

Ruth: A Journey of Love

Advent 3

December 11th, 2022

Gathering

Call to Worship

Gerald Mast

Prelude

Shepherds Why This Jubilee arr. Lee J. Afdahl/Raeburn
Adult Bells

Invocation

*Opening hymn

VT 215 *Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee*

Candle lighting liturgy based on 1 John 4: 7-9

Leader: Beloved, we gather in love for God and love for each other.

All: We gather to experience God's love for us.

Leader: God's love is revealed in the stories we hear,

All: in the songs we sing, in the prayers we offer,

Leader: in the Spirit we feel moving within and among us. God's love is revealed most deeply through Jesus,

All: whose coming we anticipate and celebrate, who was sent by God so that we might have life.

Leader: Beloved, we gather together for worship.

Scripture and Litany of Love

*Hymn

VT 546 *There Is a Line of Women*, v. 1

Confession

Leader: God of shadows and light, our thoughts are not your thoughts.
Our ways are not your ways.

All: Hear our confession, heal our hearts, forgive our sins.

(silence)

Leader: In Jesus you reveal your love,

All: that we might love more fully and know how deeply we are loved.

Leader: In the light of the Christ child, in the shadow of the Most High,
we make our confession and receive your forgiveness.

All: Amen.

Telling God's Story

Special Music

The Friendly Beasts Jubilate
Noah DeMarco, Leah Niekamp, Milena King, Junia Spelman, Jorian Mast, Micah Hartzler
Ben Hartzler- Guitar

Conversation with Children

Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Carrie Mast

Hymn

VT 241 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*
(sing refrain coming forward & going back to seats)

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Joy George Winston
Anne Marie Spelman

Dedication Prayer

Special Music

Carol of the Advent arr. by Philip Dietterich
Chancel Choir

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look East, and sing to day: Love, the rose, is on the way. Birds, though ye long have eased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are froz'n, He for fledging time has chosen. People, look East, and sing to today: Love, the bird is on the way. Star, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way. Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Scripture

Ruth 1: 1-18 Laura Hartzler, Amy Shadbolt

Message

Journey To The Unknown Chalsi Campbell

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 722 *Help Us to Help Each Other*

Community Prayer

Adam Phillips

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 255 *Love Came Down at Christmas*

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

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First Mennonite Church Office Hours

- Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- Phil's day off - Monday
- Carrie's day off - Thursday

Video: Ray Raeburn/Adam Phillips

Sound: Chris Gott

Chancel: Lois Wetherill

11/27/22 - 12/4/222
Reported Volunteer hours: 6
Attendance: 173
Online views: 45

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.

First Mennonite Church

December 11, 2022



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **guest preacher** this morning is **Chalsi (Eastman) Campbell**, Campus Pastor and Instructor of Religion at Bluffton University. Pastor Campbell is a 2012 graduate of Bluffton University. Originally from Norwalk, Ohio, Campbell started her career teaching theology at Lima Central Catholic High School. After a few years, she moved to Canada, earned her master's degree in theological studies at Conrad Grebel University College in Ontario and returned to Ohio to teach at the Dayton Islamic School before returning to Bluffton. She is married to Tyler Campbell, also a Bluffton alum, and they have two children, Keziah and Cy.

Marilyn Diller is having surgery at Blanchard Valley on December 15, 2022. Marilyn and family would appreciate your prayers.

TODAY! Holiday shopping from Ten Thousand Villages is available in the **Fellowship Hall** after worship. A tribute to the early sales held by Edna Ruth Byler as she took artisan goods around the US and Canada, join us in a sampling of coffee, teas, chocolate, holiday items, and selected other products from around the world. Donations to Ten Thousand Villages are also welcome, for those who would like to support the Fair Trade Maker to Market Mission that invests in communities through sustainable economic development. First Mennonite Church is a sponsoring church of Et Cetera Shop, Inc., which oversees the work of Ten Thousand Villages, The Et Cetera Shop, and Book ReViews. Our representatives to the board are Bill Suter and Karen McCullough. Lori Nester serves on the board as an at large member. Many from FMC volunteer for the three stores.

