

Our Mission:

Raleigh Mennonite Church is a community growing as disciples of Jesus, the Christ. We nurture growth of the inner spiritual life, seeking transformation through God's grace as followers of Jesus.

We are active in reconciliation and service, making Christ known through sharing the story of God's love and forgiveness with our children, our neighbors and our world. In our lives, we seek justice, healing, hope and peace for all people.

We warmly and actively welcome others to join us on this journey.

Pastor Melissa F-B
Servant Leaders Ben H, Karin S Al R, David R & Rachel T
Church meeting location 1116 North Blount St., Raleigh NC
Mailing address P.O. Box 25545, Raleigh NC 27611
RMC Website www.raleighmennonite.org
Email for announcements bulletin@raleighmennonite.org
Email slides or videos to be projected AV@raleighmennonite.org

Children in Worship

Children are encouraged and celebrated in worship. Worship Craft bags are available for use during the service. Nursery is available mid-way through the service for children up to kindergarten. To utilize our nursery, staffed by volunteers who have undergone our Safe Church Training, meet at the back during the hymn prior to the sermon.

Hearing Assistance:

Hearing enhancement devices are available at the A/V table. Even if you do not have a hearing problem, they make what is spoken from the podium much more intelligible.

Prayer concerns:

Don and Esther Clymer will be returning to the U.S. this Wednesday after serving in Switzerland. Pray for limited stress in the midst of final days of packing, saying goodbye, and reorienting to life in the U.S.

Announcements:

- Lois, Freddy and Craig (and others for our annual Christmas Party at Parkview) have been involved with Parkview Manor (a senior housing development down the street from the church at 911 N Blount St.) for the

past several years. Craig is coordinating a dinner party there on Friday, September 8th at 6pm. On Parkview's end will be around 20 ladies involved in their "Neighborhood Network" – a group who we've supported in their Food Bank efforts for a few years. It will last from 6-8 and it will be a potluck and some games. These ladies are wonderful and you'll be blessed to be around their fun spirits. If interested or with questions contact Craig .

- Scripture Readings:** In preparation for next Sunday's worship service (Sept. 10), you are encouraged to read [Genesis 1:1 - 2:4a](#).
- Stewardship Commission** reports that contributions to the RMC General Fund through August, our full fiscal year, totaled \$153,902. Note that this is slightly under the budget-projected contributions of \$158,272 for the year. In love, let us encourage one another to give as we have been given and ask for God's Spirit to give us the strength and courage to live as maturing stewards.
- November 3-5 is our annual Intergenerational Retreat.** This year we will be retreating at Camp Chestnut Ridge near Efland. Here is a brief description of our program for the weekend. An email has been sent out with a link to the sign-up doc and with the brochure attached with schedule and particulars.

"Shall we gather at the river, the beautiful river"

The life of our church is like a river - always flowing, on the move, changing yet constant, picking up new life along the way as others pass through. This year we gather to give our attention to the life of our church. Where have we been? Who are we now? What is God making us into?

- ❖ Session 1: The Headwaters - What makes us the water of our shared life? What are the headwaters, the shared Scriptures, songs, and spiritual influences, from which we emerge?
- ❖ Session 2: Along the River Bed - RMC has flowed on for three decades. Together we'll explore the still places of growth and the rapids of challenge that have greeted us along the way.
- ❖ Session 3: Where will the River Flow? - Our church life flows on with new energy, challenges, and hopes ahead. Through our worship, we'll discern where God is sending us into the future as we see and experience the faithfulness of the one who called our community into being.

RMC receives a **public offering** once each month (First Sunday of the month); at other times gifts may be placed in the oak offering box on the back table.

Upcoming Events

Women's meeting at Rose's Sept 11
Intergenerational Retreat, Chestnut Ridge Camp November 3-5

Birthdays and Anniversaries

If your birthday or anniversary is missing from this list, please contact the bulletin team at bulletin@raleighmennonite.org

Julia B	Sep 3
Renee Ho	Sep 7
Sue and Marc S	Sep 8
Angel C	Sep 9

New adult classes start today at 9:30 am for Sunday school prior to the worship service. Both of these classes will be easy to drop in on later if you've missed them today!

Class on Joy (Room 6) - This class explores insights and practices for nurturing happiness and peace in as stressful world, inspired by Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. It evolves from "The Book of Joy", an account of a week of conversations between these two spiritual giants about how they have maintained joy through very difficult times. There are copies of the book available if you want to follow along (it's an enjoyable read from the NY Times best seller list); but you can benefit from the class without feeling you have to do the reading. [led by Pam B & Todd Fs]

Scripture into Art (Room 2) - We'll be using [narrative lectionary](#) scriptures to guide our worship this fall, and we'll use the same scriptures for this class - just two weeks ahead! Each week, we'll read the scriptures together, and then each participant will reflect on those scriptures and create something during the week (photography, painting, poetry, litany, sculpture, whatever!). We'll share those creations with each other the next Sunday, and hopefully find a way to tie them in with our weekly worship services. By creating during the week - we'll be preparing our hearts and minds for worship. [organized by Joy W & Karin S]

	Today (Sept 3)	Next Week (Sept 10)
Greeter/Usher	Luz and John F	Sara Ch & Brenda H
Nursery	Marva K and Joanna J	Marva K and Joanna J
Sharing	Al R	Rachel T
Sound	Liz/Stan	Joe J
Bulletin	Joanna J	Joanna J
Worship Coordinator	Brenda NM	Rosene R
Speaker	Melissa F-B	Melissa F-B

Raleigh Mennonite Church

September 3, 2017

Welcome to our worship!

We are a community seeking to keep Jesus at the center of our lives, aware that we come from a variety of life experiences and points in our faith journeys. God invites us all to worship no matter our cultures, traditions and paths to God. We truly welcome you whatever your religious background or spiritual practice.

Sunday School **9:30 a.m.**

Gathering for Worship **10:30 a.m.**

Prelude		
Welcome & Announcements		Stephen J
Call to Worship	Screen	Brenda NM
Gathering Prayer		
Songs of Praise		
	WB 26	Holy Spirit, come with power
	WB 545	Be thou my vision
Scripture Reading	Romans 12:9-21	Brenda H
Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon		
Song	WB 553	I am weak
Offering		
Song	Screen	Give thanks
	<i>(Children invited to nursery)</i>	

Hearing and Responding to God's Word

Scripture Reading	Matthew 16:21-28	Zinith B
Sermon	Crosses of Yesterday and Today	Melissa F-B
Sermon Response	Gathering our stones together	
	SJ 69	When the poor ones
Sharing and Prayer		Al R

Sending to Serve

Benediction	SS 40	Som'landela	Brenda NM
-------------	-------	-------------	-----------