

RAINBOW MENNONITE CHURCH

February 22, 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 **Todd and Claire Zehner**; our greeters are **Clyde and Peggy Coriell**. 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 **Amy Kliewer, Phyllis Carlson, and Abigail Gritman**.

Closing Trustee: **Scott Weast**

Please pray for...

- **Mary Lou Duerksen** who is receiving hospital care..
- **Bernita and Hal Boyts** as Bernita begins receiving home care this week.

Did you notice? Today we have new *Sing the Story* songbooks in the pew racks. This is a seasonal songbook to be used from Advent-Pentecost. The rest of the year we will return to the green *Sing the Journey* songbooks. Special thanks to the family of Kathleen Bush who designated part of her memorial fund for the purchase of these songbooks. The memorial funds remaining will be used toward the purchase of a choir folder storage unit.

Next Sunday during worship we will join in a dedication of the Lucille Larson Youth Education Center, also known as the Youth "Upper Room." Several of Lucille's family members, including Lucille's son David and his wife Peggy will be joining us for worship and fellowship.

New church directories have been printed and can be found in your church mailbox! If you do not have a mailbox, extra copies are located outside the church office.

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 to phil.rhoads@gmail.com, 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.

Today is the first Sunday in Lent. Here are some **noteworthy Lenten 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.
- 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. 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.

WOMEN'S LUNCH INVITATION: At the second **women's luncheon** at First Watch 11112 Shawnee Mission Parkway, some suggested meeting twice a month, in order to accommodate schedules better. Thus, the group will meet February 25 and March 11 at 11 a.m. You are invited to attend either or both!

This Thursday 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 next 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. Mike Horner will be the emcee for the evening, so bring the family out to RMC to spend an enjoyable evening filled with desserts and entertainment.

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 participate. 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

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| Tuesday | February 24 | Outreach Committee Meeting | 4:00 pm |
| Wednesday | February 25 | Women’s Luncheon | 11:00 am |
| | | 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 |

Next Week

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| Sunday | March 1 | Variety Show Extravaganza | 5:00 pm |
| Tuesday | March 3 | Worship Committee Meeting | 7:00 pm |
| Wednesday | March 4 | Taizé Service | 5:45 pm |
| | | Choir Rehearsal (dinner at 6:15) | 6:45 pm |
| Saturday | March 7 | Worship Committee Retreat | 9:00 am |
| | | Senior High Service Project | |

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**

The Wired Word this week will be discussing “Voting Rights Restored, Then Rescinded for Ex-Cons” focusing on the confusing law changes that ex-cons have to navigate in order to vote.