

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

Following Jesus

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?*

*Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*
John Bell & Graham Maule
STS 39

“Follow me,” is the invitation we receive from Jesus. By the vary nature of our gathering and being a congregation, we have said ‘yes’ to this invitation. Who is this Jesus who calls us and whom we follow? The theme for our worship during ordinary time, the season between Epiphany and Lent, is ‘Following Jesus.’ We will follow Jesus through Mark 1 with a quick jaunt to John 1. In these texts we will meet Jesus the Baptizer, Jesus the Son of God, Jesus the Fisher, Jesus the Teacher, Jesus the Preacher and Jesus the Healer.

Being followers of Jesus, discipleship, is important to us as Anabaptists. We seek to follow Jesus and model his ways in our daily living. This January through May we have the wonderful privilege of sharing our faith and what it means to follow Jesus with a new catechism class. Catechism is something that we teach as a whole congregation; it is not the sole responsibility of the pastor. So be prepared to be tapped on the shoulder to share the story of your baptism, or to be a conversation partner for our young disciples as we walk with this catechism class. While this class will be geared toward high school freshman, anyone else considering baptism or church membership is invited to speak with Rachel.

Being followers of Jesus is a life long vocation. Baptism is not the end, but one step in our life of faith. Starting Wednesday, January 7, at 7:00 pm there will be a Bible study on the Gospel of John. This study group will meet twice monthly. At our first meeting, we will decide how many sessions we want to meet (6 to 10).



Epiphany Coffee House
January 4, 6:00 pm

Carry-in meal
January 25, 12:00 pm

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 25, 1:30 pm

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FMC & Community Announcements

We are experimenting with **digital recording of our worship services**. That means we will also have a CD copy of the service in addition to a tape copy. The CDs will be in the library to be signed out. Also, if you would like a copy dropped off or mailed to you on a regular basis, along with a bulletin, please speak to Rachel.

Want to borrow a book from our library and not sure where to put the card? **We have changed the sign-out system**. Simply print the title of the book, your name and the date you borrowed the book in the scribbler in the library. Then cross off your name when you return the book. Happy reading!

In our busy world it is challenging to find the time to tend to our relationship with God. Sometimes we desire to know God better but find things get in the way. One way to tend to our relationship with God is through **spiritual direction**. Spiritual direction is not counseling, it is meeting regularly (monthly) with a person who is trained to listen for and to help us notice and discern God's movement in our lives. If this is something you have been pondering, please see Rachel. She is training to be a spiritual director and is offering spiritual direction as part of the practicum for the course.

MCC Great Lakes wants to hear from you! On January 31, 2009 another MCC New Wine/New Wineskins summit will be held at Kidron Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall from 9:30 to 2:30. Your four hour gift to MCC will help shape the future of MCC. Simply come and meet a variety of other MCC constituents and engage in dialogue on a series of topics where you can share your views on the current state of MCC and your hope for the future of MCC. Please RSVP to Marlin Yoder at myoder@mcc.org or 740-502-2242.

Attention men and boys!! The opportunity to sing with over a hundred other men is a rare and energizing way to worship our great God. This opportunity is again yours through the month of January. **The OMMC (Ohio Mennonite Men's Chorale)**, now in its 9th season, will begin to rehearse on January 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the

sanctuary of the Kidron Mennonite Church, under the direction of Tim Shue with Kevin Himes accompanying. The rehearsals will be each Wednesday and Sunday, the 25th. **The concert will be on February 1 at 4:00 p.m.** All male singers are welcome and encouraged to join in this regional effort of uniting our voices in praise of God. If there are questions, call Lois at 330-857-3461.

The **deadline** for contributions to the **February newsletter** is **January 18**.

Convention 2009 *June 30 - July 5, 2009 Columbus*

Delegates

Delegates will meet Wednesday through Saturday from 8 - 10 a.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Acting on behalf of members of Mennonite Church USA in meetings of the Delegate Assembly, **delegates** determine major policy issues, evaluate the work of the Executive Board and discern the voice of the Spirit in the midst of the Assembly.

We hope to send as many youth and junior youth, as we can, to the Youth Convention. A brief information meeting will be held after worship on January 11.

From MCC Great Lakes:

Thanks to those in your congregations for contributing volunteer hours and donations to area MCC Thrift Shops, for supporting the annual MCC Relief Sale and helping with the meat canning project. Your contributions for Bangladesh Cyclone Disaster Response and 'where needed most' totaled \$1,237.00 which clearly illustrates your faith commitment by sharing God's love to others who live in very difficult situations. In addition, First Mennonite donated 28 school kits as material resources.

Worship @ FMC

JANUARY:

Ushers: John Althaus & Jerry Newcomer

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
4	Carl S. & Lydia N.	Jan A.
11	Jack & Mona R.	Ken R.
18	Evelyn & Paul B.	Ellen S.
25	Jake N. & Dan M.	Jenny H.

Greeters should be at the front and back door by 10:20 and ushers should be ready to hand out bulletins and seat people by 10:30.

Those in the nursery should introduce themselves to parents of young children and sit near the back to watch for children heading to the nursery.

Please remember to find someone to fill-in for you if you cannot make it.

January Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 - Clifford Lowe
- 9 - Iona Hostetter
Alia Saunders
- 12 - John Althaus
- 13 - Roberta Mohr
- 15 - Margery Beery
- 16 - Jerry & Barb Newcomer ('60)

On the horizon...

February 25	Ash Wednesday
June 25 - 27, 2009	Central District Annual Meeting in Sugar Creek
June 30 - July 5, 2009	Columbus 2009
July 14-19, 2009	Paraguay 2009

MYF Corner

January Events:

January 4, 6:00 pm

Epiphany Coffee House.

Please show up at 5:30 to help set up. Don't forget your baking.

January 18, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Meet at the church to talk about Columbus 2009.

Bring your best fundraising idea.

Bible Quiz:

1. What did Jesus say it was hard for a rich man to do?
2. Which Gospel was written by a doctor?
3. Complete the first beatitude, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, ..."
4. Who asked Jesus, "How many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"?

Submit your answers, include the Bible verse where you found it, to Rachel. There may be a prize.