



Salem-Zion Mennonite Church

January 31, 2021
God's Consistent Love

"I knew that you were a gracious God...slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." - Jonah 4:2

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude	Sheila Epp
Welcome and Call to Worship	S. Roy Kaufman
Opening Prayer	
Opening Hymn – <i>What is this place</i> (HWB #1)	Josh Hofer, Chorister
Celebrating God's Mission – Freeman Academy	

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Jonah	Drama Team
Song – <i>God has chosen me</i> (SS #114)	
Sermon – "God's Consistent Character"	Corey Miller

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Litany of Call (based on Jonah 3:1-5, 10)

L: The Voice calling long ago.
P: The Voice calling today.

L: The Voice compelling Jonah to go.
P: The Voice compelling us to go.

L: The Voice calling to Jonah compelling him to share the good news of God's redemptive love.
P: The Voice calling to us compelling us to share the good news of God's redemptive love.

L: With those who would be enemies.
P: With those who would be enemies.

L: The people of Nineveh, beloved of God.
P: The people of Iraq, beloved of God.

L: The Voice calling long ago.
P: The Voice calling today.

Testimony	David Janssen
Congregational Prayer	
Sending Song – <i>Guide me, O thou great Jehovah</i> (HWB #582)	
Benediction	
Postlude	

Church Calendar

Deadline for bulletin submissions is 8:30 p.m. Wednesday; salemzion@gwtc.net

TODAY

Jonah's story is filled with drama, travel, and conversion, more or less. Today, we enter into this timeless story with all its visual delights, and in doing so, we see a clearer picture of God's character that is persuasive love. We are so glad that you have joined us for worship this morning.

The offering that we are celebrating today is for **Freeman Academy**.

THIS WEEK

Feb. 3 (Wed) - Zoom Bible Study from Mark 6-7:30 – "*Rejected Prophets, Miracles*" at 10 a.m.

- Faith from the Heart on Wednesdays (Jr. Sunday school department; Zoom) led by Pastor Corey at 6:45 p.m.
- Bible Study led by Roy Kaufman in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 4 (Thurs) – Deacon meeting at 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY – February 7

Next Sunday the focus of the morning is "**God Renews Strength**." The Biblical texts are Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147 and Mark 1:29-39. Pastor Corey will be preaching. Offering next Sunday will be for the **Household Treasury**.

COMING EVENTS

Wed. nights in Feb. – Faith from the Heart on Wednesdays (Jr. SS Dept.)
Feb-Mar Wed. mornings – Zoom Bible study from Mark at 10:00 a.m.

Salem-Zion Prayer Requests & News

Happenings over the past week:

- "Irene Schrag died peacefully on Monday, January 25 at Greencroft Healthcare in Goshen, IN from complications of COVID-19. Family is grateful that we were able to gather in Goshen and be with her and each other these last few days. When it's safe to travel and be together, a memorial service will be held later this year at Salem-Zion. The Salem-Zion community was near and dear to Mom's heart for 70 plus years. Thank you for all of the prayers, cards and letters she received since her move to Goshen. They were treasured, read and re-read." With love and gratitude, Jean Lauver, Eloise Schrag, Charlotte Sprunger, Rosalie Schrag
- On Wednesday, Clara Graber was able to come home from the hospital after recovering from pneumonia.
- Dorothy Preheim remains a patient at Freeman Regional Hospital.
- On Friday, Gary and Gloria plan to go to Iowa to pick up our **Voices Together** song books!

Remember to pray for:

- those who cannot be here today: Rita Graber.
- Clara Graber and Dorothy Preheim as they recover from their recent hospitalizations.
- the family and friends of Irene Schrag as they both grieve Irene's death and celebrate her long and faithful life.
- those who have Covid or are dealing with Covid in a personal way. We continue to pray for our health care workers and those who are distributing the vaccines. May patience and grace surround this process.
- Jane and Jerrell Ross Richer and their children Sierra, Naomi, Teresa and Jordan. The Ross Richers are our mission partners, serving in the Eastern Rain Forest Region in Ecuador. We pray for the family in this unusual year as Covid has disrupted travel and ministry experiences.
- those who volunteer as leaders in our conference serving on various committees and boards such as the Conference Board, the Christian Formation Committee, Pastoral Leadership Committee, Outreach and Service Committee, Stewardship Task Force, Shalom Readers Club, Peace and Justice task group and all other conference volunteers. We give thanks for those who are willing to serve!

