



# Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA

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**February 23, 2020**

*Tough Conversations: The Church & Gay Christians*

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## **I. GATHERED IN CHRIST'S LIGHT**

**Prelude** "Praise the Almighty, My Soul, Adore Him" – arr. Menz, Peeters

**Choral Call to Worship** "We Come Unto Thy House" – Day & Belliston

**Welcome & Invocation**

**Choral Anthem** "The Heavens are Declaring" – Beethoven, arr. Buck

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

**Pastoral Teaching** "The Church, Gay Christians & Scripture"

**Scriptural Overview**

Genesis 1 & 2

Genesis 19

Leviticus 18:22, 20:13

Judges 19

Matthew 19:1-12 / Mark 10:2-12

Romans 1:26-27

1 Corinthians 6:9 / 1 Timothy 1:10

Matthew 19 / Isaiah 56

Galatians 3:28

1 Corinthians 7:9

Ephesians 2/Col. 1-2

Romans 14-15

Acts 10 & 15

## **III. RESPONDING TO CHRIST'S CALL**

**Song of Response** "Just As I Am" blue HWB #516

**Offering Financial Gifts** Church General Fund  
"Jesus, Lead Thou On" – arr. Manz

## Congregational Prayers & Sharing

- ❖ We give God thanks for the **many people who expressed willingness to serve the church on a Ministerial Search Team**; may the Spirit of God guide the congregation next week as we discern and vote for five members from the slate so that we may affirm: *“It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us”* (Acts 15:28).
- ❖ We give Christ thanks for guiding **the appointment of pastor Nathan Luitjens as our new Central Plains Executive Conference Minister!** May the Spirit prepare Nathan and his current congregation Sugar Creek MC (Wayland, IA) for this time of leadership transition that they may affirm: *“Who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this?”* (Esther 4:14)
- ❖ We give our Creator thanks for the **modern blessings of major surgeries** and ask that **Erika Detweiler’s father, Tim**, continue to receive God’s care, courage and protection as he recovers in the hospital from open heart & bypass; may Tim & Carol be able to lift up praise in seeing that: *“God’s works are wonderful; I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made”* (Psalm 139:14).

## IV. SENT WITH THE SPIRIT’S WISDOM

Sending Hymn

“Amazing Grace” blue HWB #143

Spoken Blessing

Postlude

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**Greeters:** Chantel Hofer & Peg Waltner; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organ), Chancel Choir; **Worship Leader:** Sonja Waltner; **Speaker:** Pastor Nick; **Nursery:** Libby Miller; **Coffee:** Southeast #19

### SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFERING

Adult S.S. Offering Today  
Offering Next Sunday  
Children’s S.S. Offering

Camper Scholarships  
Salem Sunday School  
Community Gardens

### THE CHURCH AT WORK

#### TODAY

**We welcome all** who have come to worship with us this morning! Please take time to greet others, invite them to Sunday school, and grab some coffee.

**6:00 p.m.** – “The Radicals” tells the story of the beginning of the Reformation Anabaptist group and challenging the 1000 year control of the Church by the state. There will be a brief discussion at the end; light refreshments will be served.

## **THIS WEEK**

**Mon. (24<sup>th</sup>), 7:00 p.m.** – Deacon Board Meeting in the Conference Room

**Tues. (25<sup>th</sup>), 7:30 p.m.** – Recovering From Racism Webinar

**Wed. (26<sup>th</sup>), 6:30 p.m.** – Handbells

**7:00 p.m.** – Ash Wednesday Service

**7:30 p.m.** – Chancel Choir

**Thurs. (27<sup>th</sup>), 9:30 a.m.** – Early Bulletin Deadline & Printing

**Fri. (28<sup>th</sup>)-Sun. (29<sup>th</sup>)** – Family Camp at Swan Lake

**Sat. (29<sup>th</sup>), 10:00 a.m.** – Men's Bible Study at the Freeman Public Library

## **NEXT SUNDAY, March 1**

**Speaker:** Pastor Nick; **Worship Leader:** Brent Mutchelknaus; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organ); **Greeters:** Chris & Carol Eisenbeis; **Offering:** Ecuador Partnership; **Nursery:** Deb Beier; **Coffee:** Young Marrieds #10

**Please join us after the Sunday School hour** for the annual Student Tuition Sharing Fund chili dinner. This annual fundraiser generates assistance for all of our students attending Mennonite schools at any level. There's always PLENTY of food, so don't go home - stay for homemade chili, Elizabeth Anderson's rolls, fresh colby cheese, and the ever-popular dessert buffet!

## **COMING EVENTS**

**March 1** – Student Tuition Sharing Fund Chili Dinner

**March 3** – Day of Prayer & Fasting

**March 4** – Youth Supper & Games

## **SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES**

**There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, March 1** immediately following the morning worship service. This meeting will be to elect the Ministerial Search Team. You'll find the ballot slate distributed in your mailboxes and through e-mail. Please continue to keep this process in your prayers. Paul Balzer, Church Moderator

**Ash Wednesday:** Join us at 7:00 p.m. this week for a half-hour service of songs, scripture, and ashes to begin the season of lent.

**Recovering from Racism Webinar Tues., 25 at 7:30pm**– Join us in our conference room for CPMC's Outreach & Service Committee webinar on racism hosted by Drick Boyd, Professor of Social Transformation at Eastern University in Pennsylvania. Each session will include a 45-minute presentation and time for discussion and questions. We encourage wide participation on this crucial faith issue.

## **COMMUNITY & BEYOND**

**The Swan Lake Christian Camp Annual Meeting** will held March 8 at 4:00 pm. Former Camp Director Denise Nickel who served at the camp from 1980-1992 will be sharing stories of her time at Swan Lake Christian Camp. The business meeting will be followed by dinner. Please make reservations for the meal by calling 605-326-5690 or email at [campoffice@myslcc.com](mailto:campoffice@myslcc.com).

**Rural Revival will meet Monday, February 24 at 8:00 p.m.** in the Freeman Public Library. The education topic for this month will be presented by Lee Brockmueller. He will be discussing the use of small grains in farming crop rotations. All are welcome to attend.

**An invitation to the Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association** annual meeting is on the bulletin board.

**Needed: Your 2020 Peace Mug Nominations** – Know someone who has demonstrated Jesus’s way of peacemaking? Nominate them for the Annual Peace Mug Award at Central Plains Mennonite Conference’s Annual Meeting! Send you nomination to Peace & Justice Task Group member Jane Yoder-Short ([wilmajane17@gmail.com](mailto:wilmajane17@gmail.com)) by Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Please include their name, contact information, and a simple description of why you’re nominating them.

## **SCHMECKFEST NOTES**

**Due to a last minute staff shortage at the Tyndall Bakery**, kuchen making in Tyndall is rescheduled for March 6 with March 13 as a snow date. Filling will be made on March 5. Baking will still take place on February 27, 28 and 29 in the Dining Hall kitchen. Please contact Debra Schmeichel if you are willing to help, 648-3430, [ssag@goldenwest.net](mailto:ssag@goldenwest.net). Thank you!

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Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/ Sunday School – Following Worship  
Office Hours – Wednesday – Friday 9:30-12:30; bulletin deadline – 9:30 a.m. Friday  
Amy Waltner, Administrative Assistant ([southchurch@goldenwest.net](mailto:southchurch@goldenwest.net)) 925-4553  
Nick Stoddard, Pastor ([nick.southchurch@goldenwest.net](mailto:nick.southchurch@goldenwest.net)) 925-7106/940-7212  
Bob Engbrecht, Pastor 648-3017/659-4331

