

**Gathering together**

Prelude  
Welcome  
Introduction of guests and announcements  
Call to worship *Sabbath Poem* by Wendell Berry

**Praising God**

STJ 3 (green) *Jesus calls us here to meet Him*  
HWB 576 (blue) *If you but trust in God*  
Offering and offertory -- Men's Choir

**Hearing God's word**

Children's time: STS 47 (purple) *Let the children come to me*  
Scripture reading *Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-21*  
HWB 345 (blue) *God sent His Son*  
Meditation *Journeys and the unknown*

**Responding to God's word**

Reflection -- Rich Crockett  
Confession and assurance  
HWB 645 (blue) *In the bulb there is a flower*  
Prayers of the people  
STS (purple) *Will you come and follow me*  
Benediction

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Children ages 2-4 are dismissed following Children's time for preschool church in the nursery with Barry Nolt and Susan Martin.

Diane Gehman (pianist); Matt Carlson (worship leader); Ron Guenther (song leader); Rich Crockett (Men's Choir director); Susan Blessing (children's time leader); Dylan and Dawn Nolt (scripture readers); Rachel Nolt (meditation)

**Next week:** Ex 17:1-17; Ps 95; Ro 5:1-11; Jn 4:5-42; Joanne Dietzel, preaching

**PLEASE JOIN US (10:10 – 10:35 am)**

Everyone is welcome to participate in coffee/tea fellowship after the worship service. Guests, please sign the guest book in the foyer.

**AMONG THOSE SERVING TODAY**

**Greeters:** Andrew & Susan Adams, Ann Zimmerman  
**Nursery:** Worship: Barry Nolt & Susan Martin  
**Coffee Servers:** Delores & Marv Nolt  
**Ushers:** Don Good (Head usher), Tim Langeman, Dave Frey, Linda Good  
**Flowers:** The sanctuary flowers are provided today by the Bowman family in loving memory of Irma Bowman.

**Sound/AV Operator:** Bryan Beyer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hour: Jim Shenk & Monica Carlson  
**Mug Washers:** Peter & Sue Passage

**SECOND HOUR FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (10:35 – 11:20 am)**

**New class begins today:** Steve Nolt will teach *You are what you love: The spiritual power of habit* by James Smith. Philosopher and cultural critic Jamie Smith considers the ways that embodied practices and the 'liturgies' of popular culture shape us. In *You Are What You Love*, he applies these insights to Christian discipleship and the church, contending for the importance of community and narrative in a world of autonomy and information. Books are available in the church office for \$15. Class meets in the Assembly Room.

**Koinonia:** This ongoing class will continue reading aloud and discussing the book written by Joan Chittister, *The Time Is Now — A Call to Uncommon Courage*. No need to purchase the book (unless you want a copy for your own library). Class meets in Room 222.

**Faith and Family:** Conversations about the joys and challenges of parenting, and faith formation in our families. Facilitated this week by Rachel Nolt. Class meets in the Sabbath Room.

Children and Youth

Taught by members of the church who graciously volunteer their time. See below for locations.

Nursery age - - - - - Nursery  
Ages 2-4 - - - - - Rooms 16/18  
Kindergarten-4th Grade - - - - - Rooms 131, 132, 133 (lower level)  
Jr. MYF (5-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth) - - - - - Jr. MYF Room  
MYF (High School Youth) - - - - - MYF Room

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- March**
- 8 **Today** Senior Gathering meets at AMC at noon for lunch and presentation by Anne Kaufman Weaver
  - 12 Garden Spot Village residents' gathering at 11:30 in Concord Room
  - 14 Shambhuganj Project fundraising dinner and presentation by Richard Sarker 5:30 pm
  - 17 Women's brown bag lunch 12:00 – 1:30 at Janet Stoner's house
  - 19 AMC Council meets at 7:00 pm
  - 21 MYF Auction: meal begins at 4:30 pm; auction begins at 5:45 pm
  - 22 Share-A-Life activity during second hour
  - 29 AMC Men's Choir to participate in Men's Chorus Festival at Weaverland MC 6:30 pm

**PRAYERS**

We hold each other and these situations in the light of Christ:

- Those within our faith community who are caregivers and decision makers for their spouse, parents or siblings.
- Those among us who are experiencing physical, mental, or emotional changes in health.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Senior Gathering today:** Please join us at 12 noon in the Assembly Room for a light lunch. Anne Kaufman Weaver, chaplain at Landis Communities (also a child of AMC) will be helping us to better understand the important connection between resiliency and loss. Come even if you don't yet identify yourself as a Senior!

**Bangladesh fundraising dinner:** Please mark your calendar for the annual fundraising dinner for Bangladesh and a PowerPoint presentation on Saturday, March 14 at 5:30 pm. RSVP to Richard Sarker by Thurs., March 12 if you are planning to attend.

**AMC Women are invited** to join a Brown Bag lunch on March 17, 12:00-1:30 at Janet Stoner's home. Feel free to drop in and leave as your schedule allows.

