

**5th Sunday of Lent**  
**Shaped by Life: Perfection/Idealism and Wholeness**  
Third Sunday of the Social Justice Series

**Gathering**

Wind Chimes Hannah DeMarco  
Call to Worship Carrie Phillips  
Prelude *Invention #1 in C Major* Bach  
Laura Hartzler, piano & Ellie Hartzler, violin  
Invocation  
\*Opening Hymn VT 791 *Let Justice Flow Down*

\*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 130

One: Out of the depths we cry to you.

**Many: O Lord, hear our cry.**

One: If you kept a record of sins, who would stand a chance?

**Many: O Lord, hear our cry.**

One: But with you there is forgiveness.

**All: We wait for you, O Lord. We hope in your word. Blessed be your name.**

Special Music *Lenten Spirituals* Michael Helman  
Adult Bells

**Telling God's Story**

Conversation with Children Anne Marie Spelman  
Hymn VT 30 *Jesus Calls Us*  
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 3 going back to seats)

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

Confession

One: Lord, our lives are dry bones.

**Many: We are cruel in our words, and indifferent in our actions.**

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

(silent prayer)

One: Breathe on us, Lord.

**Many: Put your Spirit within us, and make us alive.**

**All: We place our hope in you. Amen**

Hymn VT 740 *Spirit of the Living God*

Community Prayer Phil Yoder

Special Music *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant* Quartet

Scripture Ezekiel 37:1-14 Xavier Diller  
John 11:1-44 & Allison Diller

Message *Unbinding disability* Jeanne Davies  
& Kathy Dickson

**Living God's Story**

\*Hymn of Response VT 1 *Summoned By the God Who Made Us*

Offering

Words of Invitation  
Offertory *Concertino* Ferdinand Kuchler  
Dedication Prayer

**Sending**

\*Hymn of Sending VT 653 *Nothing Is Lost on the Breath of God*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

**First Mennonite Church**  
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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 - Thursday

**Video:** Ray Raeburn/Steve Phillips

**Sound:** Chris Gott

**Chancel:** Bruce Steingass

3/12/23 - 3/19/23

Reported Volunteer hours: 34

Attendance: 165

Online views: 30 Live; 24 Recorded

**Nursery Workers Today SS:** Tom & Sue Schaaf

**Worship:** Anne Marie Spelman & Sunita Hooley

**Nursery Workers Next Week SS:** Mary Edmiston & Kendra Nickel

**Worship:** Anita & George Lehman

*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 26, 2023**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**We welcome Jeanne Davies** of the Anabaptist Disability Network to worship today. Jeanne carries responsibility for resources, advocacy, volunteer coordination, social media, administration, and development. She is ordained in the Church of the Brethren, has a Master of Divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana, a Graduate Certificate in Homiletic Peer Coaching from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and a Graduate Certificate in Disability and Ministry from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. Jeanne has a passion for disability advocacy and inclusion, and believes that the whole church benefits when all the members of the Body are actively connected. She lives in West Dundee, Illinois, with her husband, Joel. They attend York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Illinois.

**NOON TODAY:** All are invited to the **Social Justice potluck lunch** to continue the conversation around Disability and the Church introduced during the sermon. Bring your own table service. Paper products will be available. The Catechism class will join the Social Justice Potluck today and then move to the Parlor to discuss chapters 4 & 5. Bring a dish to share!

**This afternoon and evening** we are hosting **2 Watch Parties** to view **Women Talking**. The movie is based on Canadian writer Miriam Toews's 2018 novel, the true story of serial rapes in the Manitoba Colony, a Mennonite community in Bolivia. Viewings will be at **4 p.m. & 6 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall** and will be followed by discussions for those who want to participate. You are invited to bring popcorn and snacks to share. Thanks to **Teri Steinmetz** for suggesting the event and sharing her DVD!

**Caring Connections** will be meeting on Tuesday, March 28 at 11 a.m. in the Parlor.

### **EASTER SUNDAY, April 9:**

- We will be celebrating with a brunch during the Sunday School hour beginning at 9:15 a.m. All are invited to bring a breakfast item to share. Beverages will be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own table service though paper products will be available.
- All are invited to sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" during the worship service. You can rehearse with the Chancel Choir on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. or Easter Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

**Pastor Phil** is planning to take 5 weeks of **parental leave** once Baby Yoder arrives, with the first 3 weeks at full-time status and the last 2 weeks at half-time status. When Phil begins parental leave, Mark Suderman will step back into the Church Administrator role. Mark's primary responsibilities will be tending to worship planning, assisting with bulletin development, and providing office coverage from approximately 9 – 11:50 a.m. Monday through Friday. While Phil is off these 5 weeks, Carrie will assume primary pastoral care responsibilities. You are encouraged to refer to the Pastoral Care Team list, as well.

