

Rahab: On the Margins

Advent 2

December 4th, 2022

Gathering

Call to Worship

Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come!
(based on VT 214)

Invocation

*Opening hymn

VT 210 *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*, v.1, 4, 6, 7

Candle lighting liturgy based on Hebrews 11:29-31

Leader: By faith the people passed through the Red Sea.

All: *By faith we come with open hearts.*

Leader: By faith the walls of Jericho fell.

All: *By faith we offer praise and prayers.*

Leader: By faith Rahab received the spies in peace.

All: *By faith we gather together for worship.*

Scripture and Litany of Faith

*Hymn

VT 546 *There Is a Line of Women*, v.2

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 faith

All: *in the mystery of your Presence in the world, and the truth that
nothing will be impossible with you.*

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.*

Special Music

Telling God's Story

Shine, Advent Candle
Cherub Choir

Traditional

Conversation with Children

Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Phil Yoder

Hymn

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

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*

L.Bourgeois/K.T. Kosche

Dedication Prayer

Special Music

Sing, Angels, Kings, and Folk
Chancel Choir

Ben Allaway

What did the angels see when they looked down upon this ordinary town? What could a humble village have in store, with heavenly legions winging o'er? What did the star reveal in the night? A woman in her plight, a husband searching for an open door. What did the oxen hear that bade them low? It wasn't time to plough or tow. Who were these strangers huddling from the cold, a mother young the father old?

What simple comfort could they hope to find to ease her in her time, a manger's warmth, a sleeping lamb to hold. What glorious voices woke the shepherds then in joys cascading 'cross the heav'n? What message brought them running to the town to join the welcome gath'ring 'round? "Sing alleluia to this King newborn to save the meek and worn, lamb to the lost, the found." How the angels still sing the song 'cross the world both wide and long, the star-anointed path is bright a head. Sing, angels, kings, and folk from town and hill your alleluias still, believe, believe, believe and let the Spirit song be fed. Alleluia!

Scripture

Joshua 2:1-9, 12-15

James Gott & Lori Nester

Message

Rahab: The Shady Lady

JP Schumacher

Living God's Story

VT 585 *Faith Begins by Letting Go*

*Hymn of Response

Community Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 212 *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*

*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: Adam Phillips

11/20/2022 - 11/27/2022
Reported Volunteer hours: 29
Attendance: 140
Online views: 50

Sound: Chris Gott

Chancel: Lois Wetherill

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.

December 4, 2022
First Mennonite Church



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for all of your prayers for Christian Roth. He was discharged from OSU East Hospital late Wednesday. He still has a long recovery ahead of him for both his broken pelvis and the MRSA infection. Continued prayers are welcome!

~Sally Roth (mom) & Carrie Mast (sister)

TODAY! All are invited to remain following worship to help **decorate the sanctuary** for Advent and Christmas. A pizza lunch will be provided after the decorating is complete.

The Racial Justice Ministry invites you to sign holiday cards to be sent to people on death row in Ohio. Jan Wiebe will be in the Fellowship Hall with cards after church **today**, Dec 4th.

Noodle Night Impromptu Christmas Jam Session & Christmas Tree Decorating - Bring whatever instruments you want to come and play Christmas music. All skill levels are invited to participate. And everyone is invited to help decorate the Fellowship Hall Christmas trees!

Mark your (Advent) calendars! The Children's Christmas Program will be **December 18** during the SS hour. All children and youth will gather in the ViP Room and the classroom next to the nursery each week during SS to rehearse.

Next Sunday, December 11, holiday shopping from Ten Thousand Villages will be 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.

COVID UPDATE: Allen County is again at a High level due to the number of COVID hospitalizations in the last week. Masks are encouraged but not required.

Next week, **Phil** will be switching his day off to Friday. He is also taking his quarterly Sunday off on Dec. 11th.