Bluffton University presents its 128th performance of **Handel's "Messiah" today at 4 p.m.** in Yoder Recital Hall. While tickets are free, seats need to be reserved at www.bluffton.edu/tickets. Dr. Bo Young Kang, director of choral activities, will conduct the oratorio. Soloists along with the Bluffton Choral Society including students, faculty, staff and community members will be accompanied by an orchestra. A free-will offering will be taken for music scholarships.

Central District Conference seeks a part-time **Communications Coordinator** to gather stories from across the conference and to share these stories across various media platforms. More information and a job description are available on our website at <https://mcusacdc.org/>. Application deadline is Friday, January 6, 2023.

Almost Solstice Taizé Service - On December 20th at 7pm, the second to longest night of the year, there will be an intergenerational Taizé service in the fellowship hall. All ages are welcome to come and sing, pray, light candles, participate in interactive stations, and play with...Legos?

Phil & Chaska are visiting family this weekend. For any pastoral needs, please contact Carrie Mast at 419.230.1568.

The **Youth & Children's Christmas Program** will take place **next Sunday**, December 18, at **9:45 am** in the sanctuary. Join the FMC kids to see their interpretation of the Nativity!

\$\$\$ Updates: Thank you for your support of the **Mutual Aid Fund** (formerly the Deacons Benevolent Fund) this year! Over **\$9,000** has been given to support people in need in our church and community.

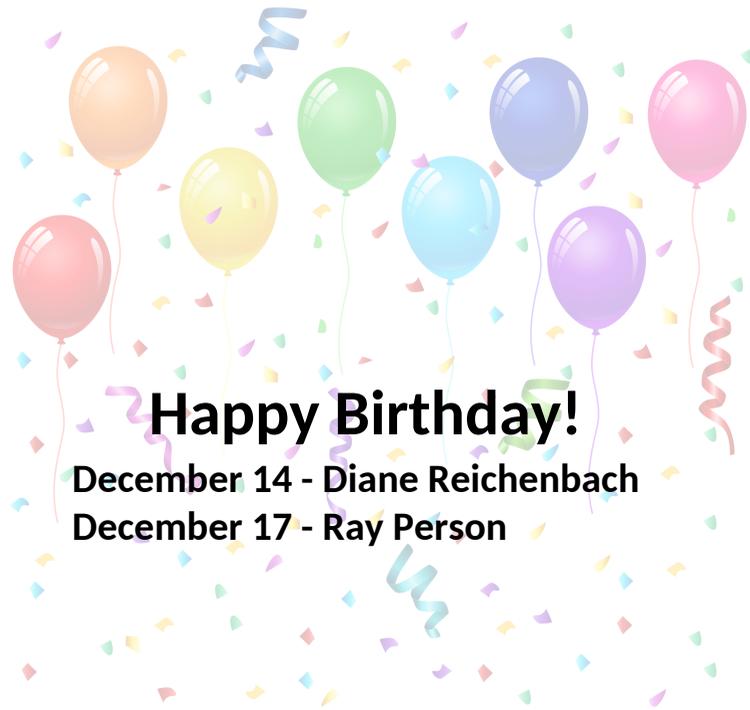
We continue to work at **bridging the gap** in our Spending Plan receipts and expenditures for this year. **Spending Plan** giving to date is about \$411,000, and our expenses to date are about \$422,000. We appreciate your ongoing generosity and ask you to help us meet our expenses before the end of the year.

Thanks to **Mona Reichenbach** for funding the painting of our Assembly Room.

Christmas Coffee and New Year's Brunch: On Sunday, December 25, all are welcome to join Coffee Time in the Fellowship Hall. Legos will be available for all ages, as well. We will gather for our church wide brunch during the SS hour on January 1st.

Volunteers are needed to clean and sanitize the nursery. If interested please contact the church office.

Mark your Calendars: Pie Night is back! Join this welcome back to Bluffton event for college students on Sunday, January 22, 2023.



Happy Birthday!

December 14 - Diane Reichenbach

December 17 - Ray Person

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.

follow us



Today, Sunday, December 11, 2022

Youth Choir, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages, 9:15 a.m.

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

This Week

Tuesday, December 13

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, December 14

Noodle Night, come and go 4:45-6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Assembly Room

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Next Sunday

Sunday, December 18

Youth & Children's Christmas Program, 9:45 a.m. Sanctuary

Worship – Ellie Nickel preaching

Lectionary: 1 Kings 1:11-18 [19-28]; 29-31, Luke 1:30-35
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.