



Hutterthal Mennonite Church

Christ Centered –

Living, Relating, Serving

Sunday, October 6, 2024

World Communion Sunday

9:45 a.m.

Prelude

Call to Worship & Prayer

*Welcoming One Another

*Gathering and Praising

Akekho ofana/Hakuna Wakaita VT #68

In Christ There is No East or West VT #390

Scripture Reading Phil. 4:4-9 Pew Bible p. 621

Sharing Time and Prayer

Children's Time

Worship Music Siyabonga, Jesu (Thank you, Jesus)

World Communion Sunday History and Litany

Scripture Reading Matt. 6:25-34 Pew Bible p. 512

Message Seeking Peace Within part 2

Sharing in Communion

Offering Prayer

*Responding and Sending

Somos pueblo que camina VT #464

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona VT #473

*Benediction

Postlude

*please stand if you are able

HMC Service may be viewed on our web-page:

www.HMCFreeman.org

TODAY Oct. 6, 2024 9:45 a.m. World Communion Sunday

Worship Leader: Suzanne Koerner

Accompanist: Charlene Friesen

Song Leader: Amanda Mettler

Children's Time: Amanda Mettler

Worship Music: Sunday School Children's Choir

Message: "Seeking Peace Within part 2" - Pastor Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: Steve & Charlene Friesen

Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult

Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.

NEXT SUNDAY Oct. 13, 2024 9:45 a.m.

Worship Leader: Joline Thomas

Accompanist: Amy Hofer Vetch

Song Leader: Aprille Birkey

Children's Time: Joline Thomas

Worship Music: Freeman Academy

Scripture: Genesis 25:19-34; 27; 32:1-12; 33:1-17

Message: : "Seeking Peace With Others: Forgiveness" - Pastor
Randall Koehler

Coffee Time: Sylvia Hofer

Children's Sunday School following the worship service. Adult

Sunday School following coffee time in the Education Wing.

Calendar:

Oct. 13: Freeman Academy joining our worship service

Oct. 20: Harvest Mission Festival

Nov. 10: Pastor Randall Sabbatical Presentation

Nov. 17: Peace Sunday and noon potluck meal

HMC Congregational Ministry Project for October:

MCC Relief Kits Items can be placed in the bin in Sunday School Room 1 or give monetary donations to Joyce Hofer. If you are interested in having Barbie purchase and make a kit for you, please contact her directly.

A Litany for World Communion Sunday

One: In the midst of uncertain times, we remind ourselves not just of what could be but of what will be.

Congregation: We worship the God who created time, and whose promises stand firm forever.

One: The scriptures tell us that God's eternal Kingdom will contain a great crowd that no one can number from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

Congregation: We worship the God who created all people in faithful love and who offers grace upon grace to all people in loving generosity.

One: Following his death and resurrection, which we remember and celebrate whenever we share bread and cup in sacred communion; in his final words to us on earth, Jesus commissioned us to go and make disciples of all nations.

Congregation: We worship the God who calls and invites us to the work of the Kingdom: to join in the fulfilment of God's promises.

One: Holy and Faithful One, as we break the bread and drink the cup today, remind us that we do not do so in isolation. We are part of a global, diverse church or universal body of disciples that transcends every line that the world uses to divide us.

Congregation: We worship the God who is preparing for us a great heavenly banquet where one day, we will all feast together. May our faith in God's promises inspire us to build bridges in our community, our country, and across the world. Amen

Prayer Requests and Praises:

- **Birthdays:** Kylea Waltner and Autumn Rouse on October 11; Natalie Johnson on October 12
- **Anniversary:** Phil & Joline Thomas on October 6
- Yesterday, students at the Mennonite Evangelical Theological Center of Asunción (CEMTA), in Paraguay, concluded a two-day spiritual retreat. Pray for the retreatants as they incorporate what they experienced into their daily lives. C. Paul and Hildi Amstutz, of Mennonite Mission Network, have led these annual retreats for 13 years. Praise God that CEMTA sees the value of these retreats and includes them as part of the students' first year of studies.
- As Pastor Appreciation Month commences we give thanks for all the faithful shepherds in Central Plains Mennonite Conference! Our conference is blessed with the leadership of so many good pastors!

Pastor Randall's contact information:

Pastor Office Hours: Tues., Thurs., & Fri. 8:30 AM -12 PM

Phone - 309-208-6032

Email - pastorrandallhmc@gmail.com

Office Administrative Assistant: Aprille Birkey

OAA Hours: Thursday mornings

Church Email: hutterthal@goldenwest.net

Church Website: www.hmcfreeman.org

Freeman Academy's annual fall church drive will begin Sunday, October 13th. Students will share music and Head of School, Dr. Brad Anderson, will provide a school update during your worship service that Sunday. During this harvest season, we are grateful to the alumni and friends of Freeman Academy and ask you to consider making a gift to the school's general fund.

Committee members, Lyndon Hofer and Donovan Friesen, will be available at a table on Oct. 13th and Oct. 20th to receive your donations. If you are not in church those Sundays and would like to participate, self-addressed envelopes will be available on a table for your convenience, or you can make your donation online at freemanacademy.org.

