

Palm/Passion Sunday Shaped by Worship...and Indifference

April 2, 2023

Palm

Call to Worship Carrie Phillips

*Opening Hymn/Palm Processional VT 315 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Invocation

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 118

One: This is the day the Lord has made.

Many: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Let us rejoice in all our Lord has done,

Many: for it is marvelous in our eyes. Hosanna!

All: We bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Conversation with Children Teri Steinmetz

Hymn VT 313 *Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 1-3 for processional)

Community Prayer Phil Yoder

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Music from the St. Matthew Passion* J.S. Bach, arr. Schaum
Anne Marie Spelman

Dedication Prayer

Confession

One: Lord, we are isolated and alone; our failures are visible for all to see.

Many: Our days pour out like sand,

One: our years fade and are gone.

Many: We are afraid to hope.

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

(silent prayer)

One: Lord, we trust in you. Redeem us now, we pray.

All: To you, Lord, we commit all our hope and all our worship. Amen.

Hymn VT 740 *Spirit of the Living God*

Passion

Matthew 26: 14 -29 Kevin Cluts
*Hymn VT 477 *Seed, Scattered and Sown*

Matthew 26: 30-44 Jax Gott
Hymn VT 318 *'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow*

Matthew 26: 45-68 Alice Lora
*Hymn VT 330 *Ah, Holy Jesus*

Matthew 26: 69-75 Joel Steinmetz
Special Music *Before the Cock Crew Twice* (HWB 243)
Kaleigh Coffman, Rebecca Estell, and Ellie Hartzler

Matthew 27: 1-26 Mary Ina Hooley
Hymn VT 329 *Were You There* (v. 1, 2, & 4)

Matthew 27: 27-37 Betsi Werling
*Hymn VT 325 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (v. 1-3)

Matthew 27: 38-54 Kevin Nickel
Special Music *Drop, Drop, Slow Tears* Taylor Davis
Chancel Choir

Drop, drop, slow tears, And bathe those beautiful feet
Which brought from Heaven The news and Prince of Peace.
Cease not, wet eyes, His mercy to entreat;
To cry for vengeance Sin doth never cease.
In your deep floods Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let His eye see sin, but through my tears.

Matthew 27: 55-66 Steve Phillips

Please depart in silence

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

HWB - Hymnal: A Worship Book (Blue 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 - Thursday

Video: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Melissa Friesen

Chancel: Bruce Steingass

3/19/23 - 3/26/23

Reported Volunteer hours:33.5

Attendance: 190

Online views: 25 Live; 33 Recorded

Nursery Workers Today SS: Mary Edmiston, Kendra Nickel

Worship: Anita & George Lehman

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Bruce Steingass & Cheri Slotter

Worship: Kristen Niekamp & ____?____

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

April 2, 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week activities begin with a **Maundy Thursday Service** this Thursday, April 6th, at **6:30 p.m.** Optional practices will include singing, footwashing, candle lighting, and communion.

Continue observing Holy Week with the annual **Cross Walk** on Good Friday, April 7. The walk 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.

All are invited to **sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus"** next Sunday during the Easter 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.

Celebrate **Easter Sunday** with **brunch** during the SS hour. The meal will begin at **9:15 a.m.** 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.

Continue to celebrate **Easter** with a **potluck meal** following worship. All are welcome. Contact Walt Paquin with questions: paquinw@bluffton.edu or 419.889.1516.

Easter flowers can be picked up immediately following worship next Sunday. To ensure everyone receives the flowers they ordered and paid for, we are asking you to see Carrie Mast or Carrie Phillips who will have a list to confirm your flower order.

Senior High Youth: Based on our discussion about schedules and the number of activities we are all involved with, we will try something new this week when we gather. Come to the Fellowship Hall when your activities end, anytime **Wednesday night between 7:30 and 9 p.m.**, and plan to stay for no more than 1 hour. Those who feel overwhelmed with homework and projects can join the study table. Those who are ready for a break can join another the game table. Everyone will be invited to take a break at some point to migrate to the table with the special birthday treat to celebrate Jax's birthday which is that day. May we spend time together in life-giving, less stressful ways!

Delegates wanted! 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.

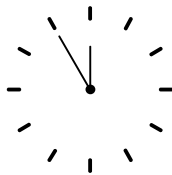
On **April 16**, we will host Bill & Carole Schumacher during an **elective SS class** in the Fellowship Hall to share information about water safety in Bangladesh. Naturally occurring arsenic contamination in the drinking water kills at least 43,000 people per year and disables many more. The World Health Organization has described it as the largest mass poisoning in human history. The Schumachers and some former MCC workers are working closely with SIM, a well-known and well-respected mission organization, to establish an arsenic project in a new area of Bangladesh.

The **Honduran Mennonite Church** owns a small retreat center near Lake Yojoja named Finca Diakonia (Discipleship Farm), and is appealing for help in repairing, painting, and re-roofing the existing buildings. They are suggesting that small groups would arrive on Saturdays, go to church at our Sister Church in Colonia Lopez on Sunday, work Monday through Friday, and leave for home on the following Saturday. As well as daily work at the retreat center, workers will be treated to the famous Baked Tilapia fish dinners at Lake Yojoja, and tours of local Honduran sites. The cost for lodging, meals, and local transportation is \$500, plus airfare. Anyone interested in more information should **contact Lynn and Linda Miller** at lynamiller@protonmail.com or 419-274-9704.

Ohio MCC Bike Ride: You're invited to join a group of riders as they gather on **July 15-16** near Columbus, Ohio, to bike 100 miles over two days (approximately 50 miles each day) to help support MCC's peace projects around the world. Base camp and overnight camping will be at the Prairie Grass Trailhead on the Ohio to Erie Trail in London, Ohio. We will head north towards Columbus one day, while heading south towards Cedarville the other. For more information about registering as a rider or making a donation, visit mcc.org/ohio-bike-ride.

Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio Service Group will hold a **BBQ Chicken fundraiser April 29**. Proceeds will support purchase of outdoor furniture for the MMH Memory Care Area (Sycamore Gardens.) Composite furniture will include a table and 6 chairs. The cost will be approximately \$3,000. **BBQ tickets** are **\$10 each** and may be purchased through April 17 at the MMH front desk from 8:30- 11:00 am and 12:00-4:00 pm or from **Gloria Hernandez Bucher**. Curbside meal pickup will be Saturday, April 29, from 4-6pm at Bubba C BBQ, 158 Jackson Street, Bluffton. Thank you for your support.

Ministry Minute!



Did you know that people stop by FMC for **groceries** as well as Community Market gift cards? There is a box in the Fellowship Hall with food items; your food donations are welcome. This provides an opportunity for people to put a bag of groceries together in between the days the Bluffton Food Pantry is open. **Lori Nester** is helping with this ministry by shopping for healthy options and exploring some possible collaboration with the West Ohio Food Bank. Questions? Contact the church office.

Happy
Birthday
to you

April 2 - Rita Dietrich

April 5 - Jax Gott

April 6 - Mike Edmiston

April 8 - JP Schumacher



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, April 2, 2023

Youth Choir, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

Worship: Palm/Passion Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Freudige Potluck, 12 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Bluffton University's Brass Ensemble, 2:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall

This Week

Tuesday, April 4

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, April 5

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 Study Table, Games, & Jax's Birthday Treat, come and go 7:30-9 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30, p.m. Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 7

Community Cross Walk, begins at 11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's

Next Sunday, April 9

Easter Brunch, 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Worship - Carrie Mast preaching

Easter Lunch, 12 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Lectionary: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10

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.