



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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January 18, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude

"Voluntary in A minor"-- Greene

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 49:13-15)

Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me."

"But can a woman forget her nursing child,

that she should have no compassion on the child of her womb?

Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you," says the Lord.

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the LORD has comforted his people

and will have compassion on his afflicted.

Invocation

Opening

"To the Lakeshore" – HWB #229

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession of Sin (in unison)

Lord, you have called us to repent, for your kingdom is near. You have called us to follow you and share in your mission. We confess we have been slow to respond. Though we live in a land of darkness and in the shadow of death, yet we grow accustomed to it and reluctant to let go of what is familiar and safe. Open our ears to hear you, our hearts to receive you, and our hands to release what is safe and familiar, so that we can follow you to bring light, healing, and life where you are leading us. Amen.

Anthem

"One Step He Leads" - Choplin

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 49:1-6 (ESV); 1 Timothy 4:7-16 (ESV)
Matthew 4:12-25 (ESV)

III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY**Hymn of Response***"Will You Come" – STS #39***Announcements and Offerings**

- **Today's Worship offering:** Freeman Academy
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Bethany Food Pantry
- **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***"We Will Follow" – STS # 40***Benediction (from Isaiah 49)**

Thus says the LORD: "In a time of favor I have answered you;
in a day of salvation I have helped you;

I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the peoples,
to establish the land, to nourish the desolate places,
to bring prisoners out of captivity,
to bring those hidden by darkness into light to be seen.

Your hungry shall feed along the roadways,
and even the bare heights shall be their pasture;
they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.

Then you will know that I am the LORD;
those who wait for me shall not be put to shame."

Postlude*"Processional in B flat" -- Johnson*

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Brian & Wendy Miller; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Heather Haggerty (organist); Ladies Ensemble (special music) **Coffee:** Young Adult SS Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK**TODAY**

We welcome all who are worshiping with us this morning! Coffee is available following the worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

Peace & Service Sanctuary Banner premiering in the sanctuary this Sunday! Bob Regier, the Kansas artist who designed the banner, writes: "Perhaps there is no more familiar symbol of service within the Mennonite church than the logo of the Mennonite Central Committee. So I have given this symbol, composed of the cross and dove, a prominent position in the upper third of the banner. There is a circular motion around this symbol that alludes to the orb, or world. This witness through service is not restricted, but extends to the entire world. An olive branch forms the lower part of the circle. This symbol, as you recall, has its origins in the story of Noah and the flood. The dove returning to the ark with this branch has become a symbol of peace, reconciliation, and new life. The bright curved band at the upper right corner of the banner helps further define the orb and suggests a portion of a rainbow emerging from the darker left side. The rainbow is another symbol of God's reconciling action after the flood (Genesis 9). Placed below the symbols I have mentioned are the basin and towel. The towel sweeps to the very bottom of the banner and forms part of the bottom contour. Rooted in the account of the Passover supper, the towel and basin have become longstanding symbols for humility and service." Thanks to Lerace Graber, Chantel Hofer, LaRuth Kramer, Kathleen Miller, and Patty Holzwarth for their fine work creating the banner to Bob Regier's design.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, January 20, 3:30 p.m. – Freezer Meal Assembly for FA Dorm

Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 p.m. – Handbells

7:30 p.m. – Chancel Choir

8:30 p.m. – Men's Choir

NEXT SUNDAY, January 25, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Gregg Waltner; **Greeters:** Brad & Kris Carlson; **Musicians:** Sharla Unruh (organist); Men's Choir (special music); **Coffee:** Young Adult Class

Worship Offering: MWC Global Sharing Fund

Sunday School Offering: Freeman Academy

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Sunday, January 25, 10:45-11:00 a.m. – Ushers and Pastor meet in the sanctuary

Sunday, January 25, 10:45 a.m. – Final photo session for church directory

Sunday, January 25, 11:00 a.m. – Church Conversation on Rural Church Vitality, Fellowship Hall. For the meal following our conversation hour on January 25, we will be having a Pizza Feed! Sunday School Class #10 will be providing the pizza, and everyone else is asked to bring a cold salad (or fresh fruits and veggies, etc.) OR a dessert. Paper products and ice water will be provided

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 27, 8:00 p.m. – Rural Revival at Freeman Public Library

Sunday, February 1, 4:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall - "The Mission," an Oscar-winning movie about Jesuits in 18th-century Paraguay seeking to be faithful evangelists and disciples, protecting their indigenous community from enslavement. Attendees are welcome to bring comfy lawn seats and snacks. Pastor Spencer interviews lead actor Robert de Niro after (unconfirmed, but he's been invited anyway).

Thursday, February 12 – Serving at the Yankton Banquet

SOUTH CHURCH NEWS AND NOTES

All Church Departments need to choose a Church Council Representative ASAP! This is needed for Council organization and for the 2026 Church Directory. Send information to Norm Kaufman and Rachel Waltner.

The Mission and Service Team invites you to look at the signup sheet on the narthex table for serving or making food at the Yankton Banquet on Thursday, February 12. Monetary donations for groceries can be given to Lee Brockmueller, earmarked "The Banquet". Thank you!

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

The Iowa Mennonite Disaster Service is currently requesting and organizing workers to help with the ongoing flood recovery efforts at Spencer, Iowa. Work could include hanging sheetrock, finishing sheetrock, painting and possible flooring, trim, and door installation. They welcome either single-day or multi-day volunteers, with housing and food being provided for multi-day volunteers. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Leroy Pullman (SD disaster coordinator) at 605-660-1014.

Schmeckfest sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall; please sign up to bring food and also to work one or more shifts at the Schmeckfest meal on April 10 & 11, 2026. Questions? See Alison Neufeld or Jenelle Miller.

FA Noodle-Making Day Planned

You are invited to join the volunteer crew in making noodles for the 2026 Schmeckfest meal and Country Kitchen on Saturday, January 31 in the Pioneer Hall dining hall. Plans are to begin at 9:00 a.m. This is a great time of work and fellowship for folks of all ages! A pizza lunch will be provided. If necessary, a weather make-up date will be February 7.

(Cheesepocket-making dates will be March 6-7 and March 13-14 to help you plan ahead!)

On Jan. 25, the worship offering for the first time will go to the Mennonite World Conference Global Church Sharing Fund's Jubilee account. Through the Jubilee account of the Global Church Sharing Fund, MWC member and associate member churches in Africa, Asia and Latin America/Caribbean may receive a grant of up to \$10 000 for ministries that advance the life and mission of their churches. Inspired by the biblical teaching of Sabbath and Jubilee year sharing (in Leviticus 25 and 2 Cor. 8:13-15, for example), Mennonite World Conference set up the Global Church Sharing Fund. Most of our members in our worldwide family of faith are in the Global South (Africa 52%, Asia 24%, Latin America 7%), while much of our material wealth remains with North American and European churches (15% and 1% of MWC membership, respectively). Churches in the Global South have used Sharing Fund Jubilee grants for: translation and publication of materials; scholarships for students; upgrading computer systems; church supplies; bicycles for evangelists; vehicles for church organizing; evangelism and leadership training; construction and repair of church facilities; promotion of Anabaptist identity and belonging. The fund has also been used for supporting the churches with relief actions when there is a natural disaster in their region.

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

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