The Mennonite Disaster Service **September edition of On the Level** is now available. In this edition, Executive Director Kevin King shares the power of prayer; learn how volunteers are keeping our fleet rolling; and volunteers look back on a year of MDS service. The direct link is: <https://conta.cc/3ZtD4Pd> or let Aprille know if you want to receive this each month and she will forward it to you directly.

Freeman Academy will be hosting a **special Indigenous Peoples' Day event** on Wednesday, October 16, 9:00-10:30am in Sterling Hall. We will be welcoming South Dakota Secretary of Tribal Relations Dave Flute to speak and will also enjoy performances of native songs and dances from the Dakota Dance Club. We are inviting members of the Freeman community as well as students from surrounding districts to attend this event. This event is sponsored by Dr. Rolf Olson and Dr. Anne Waltner, as well as Shane Vetch with Modern Woodmen, and is free to attendees.

Today's **Worldwide Communion Sunday visuals** emphasize just a small portion of the world. The items you see represent Zambia, Guatemala, Ecuador, Lesotho, Bolivia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Germany, and China. Thank you to Rina Hofer for arranging the visual you see at the front of the church, and also to Boni Hofer, Matthew Tschetter, Charlene Friesen, Michael Burgeson, Edie Tschetter, Pastor Randall, Ellie Jaspers, and Lacey Friesen for providing the items. Please feel free to come forward after church to take a closer look at them.

The Deacon Team and Church Board share in **deep gratitude for the generous donation** of an anonymous person to cover the costs of our guest speakers during Pastor Randall's sabbatical. A heartfelt thank you is also extended to Matthew Tschetter who volunteered his time and talents to share his sermon series on Acts for two months. With this generosity, Hutterthal's general fund was not affected.

The **Freeman Network for Justice and Peace** will meet Wednesday, October 9 at 11:30 A.M. in the Freeman Public Library. All are welcome.

There were **58 school kits collected in August** for the Congregational Ministries project. Thank you for your generosity!

The **October 2024 Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Vine** is now available. The PDF is posted in the prayer resources section of the MMN website: <https://www.mennonitemission.net/resources/prayer-resources> or physical copies are on the table in the upper foyer.

Central Plains Mennonite Conference News: In July of this year Jerry Thex, who had taken over as the pastor of the Ashland Christian Fellowship in Montana, informed us that the community no longer had enough people to sustain a church.

There are a lot of different reasons for this and while we are sad about the closing of the church, we praise God for many years of Anabaptist Christian witness in the Ashland community. Scott and Suzette Shreffler from the White River Cheyenne Church and the other members of the Northern Cheyenne Mennonite Churches, along with conference leadership, have been working to figure out what can be done with the property.

At this point, what we need is a group of folks who are interested in heading out to Ashland to **clean up the property**. Scott and a friend went recently and cut back the grass that had grown quite tall, but there is need for a group to clean up brush piles, clean out fence rows and clean up weeds. If there are individuals or a group who are interested in serving in this way please contact Nathan Luitjens (nathaluitjens@centralplainsmc.org) and he will work with you and Scott to organize a time to get out to Ashland to help with this clean up.

Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) volunteers are in western North Carolina responding to the impacts of Hurricane Helene with equipment to move debris, mud, and downed trees. MDS is accepting donations for the recovery effort.

Please pray for the people impacted by the hurricane and the volunteers as they respond. Visit [MDS.org](https://www.mds.org) to see the latest volunteer needs or to make a donation. Check donations can be mailed to Mennonite Disaster Service, 583 Airport Road, Lititz, PA 17543. Write "Hurricane Helene" on the memo line.

World Communion Sunday and its Historical Development

Today, Christians around the globe are celebrating World Communion Sunday. This first Sunday in October offers congregations a distinct opportunity to share bread and cup in Holy Communion as part of the global faith community.

Whether shared in a grand cathedral, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, in a storefront, in a small church, on a farm, or in the heart of the city, communion practices vary as much as there are congregations. Some will receive cubes of bread or a wafer, while others will tear from a common loaf. Some will drink from a common chalice or their own individual glass, while others will dip a piece of bread into the cup. Clergy, dressed in traditional, formal, and informal garments will lead a variety of liturgies in many languages.

Even with all of the differences, the key word for World Communion Sunday is unity. We celebrate our unity in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. We share in the almost-universal Christian practice of breaking bread and drinking the cup with all who follow in Jesus's way of peace. We join together across time and space in remembering the night of Jesus' betrayal and the day of Jesus' suffering, death, and sacrifice. This special day also gives us just the slightest taste of Pentecost when people from around the first-century Mediterranean world were empowered to understand each other and come together in and by the Holy Spirit's power.

Although World Communion Sunday is familiar to our congregation, some may not know the story of its beginnings. Originally called World Wide Communion Sunday, it is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger global Christian community.

The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933. From its inception, its purposes included bringing churches together, inspiring and informing people across traditions and practices, highlighting how important the Church of Jesus Christ is to the healing of all of creation, and reminding all congregations of their interconnected existence in the global church.

Celebrations of World Communion Sunday spread very slowly among churches at the start. During the global instability and disruption of the Second World War, it became more prevalent because the world seemed to be falling apart. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense by emphasizing unity in the Spirit and the good news of Jesus. World-Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936, but it wasn't until 1940 when the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread.

Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed. We join our Christian siblings around the globe today, knowing that Christ's call to follow transcends all boundaries, borders, languages, cultures, and experiences. Amen and amen.