the displacement of thousands from their homes in southern Lebanon
 - ✓ the challenge for spiritual people—imams, rabbis, pastors--and congregations to attend to the escalating needs of their people and neighbors
 - ✓ we pray for Mennonite people working for peace and service organizations in all these countries

---Spencer, Gregg, and Lois JP

As I am typing this list, my eyes fall on the Russian devotional classic The Way of the Pilgrim. The pilgrim at church one Sunday hears the priest preach on the text: *Pray without ceasing!* He thinks to himself, "How is this possible?" And he determines to find out, and this changes his life. Reading this classic in my early twenties changed how I thought about prayer. And as I look at the above list, I need to pray more than I do, both in thanksgiving and in intercession than I do. Will you join us this Lenten season praying more than usual? -Lois