

# Easter Sunday

## Embracing It All: Fully Alive in Christ

April 9, 2023

### Gathering

Call to Worship

Carrie Phillips

Prelude

My Soul Rejoices  
LuAnn Stuckey

G. Gastoldi/arr. K.T. Kosche

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn

VT 346 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*  
Don Hooley, trumpet

\*Responsive Reading - based on Psalm 118

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

One: We thank you, God, that you have answered us and have become our salvation.

**Many: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

One: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**Many: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

### Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children

Teri Steinmetz

Hymn

VT 359 *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*  
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 4 going back to seats)

### Confession

One: Lord, we stand in awe at the thought of your resurrection.

**Many: Can this really be true? Did this really happen? What kind of power is this?**

One: What does this mean for our lives?

**Many: What does this mean for your church?**

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

(silent prayer)

One: Lord, heal our every thought of disbelief in your presence and power. As you revealed yourself to your followers on that day,

**Many: ...come to us with your delight and love.**

**All: With joyful hearts, we renew our relationship with you. Amen.**

Hymn

VT 740 *Spirit of the Living God*

Community Prayer

Adam Phillips

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

Kaleigh Coffman

Message

*Jesus Is a Friend, He's a Friend Next to You*

Carrie Mast

### Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response

VT 478 *I Come with Joy*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Awake, My Heart, with Gladness  
J. Cruger/arr. K.T. Kosche

Dedication Prayer

### Sending

\*Hymn of Sending

VT 340 *Lift Your Glad Voices*

\*Benediction

\*Special Music

*Hallelujah Chorus*  
Chancel & Community Choir, FMC Orchestra

G. F. Handel

\*Please rise in body or in spirit.

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

**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

**Sound:** Melissa Friesen

**Chancel:** Bruce Steingass

3/26/23 - 4/2/23

Reported Volunteer hours:22

Attendance: 169

Online views: 24 Live; 29 Recorded

**Nursery Workers Today SS: (Easter Brunch)**

**Worship: Jonathan Spelman**

**Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Judy Diller & Carmen Ordonez Moser**

**Worship: Pat Sheidler & Ken Shenk**

*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 9, 2023**



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Brunch today!** Celebrate Easter Sunday with a potluck 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.

All are invited to **sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus"** during the worship service. You can rehearse with the Chancel Choir at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

If you purchased **Easter flowers**, you can pick them up after worship. Pastor Carrie & Worship Leader Carrie have the list of flowers you ordered. Confirm your order with them before you leave. All remaining flowers will be donated to the Mennonite Home.

Continue to celebrate Easter with a **potluck meal** following worship today. All are welcome, even if you don't have a dish to share. There will be enough.

The **office** will be **closed** on **Monday** for the Easter holiday.

**Trusty Schumacher** left Thursday to visit family in Winnipeg. She will return on April 21. **Gloria Hernandez Bucher** and **Alicia DeMarco** will be providing coverage with office duties while Trusty is on **vacation**.

**Senior High Youth** will NOT meet on Wednesday this week due to the musical dress rehearsal.

The **Bluffton University Art Department** will present the **55th Juried Student Exhibition April 11 through May 6** in the Grace Albrecht Gallery of Sauder Visual Arts Center. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. during the week and 1-5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

**Amigo Centre** would like to invite you to join us for our **Men's Retreat, April 28-30**. This retreat will be led by James Yoder (a retired clinical social worker who spent his career working with marginalized people and traumatized children) and Leon Bauman (a retired schoolteacher and school counselor who spent his career asking "How can painful experiences be transformed and reframed?") and will focus on creating stories of hope, and finding healing in the male journey. This retreat lasts from Friday evening to Sunday morning. Pricing options: Standard Pricing - \$175 / 25 and Under - \$120 Commuter Pricing - \$120 / Just Saturday - \$75

**\$\$ Financial Update \$\$** - We've closed out the books for 2022. The **good news** is that we finished in the black. **More good news** is that giving exceeded the Spending Plan by 10%, which was an increase of 4.4% in giving from 2021. This increase offset the extra expenditures not originally anticipated in the 2022 Spending Plan: organ repair, the sound upgrade, and cosmetic and repair upgrades to our building. If giving remains consistent, we should be on track for 2023, barring any major unplanned expenses. A graphic summary will be in your mailbox prior to a financial review on **May 3 at 7 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**.

**2023 Spending Plan Update:** At the end of February, spending exceeded giving by \$5,814. This is not unusual at this point in the year. Overall, our giving for 2023 is exceeding giving in 2022 by approximately 20%. In the future, quarterly updates will be provided in the bulletin, and the monthly reports will be posted in the Fellowship Hall. Expect the next financial update in April after the 1st quarter is complete.

**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, and we currently have 7 lined up. If you have interest in being a delegate or want to learn more about it, contact Pastor Phil or Pastor Carrie.

**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.

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 + airfare. For more information **contact Lynn and Linda Miller at [lynnamiller@protonmail.com](mailto:lynnamiller@protonmail.com) or 419-274-9704**

# Ministry Minute!

Do you have a **repair or maintenance skill** to share with the church on an occasional or 1x basis? While we do have a team of 3 Trustees - Dave Moser, Rodney Dyck, and Steve Phillips - to manage the overall maintenance for the church, there are plenty of small jobs that pop up from time to time. If you are willing to have your name on the list to help out with an occasional odd job, contact the church office.



**April 10 - Jim Harder**  
**April 13 - George Lehman**  
**Kendra Nickel**  
**April 14 - Sarah Basinger**  
**Jorian Mast**

*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



## Happy Easter

### Easter Sunday

**Today, Sunday, April 9, 2023**  
Easter Brunch, 9:15 a.m Fellowship Hall  
Worship: Carrie Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
Easter Lunch, following worship Fellowship Hall  
No Sermon Discussion Circle

#### This Week

**Monday, April 10**  
Office Closed

**Tuesday, April 11**  
Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

**Wednesday, April 12**  
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. Assembly Room  
Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

**Next Sunday, April 16**  
Worship: Phil Compton preaching  
Lectionary: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-30  
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.