



# Restore us, O God! We thirst.

## Sunday, March 19, 2017

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### Gathering

**Prelude**..... Donna Stucky, organist/ pianist

**Choral introit:** *Come bring your burdens to God* from South Africa

**The work of the people (announcements)**

**Call to worship and opening prayer**..... Carol Entz, worship leader

### Praising

**Songs of faith:** *All who are thirsty*  
*As the deer panteth for the water* ..... \*\*CS 48

**Greet one another; children come forward**

**Children's focus**..... Stefanie Knopp

**Choral anthem:** *Psalm of Comfort Music* by Benjamin Harlan

**Offering:** Local Mission  
**Offertory** (Please pass the welcome pads)

**Song for offering ourselves:** *You are all we have*

### Confession and Words of Assurance

**Scripture reading:** Exodus 17:1-7

Leader: O God, *you* are the living Water. You restore us to life.  
We confess that in the desert moments of our lives  
we forget your faithfulness.  
Our bodies grow tired; our hearts dry up.  
Our minds become clouded  
and we do not remember that you are our deliverer.

**People:** When we see the dryness behind and before us,  
we quarrel among ourselves and burden one another.

**We cry out: "Is the Lord even among us?"**

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, for in the harshness of life's desert journey  
we quickly focus on ourselves.

We forget that you have been, you are,  
and you will forever be our deliverer.

**People:** Restore in us a remembering spirit, that we may hope in you again.  
**Renew our hearts, O Lord.**

**Make us generous in our praise, that we may worship you anew!**

*(Pause for silent confession)*

Leader: God, our living Water,

**All: restore us.**

Leader: Let all who thirst, come. Come and drink from the living Water. Let all  
who have nothing, come to the Lord. Come—without money or price.  
Come and draw freely from the well of our Lord, which will never  
run dry.

**Song of response:** *O let all who thirst*..... \*H 495  
Stanza 1: choir; Stanzas 2-4: congregation

### Hearing God's Word

**Scripture:** John 4:5-42

**Sermon:** *Human Need—God's Provisions* ..... Pastor Joel Schroeder

### Responding to God's Word

**Songs of faith:** *Fill my cup Lord* ..... CS 18  
*O healing river* ..... H 372

**Pastoral prayer** ..... Pastor Kay Schroeder

### Sending

**Sending song:** *Rain Down*

**Blessing**

**Postlude**



**School kits for MCC** is the Children's Sunday School offering project until August. We invite interested persons to sew school kits for the project. If you have any questions, contact Pat Denno or Judy Schrag.

If you are missing a key, call the Church Office. We might have it!

There are many current issues and events which challenge our belief system and are a part of our faith discernment. Beginning this week, a cart in the church library will be designated for books which present a variety of perspectives on one of these issues. Through March and April, the books on the cart will be devoted to questions surrounding faith and our relationship to people of various sexual identities. This collection of books demonstrates that a variety of perspectives do in fact exist in the church. You are encouraged to take advantage of these resources and read, pray, discuss, and discern.

The new updated Yearbooks are in your church mailbox. If you no longer need the old one, please consider recycling it to the Church Office so that we may reuse the binding off the old books. Thanks so much!

**Camp Mennoscah time is approaching!** Over the last few years, First Mennonite has offered scholarships of \$100 per student for children in both our congregation and in Casa Betania. This experience has been a vital part of the faith formation of those who attend. The current camp scholarship fund has \$18 in it; last year, we distributed \$4,300. The Nurture Commission would be grateful for any help you can give toward supporting our children in this way. Please talk to any member of the commission for more information. Thank you!

