

Gathered by God...

Prelude	<i>Ich ruf zu dir herr Jesu Christ</i>	JS Bach
Welcome and Announcements		
Interlude		
* Call to Worship		
* Opening Prayer		
* Hymn	<i>Come, thou fount</i>	HWB 521

To hold on to God's Word...

Affirmation of Faith	Psalm 63 :1-8 (The Grail translation)	
Children's Time		
Hymn	<i>Rain down</i>	STJ 49
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9	
Sermon	Searching for life	

Letting go...

* Hymn	<i>I hunger and I thirst</i>	HWB 474
Prayer of Confession		
Assurance		
Hymn	<i>God fill me now (v. 1 German then English)</i>	STS 63
Offering Prayer		
Offertory		
Sharing of Joys and Concerns		
Prayers of the People		

We follow Jesus to the cross

* Hymn	<i>There's a wideness in God's mercy</i>	HWB 145
* Benediction		
Postlude	<i>There is a spirit that delights to do no evil</i>	Neil Rorem
<i>Our worship ends after the postlude; please remain seated for the postlude.</i>		

**All who are able are invited to stand where indicated.*

Hymnals used in worship: HWB – Hymnal a Worship Book (blue)

STJ – Sing the Journey (green)

STS – Sing the Story (purple)

Worship Leader: Ken Rohrer

Preacher: Rachel Siemens

Organ: Ryan Croyle

Children's Time: Mark Haas

Bulletin Cover: Sharon Stutzman Hartzler

Bethel Mennonite Church would like to invite the First Mennonite congregation to a **special presentation on March 11 at 7pm** (at Bethel). **Kudzayi Nyakura** is visiting the U.S. from Zimbabwe through MCC and is working at MCC Connections in Kidron. She will share about life and God's working in Zimbabwe. In addition, Marlin Yoder of MCC will give a brief update on relief efforts in Haiti. Refreshments will follow. Please join us!

Mennonite Mission Network thanks First Mennonite Church for contributing \$1,751.89 received from February 1, 2009, through January 31, 2010. Your gifts, prayers, and participation in mission help to create ministries of healing and hope across the street and around the world. May you experience God's blessings as together we seek to *share all of Christ with all of creation.*

MCC Great Lakes is extremely grateful to each of you who have contributed to MCC in the past few months. Thanks to your generous support, nearly \$11 million has been raised for immediate and long-term relief and development efforts following the earthquake in Haiti. In addition, response to the January bulletin announcement raised \$30,705 toward the total Goshen meat canning budget of \$122,000.

We offer a sincere "thank you" for entrusting your resources and prayer support to MCC. We appreciate your support as we continue to work locally and around the world in the name of Christ.

Salem Mennonite, Kidron, would like to welcome you to join us for worship at our Pre-Easter Services **March 28, 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and March 29, 7:00 p.m.** We are privileged to have **Ervin R. Stutzman**, our new MC USA Executive Director, as our guest speaker. His goal is to meet a lot of people and as many churches as possible. His sermon series is titled, "Keeping First Things First."

We look forward to having a lot of guests from our sister Mennonite churches join us. We hope we can show our support for Ervin by filling our church so that as many people in the area can get to hear him as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Darrell Ediger (330.466.4077 - cell). The offering will go to MCC's work in Haiti.

Welcome to worship this third Sunday of Lent. May you encounter God's everlasting love during this time of worship.

GREETERS Today: Barb Newcomer

Next Sunday: Ellen Sprunger

USHER for MARCH

Lucie Nofziger

To be the church we would like to be, we need to offer \$6,819 this month. For February we needed \$6,680 and received \$6,338, plus \$165 for Loaves & Fishes.

THIS WEEK, March 8-14:

Wednesday: 7:00 pm Lenten Prayers in parlor *note time change*

Thursday: Noon deadline for bulletin announcements
please email announcements to Rachel

7:00 pm Commission meetings

8:00 pm Church Council

Sunday: 9:30 am **Sunday School** for all ages

Elementary School Class: *Jesus*

Intergenerational Class: *Prayer: Song as Prayer*

Pathfinders Class: *Prayer: Does it make any difference?*

10:45am **Worship Lent 4: Holding on and Letting go!**

Scripture texts: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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

First Mennonite Church

405 Trease Road

Wadsworth OH 44281

(330) 334-1863

Pastor: Rev. Rachel Siemens

Normal Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 8:30 am – noon

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:45 am

www.firstmennonite.com

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Holding On



Letting Go