\$\$\$\$ Updates: We can **celebrate** that our **Mutual Aid Fund** has been replenished since we requested additional support. In total this year, you have given over \$9,000 to support people in need in our church and community. **Thank you!**

The other news is that we are closing the gap in our Spending Plan receipts and expenditures for this year, though our giving to the **Spending Plan continues to lag behind last year at this time by more than \$11,000**. This is roughly equal to the gap in our receipts and expenditures this year. Spending Plan giving to date is \$394,715, and our expenses to date are \$407,349. **We appreciate your ongoing generosity and ask you to help us meet our expenses before the end of the year.**

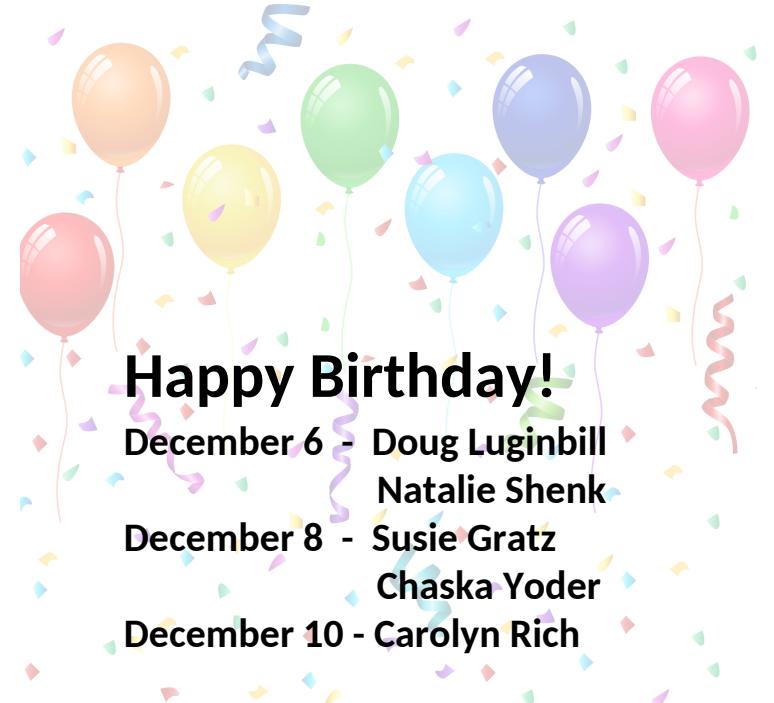
Christmas Coffee and New Year's Brunch: On Sunday, December 25, all are welcome to join Coffee Time in the Fellowship Hall. Legos will be available for all ages, as well. We will gather for our church wide brunch during the SS hour on January 1st.

Following the retirement of Mary Klassen as editor of Reporter and focus, the **Central District Conference** (CDC) staff, Emma Hartman (office@mcusacdc.org) and Doug Luginbill (confmin@mcusacdc.org) will be publishing the **CDC Connector** as an interim publication. This publication will be distributed approximately every four to six weeks. The November Connector is available on the CDC website: <https://mcusacdc.org/>.

Central District Conference is growing! The CDC Board of Directors is excited to announce that **Matt Prichard** will begin January 9, 2023 as the **new Associate Conference Minister** for Emerging Communities of Faith. This will be a 1/3 time position with primary focus being given to mentoring, resourcing, and supporting emerging communities of faith across CDC. Matt is also available to congregations seeking to revitalize their mission and vision.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who worked on the Red Cross Blood Drive. Your work was greatly appreciated.

A big **thank you** to Everett Collier for trimming the rose bushes.



Happy Birthday!

December 6 - Doug Luginbill

Natalie Shenk

December 8 - Susie Gratz

Chaska Yoder

December 10 - Carolyn Rich

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



First
Mennonite
Church
Bluffton, Ohio



Bluffton First Mennonite Church

Today, Sunday, December 4, 2022

Youth Choir, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

Worship: JP Schumacher preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas + Pizza lunch, following worship

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

This Week

Tuesday, December 6

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, December 7

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

Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Youth Bells, 7 p.m. Assembly Room

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Next Sunday

Sunday, December 11

Worship – Chalsi Campbell preaching, Ruth 1: 1-18

Lectionary: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55, James 5:7-10,
Matthew 11:2-11

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

Welcome to our worship service today.

Visitors are invited to sign one of our guest sheets located at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Wireless hearing aids are available. **Worship bags** for children can be found hanging on wooden pegs at each sanctuary entrance. **Child care is available** during Sunday School and worship for young children in the nursery located in the basement.