

2nd Sunday of Lent

Shaped by What We Believe... and What We Don't Know

March 5, 2023

Gathering

Call to Worship		Carrie Phillips
Ministry Minute		Amber Steiner
Prelude	<i>Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus</i>	arr. K.T. Kosche

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 571 *O God, We Read the Holy Law*

*Responsive Reading - based on Psalm 121

One: Lift your eyes to the hills—where does your help come from?

Many: **Our help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

All: **Let us worship our God, who watches over us now and always.**

Telling God's Story

Special Music	<i>By Gracious Powers</i>	Russell Schulz-Widmar
	Chancel Choir, Jan Wiebe - flute	

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered, and confidently waiting, come what may, we know that God is with us night and morning, and never fails to greet us each new day. Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented, still evil days bring burdens hard to bear; O give our frightened souls the sure salvation for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

And when this cup is filled to brimming with bitter suffering, hard to understand, we take it thankfully and without trembling out of so good and so beloved a hand.

Yet when again in this same world you give us the joy we had, the brightness of your Sun, we shall remember all we lived through, and our life shall then be yours alone.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Conversation with Children		Teri Steinmetz
Hymn		VT 30 <i>Jesus Calls Us</i>
	(v. 1 coming forward & v. 3 going back to seats)	

Confession

One: Holy One, we need new birth. Overwhelmed by doubts, dead in our stubbornness, walking without direction, our hearts are hardened to your love.

Many: **Jesus, you have come to put the world right, to give life to the dead and to call into existence a people born from above.**

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

(Silent Prayer)

All: **Break in by your creative spirit. Send forth your fresh wind. And open the way to new life, eternal life, Amen.**

Hymn	VT 740 <i>Spirit of the Living God</i>
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Community Prayer	Phil Yoder
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Scripture	Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	Ethan Nickel & Rebecca Estell
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Message	<i>The Righteousness of Fatih and Doubt</i>	Gerald Mast
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Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response	VT 585 <i>Faith Begins By Letting Go</i>
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Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory	<i>Praise, My Soul</i>	arr. A. K. Organ
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Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending	<i>Jan Wiebe, flute</i>	VT 302 <i>Unless a Grain of Wheat</i>
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*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.
VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)*

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

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: Adam Phillips

Sound: Kevin Cluts

Chancel: Bruce Steingass

2/19/23 - 2/26/23

Reported Volunteer hours:43.5

Attendance: 130

Online views: 25 Live; 28 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

March 5, 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pete Amstutz passed away on Tuesday, February 28, at his home in Goshen, IN. Prayers for **Mary Amstutz** and the rest of his family as they grieve his loss. Visitation is today, Sunday, March 5 and Monday, March 6, in Goshen. The memorial service will be Monday at 11 a.m. at Eighth Street Mennonite Church in Goshen.

The **Eastern Mennonite University Chamber Singers** will be giving a choral concert at FMC this **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.

Intergenerational trip to Menno-Hof: The trip is scheduled for Saturday, March 25 and will be from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with lunch at a local restaurant. Transportation will be provided. This trip is open to anyone. Feel free to invite others to join. There is a sign-up sheet on the small table in the Fellowship Hall or contact the office. **The deadline for signing up is TODAY.**

As **Don Burris** prepares for **retirement** from his role as **Caretaker**, we are thankful for the many projects that he has worked on around the church. When Don stepped into his role in the last half of 2021, he spent a great deal of time catching up on routine cleaning and maintenance. Throughout 2022, he completed many necessary repairs and maintenance which had been put off throughout the pandemic, and he brought many spaces up to date including the church office and the Assembly Room. We encourage you to extend gratitude to Don as you see him around. We wish him the best with this new chapter of his life.

This is a reminder to order your **Easter flowers** in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall. Deadline is on **Monday, March 20.**

Youth Auction Rescheduled! NOW you can mark your calendars for the fundraising auction for the youth: April 30 from 4-6 p.m.

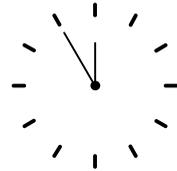
National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) will be celebrated April 23-29, 2023. This annual week of recognition serves to promote victims' rights and to honor crime victims and those who advocate on their behalf. The theme this year is "Survivor Voices: Elevate. Engage. Effect Change." In recognition of NCVRW, CVS will host "The Power of Imagination," a theatrical magic production fundraising dinner on Friday, April 28, featuring renowned illusionist, Krendl. Tickets for this limited seating event, are \$50 per person, including a 4 course meal, photo booth, and performance, can be purchased online at givebutter.com/imagine2023 by April 1.

I have committed to serving with MDS in Red Lake, Minnesota during the month of June. Would you like to join the effort for a week or two? You need to get on the waiting list if you are interested. Work there is repairing houses on the reservation from a very destructive hailstorm. On the MDS website navigate to the volunteer waiting list and add your name. In the comments section, mention to Alicia that you wish to serve in Red Lake and when you can come. She will respond soon. ~ Mitch Kingsley

Mennonite Central Committee and **Mennonite Church USA** are partnering in a year-long focus on alternatives to the current prison system and mass incarceration. A four-part **webinar series**, "Beyond Incarceration," will be followed by **learning tours** across the U.S. Register for the learning tours here: mcc.org/get-involved/events/pipeline-prison-learning-tours Register for the webinar series here: mcc.org/get-involved/events/beyond-incarceration-webinar-series.

Did you know that one reason people don't leave their abusers is not wanting to leave their pet behind? **Crossroads Crisis Center of Allen County** currently needs Pet Fosters for domestic violence survivors living in their shelter. Animals are screened and updated with their shots. Food and care items are provided. The duration of pet fostering can be a week to months. To explore this volunteer opportunity and its application process, contact Olivia, a hard-working graduate of Bluffton University's Sociology program! Text/chat/call 24/7: 419-228-4357 or email odepalma@crossroadscrisiscenter.com.

Ministry Minute!



The Mentoring program at First Mennonite Church invites each youth to make a new connection with an adult within the congregation. This provides meaningful experiences for both the mentor and mentee to spend time together, share their interests and faith, and learn something new from each other. Carrie Mast helps to support the mentoring program by inviting youth to choose a mentor when they are in 6th grade. Each mentoring pair is encouraged to meet together monthly, as well as attend mentoring events as a group throughout the year. If you have any questions or want to be involved with the mentoring program, please reach out to Amber Steiner: arshelly11@gmail.com.



March 6 - Kathy Dickson
Dave Moser

March 7 - Tate Steinmetz

March 9 - Shelby Cluts
Anna Hartzler

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, March 5, 2023

Youth Choir, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

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

Mentoring Event, 3 p.m.

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

This Week

Tuesday, March 7

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, March 9

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

Friday, March 10

EMU Concert, 6:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, March 12

Worship – Phil Yoder preaching

Lectionary: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-41

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.