**Mark your calendars** for the next Stewardship Celebration, *Don't Be Fooled! FMC has Talent*, on Saturday, April 1. The church-wide celebration will host an array of talents: music, drama, painting, wood working, photography and hobby collections. Come hungry and enjoy the food court. Plan to spend the evening celebrating and/or sharing your God-given talents. If you are interested in sharing your talent, contact Judy Murphy by email or phone at 316-288-7060 or [juju7960@cox.net](mailto:juju7960@cox.net)



**Youth Group Auction**—It's an evening of laughter sometimes even between family members who don't know the other is bidding! There is fun for all! If you have an item for the auction, please give them to Carol Entz or leave in the church office, labeled "Youth Auction." The proceeds are for our summer youth trip to Chicago for the Mennonite affiliated DOOR program.

**Just a friendly reminder**—On the Seconds@FIRST potluck meals, there is no resident chef in the kitchen to take care of the food that needs heating/baking. Please pick an oven that has the desired temperature you need and put your dish in that oven and not on top of the stove. Thank you!

~Fellowship Commission

## SR. HIGH YOUTH

With Jesus as the center, we are called to be:  
Faith-Focused, Mission-Minded, Community-Centered



**TODAY! Sunday (March 19)**

- ▶ 9:15 AM—Sunday School
- ▶ 10:30 AM—Worship Service
- ▶ 4:04 pm—Bible Study @ Kennels!

**Wednesday, March 22**

- ▶ 7:07 PM— Youth Group



**April 26—Bi-annual Youth Group Auction**

**July 16-21—D.O.O.R.** Summer Mission Trip (Chicago, IL)



### Community Announcements

**Hesston College will host** the second of three concerts in the Andover Organ Series at Hesston College on Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 PM, at Hesston Mennonite Church. The concert will feature Kevin J. Vaughn, director of music and organist at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (South Bend, Ind.), instructor of organ at Goshen College, and adjunct assistant professor of piano and organ at the University of Notre Dame. The concert is free and open to the public, a reception will follow the concert.

**Calling all young adults, youth pastors, youth sponsors, pastors** and anyone who works with young adults! Come to the MCC Lunch & Learn on March 23 to learn about service opportunities with MCC! Do you know young adults who are interested in traveling internationally, building their resumes, and growing personally and spiritually? Then join us for lunch and hear Alli and Ben Rudeen Kreider, MCC Service And Learning Together (SALT) alumni, share about their experiences in Tanzania and Honduras and learn how you can help young adults get involved with MCC. Please RSVP by Tuesday, March 21, by calling 283-2720 or emailing [heidihuber@mcc.org](mailto:heidihuber@mcc.org). A free will donation will be taken to help cover the cost of the lunch.

**Early registration for the Mennonite Church USA Convention 2017 has been extended to March 23!** Early Registration includes a T-shirt, I-Ride trolley pass, servant project and a meal card. Come to Orlando July 4-8 to celebrate "Love is a Verb" with fellowship, worship and activities with Mennonites from around the country. Learn more at [convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/](http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/).

**Bethel College Concert Choir home concert**—Sunday, March 26, 7:00 PM, in Memorial Hall. The choir is touring in Minnesota, South Dakota, Manitoba, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri during spring break, March 18-25, raising money for MCC with its offerings. The home concert offering will go to defray tour expenses.

**HELP NEEDED** to detail the donated vehicles for the MCC sale. Help clean windows, vacuum, and wax vehicles. Volunteer days will be the week of March 26. Call Jerry Toews at 620-367-8257 for details.

**Former members Angela and Erwin Rempel** have recently published a book about their experiences in following God's call: *Unexpected Invitations—Surprises, adventures, and opportunities in Mennonite ministry*. Faith and Life Bookstore will host Angela for a book signing 1:00-3:00 PM, Saturday, March 25. Angela will be with us and have the books at a table in the Court Area on March 26.

**Circle of Hope is recruiting** for the next Getting Ahead class for individuals or families who are "sick and tired of being sick and tired" and ready to make a change in their lives in order to move out of poverty. Information night is Tuesday, March 28, with supper beginning at 5:30 PM. Please call Peace Connections at 283-0000 if you will be bringing children who require child care. Other upcoming events that are open to the public include guest presenter, Chris Zuercher from Prairie View on March 21, who will be speaking about vocational resources and a presentation by Hesston College Nursing students on April 4.

