

# 1st Sunday of Lent

## Shaped by Risk and Fear

February 26, 2023

### Gathering

Call to Worship

Ministry Minute

Prelude

Foundation

LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn

\*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 32

One: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
Many: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave  
the guilt of my sin.

One: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;

Many: at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

One: You are a hiding place for me;

Many: you preserve me from trouble;

All: you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

### Telling God's Story

Special Music

God of Grace and God of Laughter  
Chancel Choir, Monica Harnish - violin

Roy Hopp

God of grace and God of laughter, singing worlds from nought to be - sun and stars and all thereafter joined in cosmic harmony: give us songs of joy and wonder, music making hearts rejoice: let our praises swell like thunder, echoing our Maker's voice.  
When our lives are torn by sadness, heal our wounds with tuneful balm; when all seems discordant madness, help us find a measured calm. Steady us with music's anchor when the storms of life increase; in the midst of hurt and rancor, make us instruments of peace.  
Turn our sighing into singing, music born of hope restored; set our souls and voices ringing, tune our hearts in true accord: till we form a mighty chorus joining angel choirs above, with all those who went before us, in eternal hymns of love.

Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Conversation with Children

Hymn

(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Teri Steinmetz

VT 30 Jesus Calls Us

### Confession

One: God, our desire for control has kept us from following you.

Many: In our fear, we have turned from your love.

One: We hide our shame, yet we feel its weight both day and night. We have chosen to protect ourselves with layers of fig leaves, instead of being our most authentic selves - the goodness that you have created us to be.

Many: We confess that we have allowed fear and shame to shape us.

One: Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

[Silent Prayer]

One: God, forgive us, renew us, and lead us away from fear and shame toward your love and toward our most true selves.

All: May we be shaped by our belovedness and by taking the risk of loving our true selves, each other, and God.

Hymn

VT 740 Spirit of the Living God

Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

Scripture

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

John-Paul Yoder

Message

Marshmallow, Fig Leaf, Snowman

Phil Yoder

### Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response

VT172 God Calls You Good

Ben Hartzler, violin & Phil Yoder, cello

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

arr. S. Glick

Dedication Prayer

### Sending

\*Hymn of Sending

VT 617 When Peace like a River

\*Benediction

Christ, the Sure Foundation

arr. T. Shaw

\*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 - Friday
- Carrie's day off - Monday Afternoon & Thursday Afternoon

**Video:** Ray Raeburn

**Sound:** Melissa Friesen

**Chancel:** Bruce Steingass

2/12/23 - 2/19/23  
Reported Volunteer hours: 24  
Attendance: 116  
Online views: 30 Live; 45 Recorded

**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**

**February 26, 2023**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Barb Stettler** is recovering at home from a successful hip replacement procedure.

A memorial service for **Ann Shumaker** is scheduled for Saturday, March 4 at noon here at First Mennonite in the Fellowship Hall.

**Pete Amstutz**'s health shifted last weekend, and the family was informed that they are nearing the end. Pete is the son of **Mary Amstutz** and a former member of FMC. We continue to keep Pete and Mary and their family in our prayers.

**Pastors Phil & Carrie** are adjusting their days off next week. Carrie will be out of the office Friday. Phil will be out of the office Monday, and in the office on Friday.

**Don Burris**, our FMC Caretaker, has submitted his resignation effective April 1. We extend our gratitude for his service to the church over the last year and a half.

**Mentoring Pairs** mark your calendars: March 5th will be a mentoring event in the Fellowship Hall at 3:00pm! See you there!

The **Eastern Mennonite University Chamber Singers** will be giving a choral concert at FMC on **Friday, March 10** at **6:30 p.m.** The theme of the program is *Local and Global: Songs of Peace and Justice*. They will feature styles and composers from the Shenandoah Valley, as well as a variety of others from around the world to look at aspects of peace and justice. The program is free of charge. A love offering will be taken to support the choir's travel expenses.

**EMU Admissions Counselor Jacob Horsley** will be visiting with the Chamber Singers on **March 10**. If any youth would like to connect with him while he is in Bluffton, they are welcome to reach out to him at [jacob.horsley@emu.edu](mailto:jacob.horsley@emu.edu).

**Mennonite Education Agency** has developed a **Lent at Home** worship guide. Visit the MEA website to download the resource or contact the church office for assistance: <https://www.mennoniteducation.org/Resources/Pages/Lent-at-Home.aspx>.

**Registration for MennoCon23 opens March 1 at 10 a.m.** Mennocon23 will be held in Kansas City, Mo., July 3-6, immediately followed by the Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly and the new Youth & Young Adult Climate Summit. Register here: <https://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/>

**The Central District Conference 2023 Annual Meeting** is slated for **June 22-24** at College Mennonite Church on the Goshen College campus. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, contact the church office.

