

# FMC Newsletter

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Volume No. 1

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January 2008

*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.*

## A new newsletter

Welcome to 2008! A new calendar year and a new form and forum for communication at First Mennonite Church. This newsletter is still in its infancy and will likely change a lot as it grows and takes shape over the next year. For now we will have it available on the first Sunday of the month and hopefully by year-end, we will have it ready by the last Sunday of the month.

When you read my report in the annual report, you will see that getting out a newsletter is one of my hopes and dreams for FMC. For the time being I will be the editor and welcome suggestions and ideas for columns. I also welcome any volunteers to help with layout, typing, proofreading and whatever else is needed to produce a newsletter.

Deadline for the February issue is January 27. Please submit contributions, including items for the calendar, to Rachel (via mailbox or email).

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## Rachel's Reflections

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Happy New Year! With these words and the putting up of a new calendar, we also hear other words and phrases: Resolutions. Fresh start. Clean slate. Blank canvas. New beginning. We may or may not make resolutions, uncertain of our ability to keep them. Yet there is still something quite powerful in the idea of a fresh start with a clean slate.

New beginnings. We savor these opportunities because we mess up. Despite our best efforts or intentions, we are all still prone to messing up. We do not live up to our own standards, hopes or potential. Therefore, we are happy knowing that we have a chance to try again.

New beginnings. We long for these because some years come with more than their fair share of tragedies, trials and sadness. Knowing that a new year comes provides the hope to continue.

New beginnings. We do not need to wait until January 1 for God is continually offering us fresh starts and new beginnings. The celebration of the Lord's Supper is one way we mark new beginnings. When we partake in the elements, we accept the forgiveness of our sins and drink the cup of the new covenant. We are fed, nourished, and renewed to be the people - be the church - God is calling us to be.

Wishing you God's blessings this new year!

## Road Signs for the Journey

An intergenerational Sunday School and sermon series

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From January 13 to February 3, we will explore together the 2006 Mennonite Member Profile. This extensive profile was summarized by Conrad Kanagy in his book *Road Signs for the Journey: A Profile of Mennonite Church USA*. I read the book this Fall and thought it would be interesting for us as a community to look at some of the issues that Kanagy sees in the survey results. For these four Sundays all of the Sunday School classes will gather together at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Mennonite Church USA has developed *Resources for the Journey* as a congregational discussion and worship guide. This will be our guide for this journey. The series has been designed so that one does not need to read the book ahead of time.

The themes for the four weeks are as follows:

- God's People - Then and Now
- God's Call
- The Fall
- Journeying Toward God's Reign

Each Sunday School session begins with a video, therefore I encourage you to be on time, not to miss it. I look forward to leading this series and noticing together what signs God has put on the road for us.

## January Birthdays & Anniversaries

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- 1 - Cliff Lowe
- 8 - Donna Mumaw
- 9 - Iona Hostetter, Alia Saunders
- 11 - Pat Kilmer
- 12 - John Althaus
- 15 - Marge Beery
- 16 - Jerry & Barb Newcomer ('60)

## The broader church

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This will be a place to share what is going on in the broader Mennonite church in Ohio and beyond.

**Men's group to sing in January.** The Ohio Mennonite Men's Chorale (OMMC), now in its eighth season, will begin to rehearse Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary of Kidron Mennonite Church, under the direction of Tim Shue, with Kevin Himes accompanying. Rehearsals will be held each Wednesday, and the group will perform a concert Jan. 27. All male singers are welcome and encouraged to join in this regional effort of uniting our voices in praise of God.

## On the horizon...

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|------------|--|
| January 27 | Annual meeting & carry-in after worship            |
| February 6 | Ash Wednesday service time TDB                     |
| March 20   | Maundy Thursday                                    |
| March 21   | Good Friday  |
| March 23   | Easter   |
| May 11     | Pentecost  |
| June 23-25 | Central District Conference meetings in Wheaton IL |

# January @ FMC

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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9:30 Quilting

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12

9:30 Sunday School  
10:40 Worship  
Communion

1:30 Deacons  
7:30 MENWA board

7:00 Finance  
Commission

7:00 Commissions  
8:00 Church  
Council

13

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9:30 Sunday School  
10:40 Worship

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9:30 Sunday School  
10:40 Worship

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9:30 Sunday School  
10:40 Worship  
12:00 Carry-in  
1:00 Annual  
Meeting

7:30 TRCCC board

Rachel at Pastors' Week at AMBS, Jan 28- Feb 1