From April 6 - 20, **Trusty Schumacher** will also be out of the office **visiting family**. **Gloria Hernandez Bucher** and **Alicia DeMarco** will be providing coverage with office duties.

**MCC has an urgent need for relief supplies.** FMC will be collecting hygiene kits and relief kits during March and April. If donating money, write MCC Kits on the memo line. Kit materials lists are on the bulletin board by the library or can be found online on the [mcc.org](http://mcc.org) website.

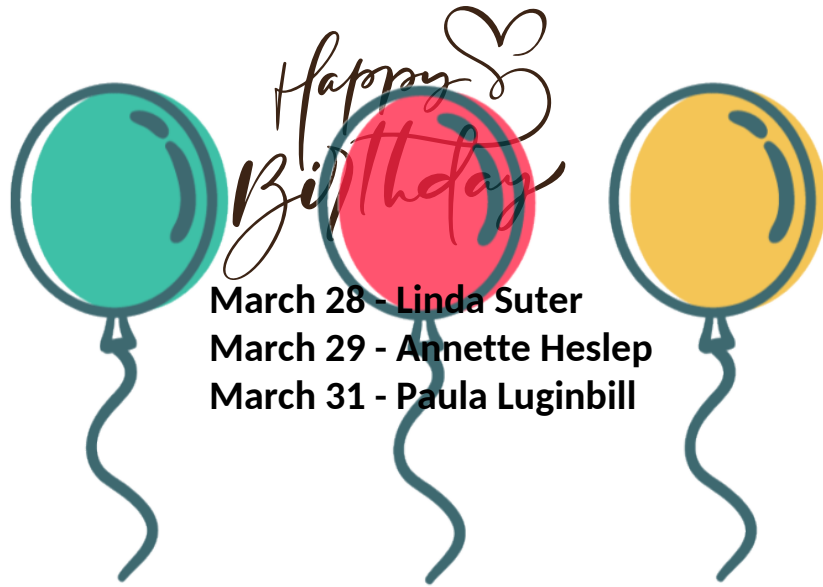
**Want to help with a funeral meal?** Jobs include decorating and setting tables, providing food, preparing food, serving the meal, and cleaning up afterwards. If you have been missing out on the opportunity to help with the recent memorial meals because we didn't know you were interested, it's time to get that fixed! Contact either Mary Edmiston at 419-230-9659 or Susie Gratz at 419-358-4822 to get involved!

**Bluffton University's Brass Ensemble** will perform a concert at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, in Yoder Recital Hall. Music department chair, Dr. Roy Couch, will conduct the concert which will feature six Bluffton University student musicians. The varied program is free and open to the public.

**Bluffton University** made a short video about **The Cuts at Bluffton**, the campus hair salon/barbershop. The salon serves all Bluffton students and specializes in ethnic hairstyles. FMC was the primary donor through our Racial Justice Ministry. See the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECnWX6TWQqE>.

The annual **Cross Walk** on Good Friday, April 7, will begin at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 11:30 a.m. and end at St. John's UCC. FMC is the 3rd stop on the route.

**The Central District Conference Annual Meeting** is slated for June 22-24 at Goshen College, College Mennonite Church. We can send **10 delegates** to the Annual Meeting. If you have interest in being a delegate or want to learn more about it, contact Pastor Phil or Pastor Carrie.



March 28 - Linda Suter  
March 29 - Annette Heslep  
March 31 - Paula Luginbill

*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.*



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## Today, Sunday, March 26, 2023

Youth Choir, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

Worship: Jeanne Davies & Kathy Dickson preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Social Justice Potluck & Discussion

Women Talking Watch Parties, 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

## This Week

### Tuesday, March 28

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Caring Connections, 11 a.m. Parlor

### Wednesday, March 29

**CANCELED:** 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 Discussion, Game, & Snack, 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

## Next Sunday, April 2, 2023

Worship - Palm/Passion, a service of Scripture & Music

Lectionary: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21:1-11; Isaiah 50:4-9a;

Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-53

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.