

# Shalom Mennonite Church

April 14, 2013

## *Don't Forgive Too Soon*

### Part 1: Denial

*We allow ourselves to be loved until we are ready to face the pain and the hurt. Gradually we stop pretending nothing has happened and begin caring for the hurt, and continue on our journey of forgiveness.*

### Gathering in God's Presence

#### Welcome & Announcements

Stan Smucker

#### Gathering Music & Procession

*We carry in a flame, the Bible, and a prayer cloth. May we trust the Light to guide us, the Word to teach us, and prayer to knit our lives together with God as we begin our time of worship.*

#### Call to Worship

We gather as pilgrims on the Way of Love.

**Love is the power that can turn an enemy into a friend.**

Love is the voice that speaks truth when silence imprisons.

**Love is the current that flows around barriers of fear.**

Love is the ground from which new life springs forth.

**Guide us on our journey, O Source of Love!**

#### Prayer of Invocation

#### Hymn HWB 46

*I sing the mighty power of God*

### Proclaiming the Word

#### Children's Time

Tom Szambecki

#### First Reading

HWB 818 Psalm 51

#### Hymn HWB 559

*O thou, in whose presence*

#### Second Reading

John 21:15-19

#### Story of Forgiveness

Giovanna McQuillen Schnabel

#### Quiet Reflection

*The periods of silence will begin and end with the ringing of a chime.*

#### Mediation

“calling a spade a spade”

Eric Massanari

#### Quiet Reflection

#### Hymn HWB 606

*Oh, have you not heard*

### Responding to the Word

#### Offering and Prayer

#### Sharing Time & Introductions

*During this time in the service we welcome visitors, invite responses to the worship service, and share prayer concerns and joys. Please sign the Welcome Pages (black books) in the pews so we can learn each others' names.*

#### Prayers of the People

#### Hymn HWB 418

*Move in our midst*

#### Benediction

*Hearing devices are available from an usher or the sound booth.*

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Greeters: Bob & Yvonne Bontrager, Lola Schmidt, Marlene & Stan Smucker

Musicians: Karen & Merle Schlabaugh

Visual Arts: Marlene Smucker

Sound system operator & closing: Andrew Thiesen

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Pastor: Eric Massanari

Pastor: Sara Dick

Administrative Assistant: Grace Wenger

Church Moderator: Matt Schmidt

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*Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*

Ephesians 4:15-16

### **Moving Through Denial**

There are many questions that can help us move through denial and begin to name a need for forgiveness in our lives. For instance, we might ask ourselves, "When the phone rings, whom would I least want on the other end of the line?" Or, "Who am I trying to avoid at work, at home, at church, or in other places in my life?" Do your responses reveal relationships where there has been wounding? For some of us who struggle with swallowing our anger, we might ask ourselves at the end of the day, "What do I feel least grateful for?" "What do I feel upset or resentful about?"

Perhaps there are other questions that help you begin to name relationships in which you are invited to take a next step on the path of forgiveness. As you reflect, be gentle with yourself. When we are hurt, or when we feel ashamed for ways we have hurt others, many different feelings arise. These feelings are not right or wrong, good or bad, they are simply our natural emotional response to hurt, and through them God is able to guide us in making choices that lead toward healing and freedom.

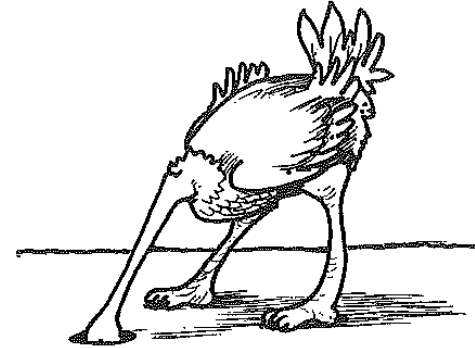
Adapted from *Don't Forgive Too Soon: Extending the Two Hands That Heal*

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# ***Don't Forgive Too Soon***

## **Part 1: Denial**



**Sunday, April 14, 2013**

Our purpose is to worship and praise God together, to pray for and encourage each other to live our covenant with God and to share Christ's good news with others. As Anabaptist Christians we will reach out to others, welcome all people, be aware of our neighbors and respond to their needs, and give ourselves to service.

9:30 a.m.- Sunday School    10:45 a.m.- Worship  
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