

**GATHERING**

Prelude to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

Candle Lighting

## \* Call to Worship

Come, sons and daughters of Abraham and Sarah,  
nations born of barren lands,  
you who stand here because of promises fulfilled,  
come and worship your God.

***We were born through the faith of our ancestors,  
just as our faith will give life to future generations;  
even as we hope against hope,  
we come to worship our God.***

Welcome home, children of God.

Welcome to this house of God.

## \* Opening Prayer

**PRAISING GOD**\* Hymn *Come and see* HWB 20

Prayer of Confession

***God of our ancestors and our descendants,  
promising Abraham and Sarah children at their age just  
seems mean.***

***For them to believe that promise sounds foolish—  
almost as foolish as expecting that same faithfulness  
from us. That was then, this is now.***

***We are not used to waiting.***

***If something we want takes too long, we itch to move on  
to the next thing, even when waiting is important.***

***Forgive us. Forgive our impatience and refusal to believe  
in what we cannot see.***

***Build in us the willingness to hope against hope.***

***Help us to value and contribute to a future yet unseen.***

***Instill in us a faith to inspire future generations.***

**Words of Assurance**

I will always keep the promise I have made to you and your  
descendants, because I am your God and their God.

**PROCLAIMING**

Scripture Reading Genesis 9:8-17

Hymn *Slowly turning, ever turning* STJ 23

Scripture Reading Mark 8:31-38

Sermon

Reflection

**RESPONDING**\* Hymn *Who now would follow Christ* HWB 535

Offering and Offertory

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

**SENDING**\* Sending Hymn *Go, my friends, in grace* STS 57

\* Benediction

Postlude

\* *All who are able are invited to stand where indicated.  
Our worship ends after the postlude; please remain seated.*

*HWB – blue hymnal STS – purple hymnal STJ – green hymnal*

*Preacher: Charles Bontrager Worship Leader: Kenny Rohrer  
Accompanist: John Gamin*

**Welcome to First Mennonite Church** If you are new here today, we're glad you can worship with us. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you!

**Today** following the worship service you are invited to stay and participate in a Brown Bag Planning Meeting. We will share a brown bag lunch and plan activities for the next few months.

**Wednesday** 6:00pm you are invited to a Fellowship Meal in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a dish to share as we become better acquainted in a casual setting.

**SUNDAY**, March 4th at 4pm in conjunction with other area churches we are bringing **Ted and Company** to Oak Grove

(cont.) Mennonite Church. They will be showing *Discover: A Comic Lament* – “a play about the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework that justifies theft of land and oppression of Indigenous Peoples. It finds unexpected humor at the crossroads of justice and land use, offering both comic and challenging glimpses into the absurdity of white settler oppression of Indigenous Peoples and the land we live on. A show about love, and loss, of land, *Discover* nudges us to question our stories with honesty and integrity.” We hope you will join us there.

**Infant Care Kits** – Our February Mission Project helps mothers and infants in families displaced by war or disaster. 9,992 kits shipped last year to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Ukraine, Jordan, the U.S. and more. Fliers are available in the hallway with a description of the kit contents required.

*Our **MISSION** is to welcome all to know Christ's salvation through worship and works of love, peace and justice in service for God.*

#### LOOKING AHEAD\*

SUN 2/25 • 12pm Brown Bag Planning Meeting

WED 2/28 • 6pm Fellowship Meal

TUES 3/06 • 3pm Deacons Meeting

WED 3/07 • 6pm Soup & Games Night

WED 3/14 • 6pm Fellowship Meal, 7pm Steering Team

WED 3/21 • 6pm Fellowship Meal, 7pm Worship Team

SUN 3/25 • Palm Sunday

WED 3/28 • 6pm Fellowship Meal

THURS 3/29 • 7pm Maundy Thursday Service

🕒 TUES 2/20 Daniel Moss    🕒 SAT 2/24 Logan Newcomer

🕒 MON 2/26 Mark Haas    🕒 TUES 2/27 Jerry Newcomer

🕒 WED 2/28 Paul Brenneman

\*Send announcements & calendar to: [chrischamberlin99@yahoo.com](mailto:chrischamberlin99@yahoo.com)

View our Calendar online: • iPhone/iCal <http://bit.ly/2B00DQQ>  
• Android/Google <http://bit.ly/2CXZv1J>

#### First Mennonite Church

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Charles Bontrager, Pastor

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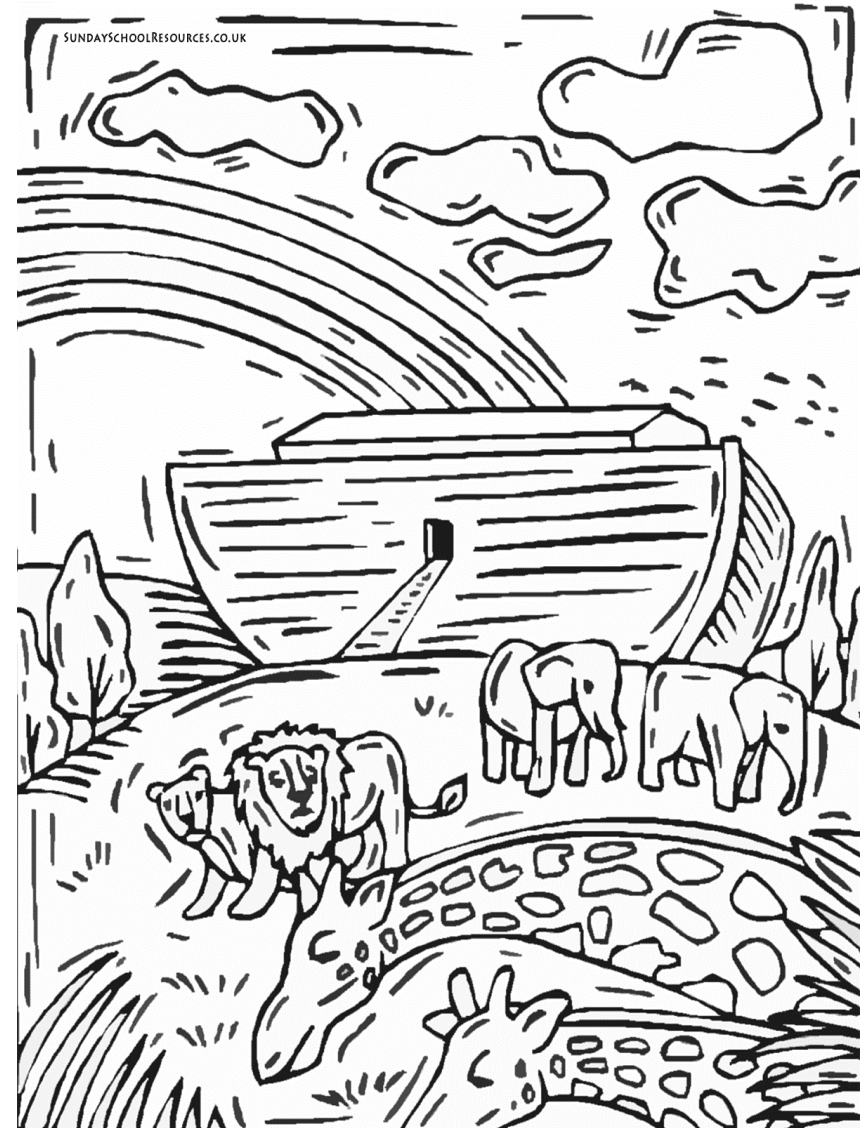
Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:45 am

Office (330) 334-1863

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*God's Everlasting Covenant*



**First  
Mennonite  
Church**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA