

Salina Mennonite Church

A Congregation of Mennonite Church USA

Salina Mennonite Church is a Christian community seeking to share God's love through celebration, nurture, service, and peacemaking.

February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent



Heavenly Mother by Kandace Boos

Deep Calls to Deep

Deep in the Sea: Called to Deep Relationship

Focus: *The voice of God pierces the deep, calling us to deep relationship. With the floodwaters behind us and the waters of baptism holding us, our relationship with God establishes our identity with other people and the world we live in.*

Prelude *Rock of Ages* arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz
Piano <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XAjuO1N9Ss>
A Cappella https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gM7gt_cSxjw

Call to Worship

One: God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore

ALL: *into unknown waters.*

One: With fear and trembling, we drop our oars,

ALL: *letting them go, trusting the sea.*

One: God, we trust the signs of your covenant:

the ark through the water,

the waters of baptism,

the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens.

ALL: *We call to you as you called us deeper into steadfast love.*

Hymn *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* VT 640
Virtual Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9XUSlzeRQ8>
Instrumental <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-emyDWqoPy8>

Storytelling *Water Is All Around Us*

God's presence is very much like water. God's presence is everywhere, all around us and even in us! God is life-giving, and God's Spirit is always moving like water. Like the water that we don't see in the air or the water that we don't always feel in our bodies, we can trust that God's presence is always there with us.

Scripture *The Covenant with Noah* Genesis 9:8-17
The Baptism of Jesus Mark 1:9-15

Hymn *Water Has Held Us* SJ 82
Congregation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rkxv115n2Xs>

Sermon *Called to Deep Relationship*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

One: Deep calls to deep.

ALL: *We call to you from the depths of our hearts.*

One: We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface,
avoiding you,
avoiding our neighbors.

We confess when we have felt in over our heads,
needing you,
needing our neighbors.

(Contemplate – What forces keep you from deep relationship?)

Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love.

ALL: *Calling us to deep relationship.*

We come to you, God.

Hymn *Oceans* VT 456
Hillsong <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GGFb6LcX3U>
A Cappella <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMBt8mkW9as>

Name your Joys and Concerns/The Lord's Prayer

Offering *Support our budget by mailing contributions to the church.*

Hymn *Here I Am, Lord* VT 545
Folk Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odHsov9jOTo>
Virtual Choir <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSODPhE-0ng>

Benediction

The divine calls for us to move beyond the shallows of our lives into deep relationship. God requires our trust and vulnerability as we reach out to a neighbor, bursting the surface bubbles of our lives and striving for deeper understanding. Go into the week before you, reaching out for a story far beyond your own, in love. Amen.

Postlude *I Saw a Tree by the Riverside* VT 514
Scenic <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgDS8MZ1tvs>

Salina Mennonite Church
Christina Litwiller, Pastor
600 State Street, Salina, KS 67401
785-825-2663

Email: salinamennonite@hotmail.com
Website: www.salinamennonite.org

Pastor Christina's Schedule

Usual Office Hours: 9:00-12:00 Tuesday – Friday
 This schedule may vary. Check first before stopping by.
 Available most of the time by text, phone, or email.

“Sunday School” Options

For Children – *Jesus Brings Good News*

- Lent Stories during Sunday morning worship
- Story Bibles to read and activities to do at home

For Adults

- Bible Study – *In God's Image* – 7 pm Wednesday at Zergers'
- Book Study – On hiatus until further notice
- Fellowship – On hiatus until further notice

Upcoming Events

Feb 23	Church Board	7:00 pm
Feb 28	Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship	10:00 am
Mar 3	Worship Committee via Zoom	5:30 pm
Mar 14	Congregational Meeting	11:15 am

Worship Totals

2021	Attendance	Unified Budget	Other	Total
2/14	Zoom 35 Church 1 Total 36			\$0.00

Local Announcements

Condolences: Penny Mattson passed over Wednesday morning. A viewing will be held Tuesday, February 23 at Ryans from 4 P to 8 P
Souper Bowl of Hope: Our contributions totaled \$435 translating to 1,044 cans of soup donated to local agencies. Thank you.

Hymnals Available: Free copies of *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (blue); *Sing the Journey* (green); *Sing the Story* (purple); and *Sing & Rejoice* (green) are available to anyone who wants them.

Congregational Meeting: We will meet after worship on March 14 (note date change). Agenda includes activity reports and continuing discussion of being church during a pandemic.

My Coins Count: Save your change for MCC. The jar is on the back table in the sanctuary. Add your contributions anytime before the sale which is scheduled for July 2 & 3.

COVID Restrictions: The number of people inside the church building is limited to 15 people. Masks are required.

The Everence Sharing Fund provided \$1,182.91 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. Eight Everence members are part of Salina Mennonite Church. Everence members are people who own or participate in products and services from Everence Financial or Everence Federal Credit Union. Purchase of these products and services help fund the Sharing Fund. Ted Hale serves as the Everence advocate for our congregation. Please contact him for more information about Everence.

Conferencewide Announcements

Western District Conference: Pray for WDC congregations as they seek safe and effective ways to do congregational business and discernment together during the pandemic.

Now What?! Post Pandemic Faith Formation: Do you want to talk with other people who care about faith formation? What have we learned about new ways of sharing the Jesus story in the past year? What will we lay aside? What questions remain unanswered? Join Kathy Neufeld Dunn and Resource Library Director Jennie Wintermote for a virtual dialogue Saturday, February 27, 9 am. To register, email wdc@mennowdc.org for the Zoom link.

Online Book Study for Parents: The WDC Resource Library is hosting an online discussion (via FaceBook) of [Upside Down Living: Parenting](#) by Katherine & Peter Goerzen. Weekly videos and questions for reflection will be posted from Feb. 17-April 7--go at your own pace. Email the library for information on joining the FaceBook group at crlib@mennowdc.org.

Plants and Things: Planning is now underway for the 2021 Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale to be held July 2 and 3 at the fairgrounds in Hutchinson. One of the most popular booths at the KMRS is "Plants and Things". Because July 2 and 3 is a bit late to be thinking about purchasing plants and starting or adding to a garden, *the "Plants and Things" booth will be open on April 10, the time our sale is regularly scheduled.* "Plants and Things" will be set up at the MCC Building in North Newton utilizing the parking lot and the warehouse facilities. More information will follow.

MCC Comforter Blitz: At Home update - We are half-way through the blitz and have received 193 completed comforters. The goal is to receive 300 completed comforters at MCC in North Newton by the end of March! All the details and information on getting comforter making supplies from MCC are at mcc.org/blitz-at-home. Share pictures of your work on the [MCC Comforter Blitz](#) Facebook page. Contact katemast@mcc.org or 316.804.8432 with questions. Need batting? Contact Charlotte's Sew Natural for their special MCC batting price at 316.284.2547. And THANK YOU to everyone working to create beautiful comforters for MCC!

WDC Hope Fund: Western District Conference extends prayers and encouragement for all congregations and communities impacted by recent weather-related crises in our region. The resulting power outages, water shortages, need for emergency shelter, and loss of work and income are also exacerbating the vulnerabilities and risks of the ongoing COVID pandemic. In the face of these needs, congregations may apply for assistance grants of up to \$2,500 from the WDC Hope Fund. Donations to the fund are also invited. Grant applications and contributions may be made online at [Hope Fund](#), or sent to WDC at PO Box 306, North Newton, KS 67117. In the future, we will be discerning a broader purpose for the Hope Fund, to continue to respond to congregational needs as we anticipate moving beyond the COVID pandemic. Further announcements will be made as that is determined. May God strengthen the church's witness, caring and fellowship as we share together in this way.

Churchwide Announcements

Mennonite Mission Network: Petrus and Yuliana Handoyo, of MMN, live out the good news of Jesus Christ in Cambodia, which is a Buddhist country. Pray for them as they teach at all levels — from informal classes for children to the university level — and as they help provide leadership for a multicultural congregation.

Mennonite Church USA: Support the peace and justice work of Mennonite Church USA (MC USA) by prayerfully considering a contribution to the Justice Fund, a mutual aid fund that assists MC USA congregations engaging in their communities to dismantle racism and build peace. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/give/>

MennoCon21: MC USA has announced the registration rates for its first hybrid convention to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, and online on July 6-10, 2021. In-person attendance is \$325 per person for the five-day event and online attendance is \$99. For more details, visit mennoniteusa.org/news/registration-rates-mennocon21/

Menno Snapshots: In her blog, "Endings and beginnings," Chantelle Todman reflects on her work with Mennonite Church USA's Women in Leadership initiative and as an intercultural leadership coach with Mosaic Conference – and her exciting new beginning as the co-owner of a radical coffee and tea house in Philadelphia. Read more: mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/endings-and-beginnings/

Mennonite World Conference: Thank you, God, for MWC's regional representatives who labour to represent the situation of churches in their region to MWC and represent MWC's resources and opportunities to the churches. This work is more difficult now without large conference gatherings and opportunities to visit with church leaders. Give resources to meet the challenges when internet access is poor or relationships with leaders had not been previously established.