The **Bluffton University Concert Band**, under the direction of Dr. Roy Couch, will perform a varied concert of originals and arrangements at **2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26**, in Yoder Recital Hall. The band is comprised of Bluffton University students and area community members. Musical selections include original wind band compositions "Skydance," "Fuego del Alma," "Mountain Thyme," and "Junk Funk Shuffle" (you don't want to miss this one). Arrangements of "Set Me As A Seal," "Wayfaring Stranger," and "Fanfare for the Common Man" are added to this diverse program with something for everyone. The performance is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be taken for music scholarships.

MC USA and MCC present a third webinar in a series of four: "**Beyond Incarceration Series: Create**". This episode will explore ways we can imagine and bring about alternative systems. Check it out on Tuesday, March 7 @7:30 p.m. **Watch one or more** of the webinars. View past webinars or register for the upcoming webinars on the MCC website: <https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/beyond-incarceration-webinar-series>.



Check out the glass window display at the Jackson St entrance. As part of our **Lent series** theme, **Bruce Steingass** turned these two wooden bowls out of ash wood. These bowls were also used to hold the ashes at the Ash Wednesday service.

# Ministry Minute

## Gifts Discovery and Ministry Participation team...

...helps promote and increase awareness of ministry needs and opportunities at First Mennonite Church. Several ministries are currently looking for leaders as well as participants:

- Church-College Relations
- Mentoring
- Library Coordinator
- Weekday Christian Education Coordinator + walkers

If you would like to know more, contact GDMP leader **Melissa Friesen** ([friesenm@bluffton.edu](mailto:friesenm@bluffton.edu) or 419-408-8189) or Christian Formation Circle Leader **Shelby Cluts** ([clutsfamily@roadrunner.com](mailto:clutsfamily@roadrunner.com)) and we will connect you with the appropriate team members.

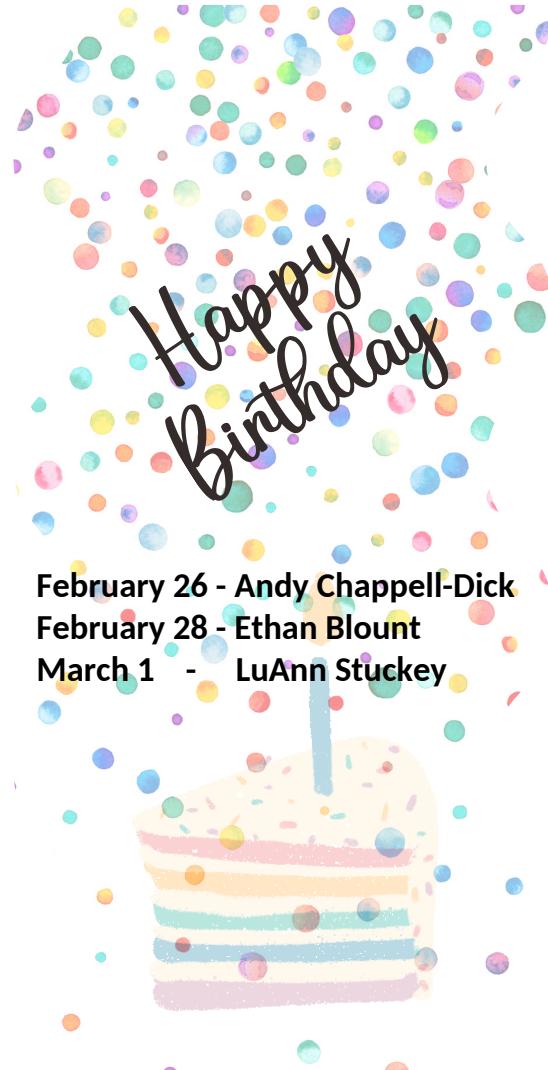
*In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite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



follow us



Bluffton First Mennonite Church



February 26 - Andy Chappell-Dick  
February 28 - Ethan Blount  
March 1 - LuAnn Stuckey

## Today, Sunday, February 26

Youth Choir, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Bluffton University Concert Band, 2 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall

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

## This Week

### Tuesday, February 28

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

### Wednesday, March 1

Jubilate 3:15-4 p.m., Cherub Choir 4:45-5:30 p.m.

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

SHY, 8 p.m. Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, March 4

Ann Shumaker's Memorial Service, noon in Fellowship Hall

## Next Sunday, March 5

Worship – Gerald Mast preaching

Lectionary: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17;

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-8

Mentoring, 3 p.m.

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.