

Gathering together

Prelude
Welcome
Introduction of guests and announcements
Call to worship *Making the House Ready for the Lord* by Mary Oliver

Praising God

HWB 521 (blue) *Come, thou fount*
HWB 530 (blue) *What wondrous love is this* (v. 1-3)
Offering and offertory

Hearing God’s word

Children’s time: STS 47 (purple) *Let the children come to me*
Scripture reading *Matthew 4:1-11*
STS 36 (purple) *Jesus, tempted in the desert*
Meditation *Feast and Famine*

Responding to God’s word

Reflection -- Monica Carlson
Confession and assurance
HWB 553 (blue) *I am weak and I need thy strength*
Prayers of the people
STJ 106 (green) *Just a closer walk with thee*
Benediction

+++++

Children ages 2-4 are dismissed following Children’s time for preschool church in the nursery with Herman Bontrager and Joanne Dirks.

Cheryl Braun and Mara Carlson (pianists); Rachel Nolt (worship leader); Rich Crockett (song leader); Susan Blessing (children’s time leader); Janet and Richard Frey (scripture readers); Matt Carlson (meditation)

Next week: Ge 12:1-4a; Ps 121; Ro 4:1-5, 13-17; Jn 3:1-17; Rachel Nolt, 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: Cheryl & Tim Braun, Marilyn Langeman
Nursery: Worship: Herman Bontrager & Joanne Dirks
Coffee Servers: Janet & Richard Frey
Ushers: Steve Hartzler (Head usher), Marvin Nolt, Helena Dueck, Jane Hartzler, Clyde Martin, Barry Nolt
Sound/AV Operator: Marv Horst
2nd Hour: H.A. Penner & Dawn Nolt
Mug Washers: Peter & Sue Passage

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

The final Open Space Technology event will occur during second hour today in the Assembly Room. Opening observations will be made regarding the data from the dot-voting, followed by instructions for the movement of our time together. We invite you to come ready to discern the Spirit’s continued nudging, through personal reflection and in conversation with others, for your involvement in the life of our community this coming year. Second hour adult classes will still be held for those wishing to attend those classes.

Human nature, human rights, and Anabaptists: Today is the final class led by Mark Kelley on human nature and human rights, using his new book: *This Mere Existence: Motivation and Strategies for Restoring Human Rights*. This book is available for purchase in the church office for \$10. This class meets in the sanctuary.

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 class will not meet today but will resume next Sunday.

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 (5-8th Grade Youth) - - - - - Jr. MYF Room
MYF (High School Youth) - - - - - MYF Room

UPCOMING EVENTS

- March**
- 1 **Today** - Fellowship Meal following 2nd hour
- 3 Lunch Bunch meets at Oregon Dairy at 11:30 am
- 3 Library Committee meets at 6 pm
- 5 Men’s Breakfast at Udder Choice at 7 am; Don Ziegler, presenter (Part 2 of 2) on climate change
- 8 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
- 12 AMC Council meets at 7:00 pm
- 14 Shambhuganj Project fundraising dinner and presentation by Richard Sarker 5:30 pm
- 17 Women’s brown bag lunch 12:00 – 1:30; location TBA
- 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:

- A group of clergy from Lancaster County Interfaith Action as they meet with Representative Sonney on March 4 to request a public hearing for 100% State Fair Funding for Pennsylvania public schools in a step towards racial equity in our state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fellowship Meal today: All are welcome to join us for a potluck fellowship meal today following second hour. The youth are providing desserts as a fundraiser.

Thanks to Anne Miller for sharing her beautiful, original design quilt for our Lent reflection.

Antiracism book discussion today: Zion Lutheran Church (Akron) invites interested people to join them **today** (Sunday, March 1) at 12:30pm at Zion Lutheran, for a book discussion of Ibram X. Kendi's book, *How to be an Antiracist*. Pastor Matt Lenahan writes, "Kendi invites us to dig deeper in understanding the effects of systemic racism or racist policies on the American experience. We will explore the movement from racist action or inaction to antiracist action. If you've ever thought, 'What can I do to confront racism - it's such a big problem.' or 'What does racism have to do with me? I'm not racist or black,' this book will give us a lot to think about." The first conversation will cover the introduction through chapter 3.

AMC Men's Breakfast: On March 5 at 7 am at the Udder Choice, come hear and discuss implications of the (likely) irreversibility of Earth's climate change. Don Ziegler will present part 2 of this 2-part series: What Do I Do?

Senior Gathering next Sunday, March 8: Please join us at 12 noon for a light lunch. Sub sandwiches will be provided. Bring veggies, fruit, or cookies/brownies for others to enjoy. 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! Contact Ann Zimmerman, Marlene Kaufman or Agnes Hacker if you have any questions.

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.

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

First Sunday of Lent

Making the House Ready for the Lord

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice--it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances--but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

Mary Oliver, *Thirst*

Akron Mennonite Church

March 1, 2020

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MARCH 1, 2020

Only three 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. Stay tuned for additional announcements.

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.

Books are available for a new 2nd hour class beginning March 8. 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.

Pastor Review: It is almost Spring. It is the season of Lent. And it is the time for a Pastor review. During the month of March, the Congregational Council and the PCRC (Pastoral Congregational Relations Committee) invite the congregation to think about all the ways that Pastor Rachel has shared her gifts with us. You will have a number of ways to share your responses. Representatives from Council or the PCRC will be available for conversation on Sundays [beginning March 8](#) during coffee time (look to upcoming bulletins for more details). Also, 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*

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.

Lost and Found/Free Stuff: Please check the table in the foyer for Lost and Found items, as well as Free Stuff. Note that items are separated by category. Free Stuff is up for grabs. Lost and Found items should be claimed by owner. Today is the last Sunday to claim these items. Unclaimed items will be donated to ReUzit.

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 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.

Issues with AMC church-wide emails: An increasing number of people are reporting that they no longer receive church-wide emails. We are 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.

Samaritan Counseling Center: AMC is a supporting congregation of Samaritan Counseling Center. We have access to a limited number of free counseling sessions for AMC individuals. If you would be interested in hearing more about this, please contact Rachel Nolt.