



Worship during April, 2010

Mennonite Church of the Servant's Sunday morning worship gathering begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Fairview Christian Church facility, 1650 N. Fairview, Wichita, KS.

New Earth, Heavens New

EASTER Sunday; April 4 Christ is alive!

Early on Sunday morning, the stone, by miracle of movement, spoke without words—"Christ is alive!"

Scripture texts are Isaiah 65:17-25; Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor. 15:19-29; and **John 20:1-18**. Lois Barrett will give the sermon. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. We will celebrate communion on this day, as well.

Easter 2; April 11 Peace be with you.

Amidst our doubts and fears, Jesus says, "Peace be with you,"

Scripture texts are Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8; and **John 20:19-31**. Jerry Truex will give the sermon. Vangie Truex will be the worship leader.

Easter 3; April 18 Dueling Pledges

The promise and peril of living as faithful Christians in America

Teaching theme will be on exploring our identity as Mennonites living faithfully in Christ like ways in our wealthy and powerful nation. Jerry Truex will lead the short play and discussion questions from Luke 4:5-8. Pat Cameron will be the worship leader.

Easter 4; April 25 This Land is Whose Land?

The promise and peril of living as faithful Christians in America

Teaching theme will be on exploring our identity as Mennonites living faithfully in Christ like ways in our wealthy and powerful nation. Nita Nikkel will lead the short play and discussion questions from Micah 6:6-8. Doug vonEhrenkrook will be the worship leader. Healing Prayer will be a part of this worship service.

Memory Verse:

But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness
and all these things will be given to you as well.

FOCUS ON MISSION

The Focus on Mission for most of the Sundays in April will be on the work Mennonite Central Committee, one of the missions that our congregation supports. On one Sunday in April, we will highlight the work of Sunflower Community Action, since we are involved in this organization's immigration work.

Women's Bible Study Group

A Bible study for women on the "Psalms of Ascent" (Psalms 120-134) will continue monthly through September. The group meets once a month after church at Cindy Snider's home for a light lunch, 50-minute DVD, discussion, and prayer. Contact Cindy for more information.

*Transformation Servant Group will meet from 7:00 to 9:00, Sunday evenings. Our Servant Group is using *Take Our Moments and Our Days; an Anabaptist Prayer Book* for worship. Contact Lois if you would like to order a copy. Our name comes from Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect."*

RETREAT MAY 8-9

Mark your calendar for the annual Mennonite Church of the Servant retreat, from 9:00 a.m. Saturday May 8 through noon on Sunday at Camp Mennoscha. The theme of the retreat will continue the worship theme from April 18 until Pentecost: "Dueling Pledges." This year, there will be more of an emphasis on free time and recreation for all generations. More details about schedule and costs are on the flier which will be in your boxes and on top of the credenza.

Just fOr You

Because of all the recent governmental budget cuts, people with disabilities have lost nearly 10% of their services. Some have lost even more. We can help advocate for legislators to "walk in their shoes" and restore the funding. And we can help provide a much needed retreat for the people to enjoy and learn about the JOY of the Lord. The retreat is coming up soon. Belinda and I have the list of helpers we'll need at the retreat. You can continue in the tradition of our church by helping and you can enrich your own JOY and help serve and enjoy people who God gave us to serve.

MMA

MMA has introduced a new product that offers convenient diversification for small investors. Talk to your MMA advocate, Sally or John Sommer, for information about ways this product benefits others.

To help reduce your medical costs while improving care, find Dr. Glen Miller's book, Empowering the Patient, in MMA's bookstore at MMA-online.org or call your local advocate.

MMA seeks nominations of individuals or groups for its 2010 Journey award--a \$5000 check--which is presented each year to people who model and practice Christian stewardship. To learn more, search for "Journey Awards" at MMA-online.org or call your local advocate.

SUNFLOWER COMMUNITY ACTION

I'm privileged to be a member because I can partner with my neighbors who want to make their community a better place to live. And because members of our church support the SCA ideals. And you've given me a vote of confidence to represent you in the work. Next month we'll hear reports about the Freedom March in Washington. Two bus loads of Wichitans went to join thousands of other citizens and immigrants to March to advocate for Immigration Reform. Specifically to stop Immigration authorities from tearing families apart. Wichita Celebrated "Caesar Chavez, La Causa Today" on Mach 28. This is the work of the Immigration Chapter of SCA. The Wichita Chapter of SCA which deals with neighborhood issues is working on accountability with the police. Some Wichitians feel there is still racial and economic profiling by local police officers. Their goal is to have a dash-camera in every police car. Ideally there would be enough tax money to install the cameras and provide diversity and sensitivity training for all officers. Maybe the local churches could take the initiative and intentional police -neighborhood peace meetings, similar to the victim-offender meeting model.

