



everything
[in] between
stranger & neighbor

First Sunday of Lent
Parable of the Good Samaritan



Neighbors by Steve Prince
-Pen and ink on paper

**"We have an individual
and collective
responsibility to be
good stewards
(Good Samaritan) of our
bodies, neighbors,
and communities,
rooted in love."**

Observe the figures'
posture and movement.
Do you see connection,
conflict or both?

How does this reflect
your own relationships?
(Steve Prince)

First Mennonite Church
March 9, 2025

Everything [in] Between | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

GATHERING & PRAISING

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor?

How can I help?

What do I have to learn?
Where is God in it all?
Here in this place, we can ask big questions.
So may we listen. May we learn.
May we stay curious, and may we look for God.
This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

Prayer of Invocation

HYMN *I Bind My Heart This Tide* VT 556
Passing the Peace & Fellowship Greeting

HYMN *How Can We Be Silent* VT 790

Children's Time
My Coins Count Offering

CONFESSING & SEEKING RECONCILIATION

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

*Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we **might** see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, Amen.*

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, when we set limits on love,
God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors,
God claims us as God's own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm,
God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone
that could separate us from the love of God.

This is the good news of the gospel.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

TELLING GOD'S STORY

HYMN *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* VT 778

Poem – *Never Met a Stranger* (by Rev. Sarah Speed)
Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: *Luke 10:25-37*

Sermon

Music for Meditation

SHARING OUR STORIES & PRAYING

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

LIVING GOD'S STORY

HYMN *This Little Light of Mine* VT 762

Benediction

Postlude

Prayers by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

If you need a hearing assist device, please ask at the sound booth in the back of the sanctuary.

The Nursery is typically staffed with a volunteer care provider during worship (and Sunday School as needed). Children are also welcome to remain in the sanctuary! Worship bags with drawing/coloring materials are provided at the back of the sanctuary.

Sound: Adam Pounds
Livestream: Joel Iwashige
Ushers: Diane Ziemer, Shane Miller
Nursery: Stephanie Gehring
Organist: Pauline Buller
Worship Leader: Delon Martens
Scripture Reader: Julie Goering
Poem Reader: Maggie Pounds
Song Leader: Trae Gehring
Children's Time: Eldon Wagler
Sermon: Pastor Jim Unruh

TODAY:

Offerings to support FMC mission and ministry are received in the offering box at the back, or on our website.

Fellowship with drinks in Common Grounds Room

Sunday School for all ages at 11:00am

LOOKING AHEAD:

- **March 12 – First Lenten Lunch** at Grace Episcopal Church (noon)
- **March 12 – WNAF** – 5:30-6:30pm choir; 6-7pm dinner; 7-8pm children's choir and program with presentation by Jon & Martha Miller
- **March 16** – Spencer Garrison (our guest preacher) helps preach and lead music at Iglesia Mennonita Aposento Alto in Wichita
- **March 22** – FMC serves at the Soup Kitchen – signup opposite mailboxes

Pastor Tonya is at her sabbatical retreat today through Tuesday. Please call Pastor Jim or Delon Martens for pastoral care needs.

Arms Wide Open: To Serve & Be Served

Phone: 620-662-9385

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-2pm; Wed 10-1pm



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