

4th Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2022

Gathering

Welcome and announcements JP Schumacher

Prelude Judy Steiner

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 9 *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*

*Responsive Reading - Psalm 23

One: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Many: God makes me lie down in green pastures; God leads me beside still waters;

One: God restores my soul. God leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Many: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;

One: your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

Many: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

One: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Many: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

All: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Paul Neufeld Weaver

Hymn VT 7 *Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 4 going back to seats)

Community Prayer Adam Phillips

Scripture Ruth 1:11-17, 2:13-18, & 4:9-12 Jerry Tripp

Message *Parallels with the Book of Ruth* Ntathi Phetlhu

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 527 *Bless the Arms That Comfort*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 832 *The Lord Lift You Up*

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

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Pastor of Pastoral Care

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First Mennonite Church Office Hours

- Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9:00am-3:30pm
- Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-4:30pm

Video: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Chris Gott

Chancel: Isaac Schumacher

First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.

4/24/22 - 5/1/22

Reported Volunteer hours: 39

May 8, 2022
First Mennonite Church



Facebook Live link <http://tinyurl.com/FMC-on-FB>

Zoom Stream link <http://tinyurl.com/FMC-zoom>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Pictorial Church Directory** photo session is fast approaching. Each family photographed will receive a **FREE** family portrait and the opportunity to select a portrait package that meets their needs. Please make your appointment in the Fellowship Hall. The dates are **July 8-10, 2022**. We need to schedule as many people for July 9th as we can. If you need to schedule for the 8th or 10th, or can not make it to any of the dates, please contact the office.

Please complete your **FMC Ministry Participation Form** and place it in Greg & Laura's mailbox in the Fellowship Hall as soon as possible. We would like to start organizing the responses today. Extra copies are available by the mailboxes.

Gifts of Affirmation challenge of the week: identify someone older than you to affirm. Also think of those who are serving members of our congregation older than you. Gifts of affirmation are available in the pew card pockets and should be placed in the mailbox of the person being affirmed.

Tuesday morning (5/10/22) is your opportunity to serve at Our Daily Bread in Lima. We leave from the church at 10:45 a.m. Contact John or Carolyn Rich 419-969-4965.

We will be concluding our collection of hygiene and relief kits on Sunday, May 15. Please have all kits, individual supplies, and monetary donations turned in on that day. Kit lists are still available on the bulletin board by the library.

The 2022 Central District Conference annual meeting will meet **June 23-25, 2022** in Goshen, Indiana at Goshen College, **College Mennonite Church**. The theme of *Tending Transformation* will be the focus. Congregations are encouraged to have full delegate strength present at the annual meeting. We will need approximately 10 people to represent FMC. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, contact the church office.

We continue to monitor **COVID-19 levels** in our community. Just a reminder to continue to take the usual precautions, to stay up-to-date on Covid vaccines and boosters, test for Covid if you have symptoms, and wear masks if you choose, or if you have been exposed.

Summer Music

Pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types: there are opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer (June-August).

Opportunities include:

- * Lead the singing for "opening songs" - choose 2 hymns, talk briefly about them if you wish, and lead them (or ask Mark to lead them)
- * Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble.

Please contact our Director of Music, Mark Suderman, by phone (419.230.5368) or by email: sudermanme@bluffton.edu or sudermanme@bluffton.edu. If you have some specific dates in mind when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know.

Lee Morris, a resident in Bluffton, is looking for some part-time work or other odd jobs as he continues to search for a more permanent position. If you have something available, please call him at 567-271-8303. If you have trouble contacting him, call the church office.

The Institute on Theology and Disability will be held at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio, June 6-9. This is an opportunity to learn with and from individuals with disabilities, their families, scholars in the area and faith advocates to gain resources and learning for faith communities and in personal lives. It is a wonderful network that I have learned with/from over the last 12 years, and am pleased to be able to help plan it as part of the current leadership council of ITD and as staff administrator at MTSO. I am just as grateful to be able to extend an invitation to this community to consider attending, one day or all days. Scholarships are available for persons with disabilities and price breaks are available for those who are willing to help volunteer during the week. FMC is also willing to help support anyone who would like to attend, but who find the cost prohibitive (we run on a shoestring budget, and travel from seminary to seminary every year!) This is the first time the institute will be available both in-person and online, and the first time in Ohio! Please let me know if you have questions contact Kathy Dickson at kdickson@mtso.edu.

In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

Happy Birthday!

May 8 - Alice Lora
Victoria Woods -Yee
May 9 - Simon Phillips
May 11- Stan Clemens
Ruth Early
Mary Ann Suter
May 13- Judy Steiner



follow us



Today, Sunday, May 8, 2022

Youth Choir, 8:30 a.m.
Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Worship: Nthati Phetlhu preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

This Week

Tuesday, May 10

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, May 11

Noodle Night
Cherub & Jubilate Choirs, 6 p.m. Children's Choir room
—JHY & SHY: CANCELED

Next Sunday

Sunday, May 15

Worship – Katie Kuntz-Wineland preaching
Lectionary: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

Welcome to our worship service today.

If you are a visitor, please sign one of our guest books located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Wireless hearing aids are available. Worship bags and nursery space are available for young children during worship. Bags can be found hanging on wooden pegs at each sanctuary entrance, and parents are invited to stay in the nursery with their children.