**The MCC Sale is fast approaching.** Bohne berrogie bake day will be on April 1, at the Moundridge High School cafeteria. There are two shifts, starting at 7:00 AM and at 10:00 AM. If you would like to volunteer, please call Marla Gillmore at 620-921-0428 or email at bmg@lrmutual.com. Please wear a head covering. Our church has been assigned to bake 5 loaves of rye bread and 60 pies. Please check the MCC bulletin board in the Court Area for more information. We need your help. Thanks!

**The Retirees Relaxation Retreat** at Camp Mennoscah is April 24-26! You are invited to join us to hear stories of courage, faith, and enrichment. Amanda Rempel will lead us in music and Stan and Marlene Smucker will lead us in Bible Study. Coffee breaks and as much nature as you want is included! Contact us at 620-297-3290 or office@campmennoscah.org for a brochure. You can also register online at campmennoscah.org. We'll see you in April!

**MCC Material Resource needs:** The Workroom at the MCC Material Resource Center in North Newton is a busy place! It's so busy that we are running very low on the following items: men's deodorant (minimum size 2.25 oz); men's briefs (white), size L or XL only; men's crew neck undershirts (white), size L or XL only; lotion (max. size 2 oz), bath towels (medium weight, dark colors), fingernail clippers, shampoo (13-24 oz). You are welcome to shop Amazon Smile for easy shopping and the ability to ship it directly to MCC in North Newton, plus a small portion of your purchase is donated back to MCC by Amazon. Items can be brought to MCC at 121 E. 30th in North Newton and left in the After Hours Donation Drop Off at anytime. Thank you for your continued generous support!

**Call for singers**—Sunday, May 7, at Bethel College, the Masterworks Chorus and Orchestra will perform Haydn's *Missa in Angustiis*, also known as the *Lord Nelson Mass*. If interested in joining the choir, contact Dr. William Eash, 316-284-5316 or weash@bethelks.edu, for rehearsal and performance information.

**WELCOME TO EVERYONE** who has come to worship and especially to those who are here for the first time. May you experience the loving embrace of God today. Nursery Care, infants to age 2, is provided during the worship service in the nursery located at the back of the Sanctuary. Childcare is available for children ages 2-4 during the worship service in Room 223. If you need help finding your way, ask an usher at the door. We would be glad to help you!

**"Meet the Congregation"** displays now feature Dwight and Connie Claassen (Library display case), Rick and Helen Ortman (Court Area display case), Ron and Shirley Dietzel (Court Area display case). Take a look at these display cases and learn more!

#### **First Mennonite Church by the numbers**

##### **Attendance:**

- Worship—219; Visitors—5
- Sunday School—178

**Offering:** Last week's offering for Local Mission was \$6,941. The offering for March 26 is for Local Mission.

**Today the buckets will be passed during the offering time** to collect loose change for the relief work of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). The buckets will be passed each week until the MCC Sale on April 7 and 8.

**Congratulations** to Miriam Regier and Ryan Goertzen who were married here at First Mennonite on Saturday, March 11. May God grant them many years.

**Thank you for your interest and prayers** for us while traveling and serving with SOOP for a month in Tucson. God has answered your prayers with good experiences, health, safety and traveling mercies. We returned on March 11 and are glad to be back.

~Ib and June Thomsen

#### **How can you help support the GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) Assessment?**

- **Prayer Support:** Pray that our church will learn new ways to support victims and survivors of abuse.
- **Feedback:** Participate in the survey that will come out soon to provide your perspective.
- **Financial Support:** There is a cost for the GRACE assessment, you can designate offerings to the "GRACE Assessment."

**Women's Fellowship** will meet Tuesday, March 21, 9:30 AM, with a sack lunch at noon. Knotting blankets as well as finishing projects for the MCC Sale are on the agenda. Devotions by Judy Schrag and the offering will be for Health Ministries. Please join us.