**Only two weeks to go until the MYF auction!** March 21, 2020: Meal begins at 4:30; auction is at 5:45. We look forward to seeing you there.

**March 22 Share-a-Life event:** Share-a-Life will gather from 10:20-11:20 in the Jr. MYF room on Sunday, March 22. All children in K-8th grade and adults of all ages are welcome to bring card or board games to play together while getting to know each other.

**Pastor Review:** Last week, you were invited to think about all the ways that Pastor Rachel has shared her gifts with AMC. Beginning today, representatives from Council or PCRC will be available during coffee time to hear your thoughts. **Nancy Chapman will be available for conversation today** (March 8) in the small meeting room off hallway leading to the church offices. In addition to weekly conversation opportunities, a survey will be sent to the congregation by mid-March. Paper copies will also be made available at that time. Thank you for your participation in the life of the church! -- *Congregational Council and PCRC*

**Pre-K – Grade 12 Scholarships:** Last year, AMC began providing scholarships for Pre-K – Grade 12 children who are enrolled in a school belonging to the Mennonite Schools Council. In our local area, these schools include Lancaster Mennonite School, Diamond Street Early Childhood Center, Hinkletown Mennonite School, Kraybill Mennonite School, New Holland Early Learning Center, and Parent and Preschool Center. Please inform the church office if you have/will have a child enrolled in one of these schools.

**The Gifts Discernment Committee solicits your prayers** as we assess the various leadership needs of AMC and how to match those needs with your interests. Please reflect on how you can contribute to the life of our congregation. Feel free to volunteer or to be receptive when we tap you on the shoulder. -- Ron Guenther, Elaine Brubaker, Marlene Kaufman, Rachel Nolt

*Please see insert for additional announcements*

Church office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm

Church Office: (717) 859-1488 :: 1311 Diamond Street, Akron, PA 17501 :: [amc@akronmench.org](mailto:amc@akronmench.org)

## *Second Sunday of Lent*

### ***Sabbath Poem*** (from Sabbaths 1999 VI)

We travelers, walking to the sun, can't see  
Ahead, but looking back the very light  
That blinded us shows us the way we came,  
Along which blessings now appear, risen  
As if from sightlessness to sight, and we,  
By blessing brightly lit, keep going toward  
That blessed light that yet to us is dark.

Wendell Berry, *Given: New Poems*

*Akron Mennonite Church*  
*March 8, 2020*

## ***ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 8, 2020***

**Troubled about paying for war while praying for peace?** You're invited to participate in the next monthly gathering of the 1040 for Peace group exploring alternatives to paying federal taxes that support U.S. war making while encouraging life-enhancing uses of tax money. Beginning with a reflection by Norman Lowry, we will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at 7:30 A.M. in the Rose Room off the west dining area at the Landis Homes Retirement Community. Feel free to invite your friends to attend. If you're hungry, breakfast is available for purchase in the adjacent cafeteria.—H.A. Penner

**My Coins Count:** We will be collecting for My Coins Count during the month of March. Remember to bring your coins each week. Bills are also accepted! Coins/funds taken to the PA Relief Sale in April will be used to support education projects of Mennonite Central Committee.

**AMC Women's Retreat: *Who is my sister?*** Cyneatha Millsap, Executive Director of Mennonite Women USA, will be the guest speaker for this year's AMC Women's Retreat on Saturday, April 25. She is currently the Pastor of Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart, IN. She works with multicultural churches and communities, helping to create healthy relationships across cultural divides. Cyneatha has had a very interesting journey of her own, including friendships that bring sisters together across cultures, interests and diverse life experiences. She believes women's voices are needed to carry us into a place of hope for ourselves and the next generation. MW USA believes women have been called to lead the church for such a time as this.

**You may notice** a number of cars in the AMC parking lot March 13-22. AMC has agreed to allow The Nazareth Project to leave cars here while participants travel to Nazareth, Israel to visit projects.

**Contributions to the Medical Debt Relief fund** will be accepted through April 1. **You can contribute electronically** to this fund by donating through AMC's website or through the Give Plus app on your mobile device. To donate through AMC's website, go to [www.akronmench.org](http://www.akronmench.org) and scroll down to the "Donate" section at the bottom of the home page. Under "select fund", choose Medical Debt Relief, and follow prompts. To donate through the Give Plus app, first download the app if you have not already done so. Search for Akron Mennonite Church, select the Medical Debt Relief fund, and follow the prompts. You can also contribute by check made payable to Akron Mennonite Church and designated "Medical Debt Relief Fund" through April 1.

**Plan to** attend the PA Relief Sale to benefit MCC, April 3-4 at the Harrisburg Farm Show Complex.

**Issues with AMC church-wide emails:** An increasing number of people are reporting that they no longer receive church-wide emails. We are still trying to resolve this problem. If you do not receive the weekly bulletin (currently sent out on Friday), first check your spam folder. If it is not there, please inform Rebecca. Thank you for your patience.

**Income tax assistance:** Both AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program and United Way VITA provide free tax filing service for most low to mid income households, regardless of age. Both have numerous locations in Lancaster County. If you have questions, contact Ken Langeman.