Devotional Reflection -- Who is my enemy? Matthew 6:43-44

You have heard that it was said, "love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But what I tell you: **Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.**

In my prayer life I wanted to reflect this teaching of Jesus by praying for my enemies.

My first thought: "I don't have any enemies. I don't hate anyone." So I reflected and prayed. God pointed out there were people who hated me, who made my life more difficult (who persecuted me?) and those were my enemies.

I reflected on this and came up with some names. As I prayed for them I started to recognize categories these people fell into: Those who hated me because of my race or nationality, Those who hated me because of my sex or sexuality, Those who hated me because of what I had done to them. Soon after that I needed to add me to the list for the things I do to subvert my life, the patterns I follow that choose death, for the part of me that is not submissive to Christ. The most recent addition is those who hate me because their brain chemistry is messed up or those who are possessed.

This process of recognizing and praying for enemies has taken 20 years so far. In writing this reflection I recognize two more categories: Those who are in power (political leaders, religious leaders, business leaders) who enact policy that limits or even destroys my life, and a mushy category of those who I hate. I can come up with names of leaders who may not hate me personally, but whose choices hurt me. I do not have the names of those I hate, but I can see a clearing of clouds that God is going to reveal to me someone(s) I do hate, but am not honest with myself about my feelings and actions.

This is a reflection on my journey to know who to pray for when Jesus asks me to pray for my enemies. Sometimes I begin with a name and discover a category of people. Other times I start with a category and then discover individuals to pray for. In my next reflection I want to share how I learned what to pray for my enemies. Kelly Hayes

Increasing Housing Opportunities

Exploring Federal Housing Programs and Collaborative Partnerships

You are invited to a forum sponsored by the Wichita/Sedgwick County Continuum of Care Coordinating Team (CCCT) that will enable you to learn more about US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing opportunities.

Date: Wednesday March 31, 2010 **Time:** 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Location: First United Methodist Church, 330 N. Broadway, Wichita

Off-street free parking on the east side of building – Topeka Avenue

Who Should Attend **Anyone interested in housing is welcome – including government, faith-based or secular non-profit organizations, and commercial business representatives.**

Purpose Education on three HUD programs.

Subjects

- **HUD Section 8 Housing Voucher Program:** Provides rental assistance to low-income families who are unable to afford market rents. Assistance may be in the form of vouchers or certificates.
- **HUD Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program:** Provides capital advances and project rental assistance for elderly households. This provides private, not-for-profit sponsors the ability to produce secure, barrier-free, and supportive housing facilities for older persons.
- **HUD Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons w/Disabilities Program:** Provides funding to nonprofit organizations to develop rental housing with the availability of supportive services for very low-income adults with disabilities, and provides rent subsidies for the projects to help make them affordable.

Speakers

- **Andrew Bias**, President & CEO, Mennonite Housing & Rehabilitative Services
- **Carolyn Emery**, Vice President, Apartment Division, Builder's Inc.
- **Dorsha Kirksey**, Director, Sedgwick County Housing Department
- **Gail Lotson**, Housing Manager, Wichita Housing & Community Services Office
- **Michael Kress**, Director of Residential Care, Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas

Hosts

The Wichita/Sedgwick County area Continuum of Care Coordinating Team (CCCT) uses a collaborative planning approach that is intended to help communities plan for and provide, as necessary, a full range of outreach, housing (emergency, transitional, and permanent), and supportive services to address the needs for homeless persons. The current lead agency for the CCCT is the United Way of the Plains. Participating organizations include Advocates to End Chronic Homelessness, City of Wichita Housing and Community Services, Inter-Faith Ministries, Miracles Inc., Sedgwick County Division of Human Services, COMCARE's Center City Homeless Program, Team-Worx, The Salvation Army, the United Methodist Open Door, the USD 259 Homeless Liaison, and the Wichita Children's Home.

RSVP Appreciated: Randy Janssens, rjanssens@cox.net, 685-0789.

