

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

February 15, 2015

Good Morning! Welcome to our service of worship and celebration. We invite you to sign our register and to worship with us whenever you can. We welcome everyone without regard to race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and economic or other life circumstances. Information about our church and about the Mennonite faith is available on the brochure racks near the side entrances to the sanctuary.

Our ushers are **John Mueller and Mary Redmon**; our greeters are **Laura Schmidt and George Melby**. Please ask any of them if you need assistance with seating, would like to use a large-print hymnal, or if have questions about the location of Sunday School rooms or the restrooms.

The nursery is located on the second floor of the education wing. It is provided during church and Sunday school for children three years of age and younger. Today's nursery workers are **Karla Leuenberg, Tanya Ortman, and Carl Dean Yarwood**.

Closing Trustee: **Gary Kaufman**

Please pray for **Mary Lou Duerksen** who is receiving hospital care at St. Luke's South.

Thank you to everyone for the cards and prayers after the loss of Janet's father.
~Janet and Steve Bartel

The Long family **appreciates all the support** that the Rainbow community has provided during Tracy's illness. Thank you for the beautiful plant, delicious food, cards, and prayers.

It's time to update the **Picture Wall**: if your photo is missing, or if you want to update your photo, please 1) see Philip in Fellowship Hall, or 2) you may email a jpeg Phil, or 3) you may bring a print to be scanned.

We have been invited to offer a **Rainbow Welcome to Worship** for the MCUSA Convention worship service on July 5 in Bartle Hall. We have six minutes to share "something Rainbow." To help us prepare, we have invited Talashia Keim Yoder to lead a workshop on Saturday, March 21, from 10:00 am -2:00 pm. to help us create our welcome. This is sponsored by the WorshipArts grant, but it is important that all ages are represented, so everyone is invited to participate. More details coming soon.

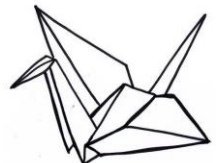
This week we begin a new church season called Lent. Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday (February 18)** and lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays). Here are some **noteworthy dates/services**:

- A **Lenten Taizé** service will be held at 5:45-6:30 pm every Wednesday of Lent starting this week and ending Wednesday April 1. The service this week will include the opportunity to receive ashes.
- Pastor Ruth is interested in leading a scripture and sermon conversation/study following the weekly Taizé service. We will review the lectionary scripture texts for the Sunday ahead, noting our questions and reactions. Please let Ruth know if you are interested in participating in such a group.
- A **Maundy Thursday** gathering of hymns, communion, and soup and bread will occur April 2 from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to the church office.
- **Easter egg decorating** will take place April 3, followed by the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the playground on Saturday the 4th. More information about these events will be coming soon.

On Thursday, February 26, there will be an informational forum on **Elder Law** from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the Wesley Room. Ken Herring, Elder Law Attorney with The Elder Law and Disability Law Firm, will present on "Plan Ahead! Protecting Your Assets from the Cost of Long-term Care." There is no charge, but seating is limited. Please register by contacting Karen Hostetler at karenh@sckck.org or by phone at 913-281-8908. The forum is sponsored by Next Chapter Kansas City, a program of Shepherd's Center of Kansas City, Kansas and Partner Organizations.

A church wide **Variety Show Extravaganza** will take place on Sunday, March 1st. Everyone is invited to share their talent during this event and should email Renee at reneer@rainbowmennonite.org with their act and a brief description of their act. Doors will open at 5pm with desserts, chex mix, and a special tour of the new youth rooms. A very special guest will be the emcee for the evening, so bring the family out to RMC to spend an enjoyable evening filled with desserts and entertainment.

Attention children! There is a gold paper crane somewhere at the front of the sanctuary. Can you find it? This is an exercise in paying attention, and it is a reminder for us all to be on the lookout for how God is moving and present within creation.



LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The January 2015 issue of the Mennonite Quarterly Review, highlighting articles about sexual abuse has been placed in the book rack in the library. Of specific interest is Rachel Waltner Goossen's full report, entitled "Defanging the Beast," Mennonite Responses to John Howard Yoder's Sexual Abuse.

The 2014 Survey of Credentialed Leaders in the Mennonite Church USA, the final report written by Conrad L. Kanagy indicates important trends within the larger MCUSA church.

Both of these publications have not yet been added to the library's database, but are available for check out. Please write your name on the card and place in the check out box.

Youth Updates

Are you a jr. or sr. high youth interested in attending **MCUSA convention** the week of June 30th-July 5th? Turn in your \$100 nonrefundable deposit to Renee by March 1st to reserve your spot. It is sure to be a STELLA time!

The **Youth Mentoring Program** would like to invite current 5th grade through 12th grade youth to consider participating in our mentoring program. This program allows young people to connect with another adult friend at church. New youth participants together with their parents will create a list of candidates to be a possible personal mentor. Then the committee will match mentees with one of the mentor candidates. If you are approached to serve as a mentor please consider this opportunity seriously as a way of serving our youth and nurturing others at Rainbow Mennonite Church. Youth interested should sign up for the program by turning in their applications to Jan Good-Bollinger, Janelle Arnett Campbell, Cynthia Olavaria Kauffman or Renee Reimer, preferably by February 22.

This Week

Sunday	February 15	Newcomer Lunch	12:00 pm
		Trustees Meeting	12:00pm
Wednesday	February 18	Ash Wednesday Taizé	5:45 pm
		Choir Rehearsal (dinner at 6:15)	6:45 pm
Thursday	February 19	Head Start Parent Meeting	5:00 pm

Next Week

Wednesday	February 25	Taizé Service	5:45 pm
		Choir Rehearsal (dinner at 6:15)	6:45 pm
Thursday	February 26	Elder Law Presentation	6:00 pm
		Church Council	7:00 pm

Winter Education Classes

***The Book of Forgiving*.....Library**

A discussion of *The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World* is written by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu, offering a manual on the art of forgiveness—helping us to realize that we are all capable of healing and transformation.

***Why I Am an Atheist Who Believes in God*..... Room 110**

This class will discuss *Why I am an Atheist Who Believes in God: How to Give Love, Create Beauty, and Find Peace* by Frank Schaeffer. Schaeffer once stood near the top of conservative Christian evangelicalism but is now one of its strongest critics. He is an “atheist” who still talks to Jesus—in spite of everything.

***Worship Response Group*.....Pastor’s Office**

This will be an opportunity to discuss the purpose and experience of worship at Rainbow. We will consider questions such as “What helped us worship today? What interfered with our worship? What inspiration, challenge, question will you take with you this week?”

***The Wired Word*.....Sunflower Room**

After Brian Williams of NBC news told an embellished story about himself and was "caught" he took himself out of the anchor role for "several days," saying his actions had made him "too much a part of the news." This story reminded *The Wired Word* of how Jesus often pointed beyond himself to God. We need to ensure that Jesus is the "news" -- not ourselves. That topic, along with the reliability of human memory and the psychology of lying or "embellishing," will be the focus of *The Wired Word on Sunday*. We invite you to join us today after the coffee break.