

1st Sunday after Easter

April 16, 2023

Gathering

Welcome and announcements Ron Headings

Prelude *How Can I Keep from Singing* arr. Lorie Line
Laura Hartzler

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 25 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 16

One: I keep the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand,

Many: I shall not be moved.

One: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

Many: my body also rests secure.

One: For you do not give me up to Sheol,

Many: or let your faithful one see the Pit.

One: You show me the path of life.

Many: In your presence there is fullness of joy;

All: in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Telling God's Story

Special Music *This Train is Bound for Glory* Traditional
Cherub Choir

Conversation with Children Linda Headings

Hymn VT 359 *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Community Prayer Victoria Woods-Yee

Scripture John 4:4-15; 6:27-35 Julie Mackey

Message *The Elevator, the Tower, and the Steeple* Phil Compton

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 606 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Faith of our Fathers* arr. Lorie Line

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending HWB 321 *Lift High the Cross*

*Benediction

*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 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- Carrie's day off - Thursday
- Mark - Monday-Friday 9-11:50 a.m.

Video: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Kevin Cluts

Chancel: Church Staff

4/2/23 - 4/9/23

Reported Volunteer hours:21

Attendance: 200

Online views: 24 Live; 35 Recorded

Nursery Workers Today SS: Judy Diller & Carmen Ordonez

Worship: Pat Sheidler & Ken Shenk

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Greg & Laura Hartzler

Worship: Mary Ina Hooley & Ray Person

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 16, 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our **preacher** today is **Rev. Dr. Phil Compton**. Phil grew up in Arlington, Virginia. He graduated from Manchester College before going on to earn his MA in Clinical Psychology from Emory University and completing seminary studies at Duke Divinity. Phil is retired as both a Professor of Psychology at Ohio Northern University and as a United Methodist pastor. He is married to LaDonna, and they moved into Maple Crest Villas last May. Soon after moving, they began attending FMC while still remaining connected to the Methodist church in Ada. In his spare time, Phil enjoys singing with Mark Suderman in the Lima Symphony Chorus.

Today, we also welcome **Bill & Carole Schumacher** who will share during an **elective SS class** in the **Fellowship Hall** 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.

If you are able to work at **Our Daily Bread Tuesday, April 18**, please contact John or Carolyn Rich (419.358.5405).

Join **Jonathan Spelman** next Sunday during our **Social Justice** sermon and discussion series, **What Then Shall We Do?**, as we explore equity and justice around **animal rights**. Worship will be followed by a **potluck lunch** to continue the discussion.

Spread the word! **Custodian Needed!** FMC is looking for a part-time custodian who will be responsible for cleaning and maintaining the church building and grounds. The custodian will also collaborate with staff for preparation of events including worship, funerals, weddings, and other meetings and programs. Physical stamina and lifting are required. Qualified applicants will work well as part of a team. Approximately 20 hours per week. Base pay of \$16 per hour. Contact 419.358.5766 or fmc@fmcbluffton.org for an application.

Trusty Schumacher is visiting 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.

SHY Auction April 30! Check out the display table in the Fellowship Hall with auction items. Donated items are still welcome!

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 a.m. and 12-4 p.m. or from Gloria Hernandez Bucher. **Curbside meal pickup** will be **Saturday, April 29**, from **4-6 p.m.** at Bubba C BBQ, 158 Jackson Street, Bluffton. Thank you for your support.

The **Refugee Welcoming Group**, a sponsor group created by residents of Bluffton and Pandora, is applying through the new government program Welcome Corps (welcomecorps.org) to welcome a group of refugees. Our goal is to fundraise to bring 7 newcomers to the Bluffton area in August. Our responsibility is to raise a minimum of \$16,625 and to support them for a minimum of 90 days. We are seeking volunteers to assist in securing housing, employment, education, budgeting, orientation to the community, transportation, and childcare. Grace Mennonite Church in Pandora, has a "Refugee Welcoming Group" fund for **tax-deductible donations** to support this mission. If you're interested in learning more, please join us for a **potluck** at **Grace Mennonite Church** of Pandora at 502 E. Main Street at **5 p.m. on Sunday, April 23**. For questions, please contact Amy Norris at amywnorris@gmail.com or 802-999-8993 or David Voth at VothDavid@aol.com or 419-302-2863.

MCC has an **urgent** need for **relief supplies**. FMC will be collecting hygiene kits and relief kits through the end of April. Kit materials lists are on the bulletin board by the library or can be found online on the mcc.org website. If donating money, please write "MCC Kits" on the memo line.

Join us for the **Ohio MCC Comforter Bash** on **April 21-22!** A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event at Kidron Community Park to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash. (Friday, April 21 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

FMC at **Findlay Pride Event**: A small group of individuals are exploring having a resource booth at the Findlay Pride Event on **Saturday, June 3rd, 10:00-4:00**. Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this project by contacting Carrie Mast (419.230.1568) or Ray Person (419.358.0481). Even if you cannot be present on June 3rd, there will be ways you can help before the event.

Ministry Minute!



The Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School will be held July 16-20 at English Lutheran Church. Walkers, cookie bakers, and recreation helpers needed! Youth welcome to help! If you're interested in helping out, contact Carrie Mast at 419.230.1568.



April 16 - Jen Benroth
Carla Richard
April 19 - Julie Mackey
April 20 - Carmen Ordonez
April 21 - Becki Ahmed
April 22 - Margie Closson
Melinda Estell

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 16, 2023

Youth Choir, 8:30 a.m.

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

Elective SS Class w/ Bill & Carol Schumacher, 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

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

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

This Week

Tuesday, April 18

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Our Daily Bread, 10:45 a.m. meet in Fellowship Hall before departing

OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON

Wednesday, April 19

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 Auction Preparation, 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 20

Leadership Circle, 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, April 23

Social Justice Sunday #4: What Then Shall We Do? Animals & Justice

Worship: Jonathan Spelman preaching

Social Justice Potluck & Discussion, noon

Lectionary: Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Refugee Welcoming Group Potluck, 5 p.m. Grace Mennonite, Pandora, OH

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.