Randy Janssens Team-Worx Program Development & Management Federal Grant Writing

MOTHERS 4 MOTHERS

It's been a few months since you got a report of what M4M is doing. We've had some good times and some sad times. But we always feel blessed by coming back to the group to rest. The death of baby "JoJo" affected our whole group. His Great-grandmother, Grandmother and Mother are part of our group. Our children are important to all of us. We're planning some speakers about the grieving and supporting each other through it in a few months. We got to ride on an antique Fire truck in the St Patricks Day parade. Theresa and Zoe made great posters, because someone misplaced our banner. It was really fun. Hopefully the publicity will help us find new members.

Richard and Eli from Fairview Church provided a "family movie and popcorn" event for our group. It was great to meet without an agenda. It was a family fun night. We ate homemade chili and popcorn and enjoyed the movie and each others company. It provided an opportunity for family bonding and for group bonding. The discussions were very helpful. We appreciate all of our helpers. We've sorted through and distributed lots of clothes and household items, thanks to Kelly and other contributions. I always feel blessed when a kid goes home with some shoes or a towel and soap or a coat, whatever fits him. Mom usually feels blessed also. The left over clothes go to other agencies in town that have similar ministries. We appreciate all of our contributors. The next meeting will be April 17. The focus will be helping Teen Moms. Several families are looking for a home church that have programs for kids and teens. We gave them a list of churches to check out. Maybe some time in the future, our church will fit the need. All members and their families have been welcomed to come check out our church.

Bible school registration is here. It's at HOPE in the mornings. The theme is meet **God on the Mountain!** Very nature orientated. Don't count on me for rides because I'm not sure I can even take that week off.

Following are volunteer and student forms. Return them to me at the earliest convenience. Doreene

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hope Mennonite Church

June 7 – 11, 2010

9:00 – 11:30 am

Hope Mennonite Church Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church
Mennonite Church of the Servant First Church of the Brethren

Theme: **Meet God on the Mountain!**

Child's Name _____ Age _____

_____ Preschool Program for 3-5 yr. olds (3 yrs. old by Aug. 31, 2010 and potty trained)

_____ School-age Program for K-6th grade
Grade for child for the 10 - 11 school year is _____

Medical concerns/allergies _____

Name of parent/primary caregiver _____

Daytime phone _____

Emergency contact person _____

Emergency phone _____

Church Affiliation _____

WAIVER OF RESPONSIBILITY

I give _____ permission to participate in this program. The leaders will not be held responsible for injury, etc.

Parent/Guardian signature _____

Return this form to _____ by April 11.

1 form per child

Volunteer Form

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Hope Mennonite Church

June 7 – 11, 2010

9:00 – 11:30 am

Meet God on the Mountain is this year's VBS theme. Each child will participate in worship, Bible stories, crafts, & recreation. We need leaders and helpers for these areas. Please check any areas that you would be willing to help with.

_____ Group leader (pre K, K-1, 2-3, 4-6)

_____ Group helper

_____ Preschool group leader

_____ Preschool helper

_____ Bible storytelling

_____ Skit participant

_____ Backpack Adventure leader (games and crafts, any number of days)

_____ Music leader

_____ Snack coordinator

_____ Nursery Care provider

_____ Decorations

_____ Offering project

_____ Will need child care (provided for VBS workers)

Age of child or children _____

Name _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Please return to _____ by April 11. Thank You!

APRIL 2010

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
<p><u>NO</u> POTLUCK ON EASTER SUNDAY</p>				1	2	3
<p>4 EASTER <i>Greeter -</i> <i>Doreene</i> Older SS Childcare – Karissa</p>	5	6	7	8	9 Happy B'Day Pat C., MC MA	10
<p>11 <i>Greeter -</i> <i>Vangie</i> SS Childcare – Geneva & Jen</p>	12	13	14	15	16 Happy B'Day Cody ER, Cindy M.	17 MCC SALE
<p>18 Church Life <i>Greeter -</i> <i>Nancy & Jen</i> SS Childcare – Karissa</p>	19	20	21 Happy B'Day Kierra M.	22	23 Happy B'Day Jeanette S.	24
<p>25 <i>Greeter - Nita</i> SS Childcare – Doreene & Alex</p>	26 Happy B'Day Alex ER	27 Happy B'Day Warren T.	28	29	30	