



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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September 28, 2025

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

Musical Call to Worship Video *"To the Holy Spirit"* – Text: Wendell Berry;
Music: Malcolm Dalglish; Eastern Mennonite University Choir

Call to Worship (adapted from Song of Songs 2:3-4)

Like an apple tree among the trees of the forest
is our beloved Lord among all others.

We delight to sit in his shade, and his fruit is sweet to taste.

Let him lead us to his banquet hall, and let his banner over us be love.

Invocation

Opening Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation" – Insert

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Hymn of Confession

"Have Thine Own Way" – Insert

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (NIV); Proverbs 11:23-30 (NIV)
Luke 6:43-49 (ESV)

Sermon

"The Fruit of the Righteous is a Tree of Life"

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

Solo

"Christ the Apple Tree" – Elizabeth Poston

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Oyate Christian School
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** MCC
- **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

"On Christ the Solid Rock" – Insert

Benediction

God our Creator, you have made us one with this earth, to tend it and bring forth fruit. May we so respect and cherish all that has life from you, that we may share in the labor of all creation,

To give birth to your hidden glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Lee Brockmueller; **Greeters:** Brad and Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Barb Yoder (keyboard); **Coffee:** Classroom #18

THE CHURCH AT WORK

TODAY

We welcome all who are worshipping with us this morning! Coffee is available following the worship service and a fellowship meal following the table conversations.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, October 1, 5:30 p.m. – Harvest produce at Community Garden

Thursday, October 2 at 9:30 a.m. – **Early Bulletin Deadline**

NEXT SUNDAY, October 5, 2025

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Cheryle Gering; **Greeters:** Wendy & Brian Miller; **Musicians:** Deb Schmeichel (organist); **Coffee:** Classroom #14
Communion, Foot-washing, and Hand-washing will be observed.

Worship Offering: Central Plains Conference

Sunday School Offering: Salem Sunday School

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 7, 6:30 p.m. – Worship Team Meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer & Fasting

Sunday, November 2 – Mission Festival Sunday at Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

In celebration of Derrold's 70th birthday and Peggy's retirement from teaching after 42.5 years, we would like to invite you to stop by the Freeman Prairie Arboretum Visitor Center on Sunday, September 28 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and celebrate with us. Your presence is a gift to us. Derrold & Peggy Waltner

The memorial service for Phyllis Reimer, who passed away on Saturday, September 20, will be held on Saturday, October 4 at 11 a.m. at our church.

Fall Bible Study will be a book study on “Reclaiming Rural” by Allen T. Stanton. It focuses on the unique challenges and opportunities for rural churches. Books will be available for participants. Sessions will occur on Sundays, November 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 1:00 p.m. Sign-up sheet will be available on the Narthex table October 5.

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Freeman Academy is greatly anticipating the arrival of our new Head of School, Brice Kauffman, at the beginning of October and the board is seeking knowledge of housing options. For the time being, we are looking for small to moderate options in the broader Freeman area with a short-term lease that has options of extending. Please communicate housing leads or questions to Charity Ortman (605) 925-4237 or cortman@freemanacademy.org in the school office.

LaVonne Kleinsasser Schrag, 90, passed away Saturday, September 20 at Oakview Terrace. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 4 at Salem-Zion (North) Mennonite Church. Visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m. with the service beginning at 2:00 p.m. There will be a time of fellowship following the service.

Central Plains Outreach, Service, and Formation Committee is working with Mennonite Mission Network to offer another Just Peace Pilgrimage. Thanks to a CPMC grant, the costs is reduced to \$650 plus airfare to Tucson, AZ. The trip is scheduled for November 9-16, 2025. **Registration deadline is October 1, 2025.** See bulletin board flier for more details.

The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association annual banquet will be held on October 18 at 5:00 p.m. at the Burrton City Auditorium (203 N. Burrton Ave., Burrton, KS). Peter Buller, recent Bethel College graduate, will speak about his experience this summer at Reba Place in Chicago, connecting with bigger themes about our role as Mennonites in the world. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Schwisters. RSVP by October 11 to Dave Stucky at bigdstucky@gmail.com or text or call 620-532-4408. The cost of the banquet is \$25 and can be paid at the door or online at www.swissmennonite.org.

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

To the Holy Spirit

by Wendell Berry

O Thou, far off and here, whole and broken,
Who in necessity and in bounty wait,
Whose truth is light and dark, mute and spoken,
By Thy wide grace show me Thy narrow gate.