Feeding Our Faith: This next Wednesday, **February 3**, Roy Kaufman will conclude his final Bible Study lesson based on his new book, "*The Drama of a Rural Community's Life Cycle*." You can also log into ZOOM to listen. Even if you haven't attended yet, you are welcome and it promises to be an invigorating conversation as we imagine what our rural community can look like. 7:00pm in the Fellowship hall and we ask for you to wear a mask.

Looking for Testimonials: I am still awaiting your testimonies, specifically, how you have managed, survived, endured, even grew during this pandemic and during this time of being apart from each other in worship. Your stories of perseverance need to be told and heard by our faith community so we can take courage and grow together. Please send them, no matter how long or short, to Pastor Corey via email, text or in the mail. Thank you!

It is time to start thinking about **Valentine Boxes** for our four year post high school young people. Due to the pandemic, we are asking those of you who are willing to provide an item(s) for the boxes to call Sheila Epp - home (evenings) 925-7511 or cell 605-951-2327. Here is a list of items we are requesting: hot chocolate packets, instant latte mix, granola bars, trail mix, rice krispie treats, gum, chex mix, gatorade/crystal light packets, tea bags, microwave popcorn, caramel corn. We are also asking for people to write a short note to include in the box. Call Sheila if you are willing to write a note

as well. There will be a plastic tote by the men's coat room for you to put your items in. Cards may be put in this box as well. This year the boxes will be packed by the committee. Thank You in advance for your willingness to provide items for these boxes. In addition, we ask for your prayers for these young people. These Valentine boxes are a way for us as a church family to say "we love you and care for you!" -Sheila Epp and Beth Epp

We are so thankful for all those who have faithfully led worship, given children's stories, and been choristers during the last several months. Maybe by now, others of you are feeling ready to join this group. If so, let us know! **The worship and music committees continue to seek willing participants** in worship in the coming months. Nancy Miller and Kerwin Graber chair these committees.

Community Connections

Parents of future Kindergarten through grade 11 students are invited to an **open house at Freeman Academy** on Feb. 5 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Families have two flexible visit options. One: drop in, visit with Enrollment Director Lynnelle Allison, and get grade-specific information. Two: Contact Lynnelle (lallison@FreemanAcademy.org) three days prior to the open house to arrange a tour and schedule visits with specific teachers. All guests must wear masks. For more information call 605-925-4237.

A **noodle making day** for the Schmeckfest drive-through has been scheduled for Saturday, February 6 beginning at 9:00 a.m. We want to be responsible in keeping people safe, so masks will be required. If, at any time, you need a break from wearing them you can step out of the dining room for a break. Coffee will be provided but you will need to bring your own snacks and a brown bag lunch. Your help is appreciated but if you are a person who is at risk or isn't feeling well, you are asked to stay home.

You are invited to virtually attend the **2021 MDS Annual Celebration** (formerly All-Unit Mtg.) on Saturday, February 6, beginning at 1pm CST. Be inspired by stories of hope related to the MDS theme "Unexpected Opportunities, Unexpected Blessings." Follow the link on the website <https://mds.mennonite.net/> to join this ZOOM meeting.

Can your kid help us out at **Et Cetera Shoppe??** We are VERY low on children's clothing in sizes 5-18. Now through February 25, we're challenging all the kids out there to **DONATE 8** – to bring us just 8 pieces of really nice clothing (other than T-shirts and shorts, please) that they no longer wear. When they do, we'll put their name in a drawing for 3 large bars of chocolate of their choice (and they can decide whether to share or

not!) Please consider helping us with this urgent need. We are open to receive your donations on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-3.

Praying for God's Peace in Ordinary Time:

"God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope may flow through us to the world."

- Vision Statement of Mennonite Church USA

Peace in Justice

Let there be justice for all.

Let there be peace for all.

Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all.

Let each know that for each the body, the mind and the soul have been freed to fulfill themselves. - Nelson Mandela

Pastor Corey Miller

Office Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
corey.miller@gwtc.net
Cell phone: 319-930-7320

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Church Admin. Assistant:

Lisa Kaufman

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Office hours: Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:30
p.m. and by appointment as requested

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