

# Mary: Treasuring & Pondering

Christmas  
December 25th, 2022

## Gathering

Call to Worship Gerald Mast  
Prelude *In Dulci Jubilo* arr. D. Johnson  
LuAnn Stuckey  
Invocation  
\*Opening Hymn String Quintet VT 240 *Joy to the World*  
Phil Yoder, Monica Harnish, Ana Neufeld Weaver,  
Paul Neufeld Weaver, Anna Biesecker-Mast

Litany of Light based on Isaiah 55:6-9

Leader: Together we seek the Holy One. We call upon our God, who is near.

**All:** *Near in the Christ child we celebrate. Near in the Spirit we receive.  
Near in the creation we inhabit.*

Leader: Together we proclaim Emmanuel-

**All:** *God - with - us.*

Leader: Together we live Emmanuel.

**All:** *Thanks be to God.*

Scripture and Litany of Joy

\*Hymn VT 546 *There is a Line of Women*, v. 1 & 3

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 call us to joy-

**All:** *a joy that can hold the world's grief and its beauty.*

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*

\*Hymn VT 269 *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*

## Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children  
Hymn Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Phil Yoder  
VT 241 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
(sing refrain coming forward & going back to seats)

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Dedication Prayer

*What Child Is This*

arr. J. Young

Scripture

Luke 2:1-20

Justin & Ana Neufeld Weaver

Meditation

*Mary's Present*

Carrie Mast

## Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response

VT 222 *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder*

Community Prayer

Adam Phillips

## Sending

\*Hymn of Sending

VT 259 *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*Joy to the World*

L. Mason

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

**First Mennonite Church**  
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH  
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org

<b>Lead Pastor</b>	Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624 phil@fmcbluffton.org
<b>Interim Pastor of Christian Education &amp; Administration</b>	Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568 carrie@fmcbluffton.org
<b>Communication Coordinator</b>	Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766 fmc@fmcbluffton.org
<b>Caretaker</b>	Don Burris, 419-788-6157 caretaker@fmcbluffton.org
<b>Director of Music</b>	Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 sudermanme@bluffton.edu
<b>Technology Coordinator</b>	Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769 rayraeburn@gmail.com

**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

**Sound:** Chris Gott

**Chancel:** Lois Wetherill

12/11/2022 - 12/18/2022  
Reported Volunteer hours: 15  
Attendance: 138  
Online views: 62

*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 25, 2022**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Marilyn Diller** is recovering from surgery at Mennonite Memorial Home. Marilyn and family welcome prayers for continued healing.

After experiencing some pain and a brief hospitalization this week, **Pete Amstutz** has returned home. The decision was made to begin hospice care after Christmas. **Mary Amstutz**, Pete's mom, invites prayers for Pete and all of the family.

**New Year's Brunch:** We will gather for our churchwide brunch during the SS hour on January 1, 2023 at 9:15 a.m.

**Church directories** are in your mailboxes! Additionally, the photo portion of the directory is accessible online in the password protected area. Contact the church office for the **NEW Password**.

### Staff Schedule for this week:

- Office closed Monday
- Phil: off Thursday & Friday
- Carrie: off Tuesday

Phil and Carrie are both available for pastoral care needs. Phil can be reached at 717.869.7624, and Carrie can be reached at 419.230.1568.

**Seed Guatemala-El Salvador Coordinator** (Español abajo): MCC is seeking a Seed Coordinator who will coordinate the second SEED Cohort for Guatemala and El Salvador. This position involves the planning, organization and implementation of a service, reflection and peacebuilding program with an intercultural team of young adults in the complex and enriching context of Guatemala and El Salvador. This position will be based in Guatemala and will be supervised by the MCC Representatives for Guatemala and El Salvador. If you or someone you know might be interested, learn more and apply by December 31 at [mcc.org/seed-guatemala](https://mcc.org/seed-guatemala).

Check out this recent **Menno Snapshot** by Rev. Amy S. Zimbelman, Conference Minister for Mountain States: "Let's not neglect Mary, full of grace". The article features "**a Mary roundup of a few things that honor this exemplary disciple and mother.**"

Menno Snapshot is the blog hosted by MCUSA. <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/blog/>

**Project Coordinator-Burkina Faso:** MCC is seeking a Project Coordinator responsible for mentoring and building capacity of local partners towards greater independence and sustainability and, alongside the MCC Burkina Faso Country Representatives, will assist in all planning, monitoring, and evaluating activities for various projects related to conservation agriculture, peace building, education, health, and emergency assistance. If you or someone you know might be interested, learn more and apply by December 31 at [mcc.org/burkina](https://mcc.org/burkina).

If you haven't seen the newly painted **Assembly Room**, head down to the basement and check it out!



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.



## Happy Birthday!

December 27 - Micah Hartzler

December 28 - Hans Houshower  
Madelyn King  
Joe Werling

December 29 - Barrett Benroth

*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 25, 2022**

Coffee Time w/ Legos, 9 a.m.

*(Children & youth are invited to Coffee Time)*

Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.

Worship: Carrie Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

### **This Week**

**Monday, December 26**

Office Closed

**Tuesday, December 27**

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 28**

Worship planning, 9 a.m., Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

NO NOODLE NIGHT

NO CHOIRS

### **Next Sunday**

**Sunday, January 1, 2023**

Worship: Anne Marie Spelman preaching, Luke 2:21-38

Lectionary: Joel 2:23-32; Psalm 65; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

