

First Mennonite Church
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH
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Lead Pastor Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624
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Interim Pastor of Christian Education & Administration Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568
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Director of Music Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368
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Technology & Media Coordinator Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769
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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: Monica and Steve Harnish

4/23/23 - 4/30/23

Reported Volunteer hours:31

Attendance: 171

Online views: 25 Live; 45 Recorded

Nursery Workers Today SS: Monica Harnish & Mitch Kingsley

Worship: Kevin & Shelby Cluts

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Alison & Kevin King

Worship: ???

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

May 7, 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynn Miller is sharing the message this morning. Somewhat of an itinerant preacher these days, you can find Lynn behind the pulpit here at FMC, Lima Mennonite, Salem Mennonite, and Jubilee Mennonite in Bellefontaine from time to time. Lynn spent 35 years traveling to talk about stewardship for Everence and is a retired pastor, too. Lynn is married to Linda, and together, they are passionate about helping people through various volunteer work.

Joan Diller is at St. Rita's hospital undergoing some tests related to her initial COVID diagnosis. Prayers for healing for her and prayers of comfort for both Joan and Sam are appreciated.

Ruth Early will be celebrating her **birthday** on May 11 either in the hospital or at the Mennonite Home as her broken leg continues healing. We'd like to invite all to participate in a **card shower** to celebrate with her and pass on good thoughts! Cards may be sent to her home, and her sister, Fran Core, will be sure to deliver them:
24 Pinebrook Drive, Bluffton, OH, 45817.

Congregational meeting immediately following worship TODAY + light lunch! At a congregational meeting in 2021, we decided to seek a Lead Pastor. We also decided that once that position was filled, we would later evaluate pastoral needs, and we created an interim Associate Pastor role. Phil has been in the Lead Pastor role, and Carrie has been in the interim Associate Pastor role for about six months. Leadership Circle wants to gather information from the congregation about the current pastoral model. **Today's meeting** is a discovery/discussion/Informational time for the congregation to begin the next steps of this process. No decisions or voting will occur. Sub sandwiches from Subway and chips will be available in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to be **finished by 12:30**. Children are welcome for lunch. If you have any questions, contact Ray Person, moderator: 419.358.0481.

TODAY, we welcome **Amy Norris** as she shares information and answers questions about the **Refugee Welcoming Group**. Amy is collaborating with a number of people at Grace Mennonite Church including David Voth, Anna Kauffman, Bill Suter, and Keith Suter to sponsor and host a group of refugees who will be arriving in Bluffton. **Volunteers are needed** in a variety of ways including transportation, securing housing, helping the family shop on a budget, and more. Pick up information, sign up to be a volunteer, and/or chat with Amy in the **Fellowship Hall** before worship from **10-10:30 or immediately following worship**.

Celebrate Mother's Day with a Photobooth! Next Sunday, we invite all women + the ones who ❤️ love them to have some fun with a photobooth in the Fellowship Hall! Take a picture before or after worship & take a photo home with you!

Junior High Youth will meet on **Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.** to learn how to operate the elevator and assist people who use wheelchairs, walkers, and canes. Youth will be asked to support our **elevator ministry** when our trusty elevator operators, **Heidrun Awad & Linda Miller**, are out of town, including next Sunday May 14!

Summer Music: Instrumentalists, singers, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types: there are lots of opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer (June-August).

Opportunities include:

- Choose and lead the singing for "opening hymns"
- Provide music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

Contact our Director of Music, Mark Suderman, by phone (419.230.5368) or by email (sudermanme@bluffton.edu). If you have specific dates in mind for when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know. Thank you!

Family Yoga with Emily Hilty! Emily is offering family yoga classes in her backyard on Thursday nights at 6:00 pm **starting May 18th**. Classes are \$10 per family and are for parents and children to take together. Meet at Emily's house at 182 Sunset Drive. Rain location is FMC. Join us in learning about mindfulness and have some fun practicing yoga with your little one! Email Emily to sign up or with questions: Emily.huxman@gmail.com.

THANK
YOU

The **Senior High Youth Group** says a **BIG thank you** to the congregation for all the ways you supported their **auction** to raise funds for MennoCon23 in Kansas City, MO. The auction raised about **\$6,800!** THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

THANK YOU
SO MUCH!

Volunteers needed at Ten Thousand Villages!

- 1.clerks/Fair Trade ambassadors
- 2.writing for a newsletter;
- 3.store maintenance projects;
4. back room help with processing merchandise for off-site sales;
- 5.social media marketing;
6. working with groups who come for presentations, classes, etc.

For **more information**, contact **Marcie Allen**, (manager.bluffton@tenthousandvillages.com; (419) 358-7233), FMC reps **Karen McCullough** (karenmccullough1@gmail.com, 419-234-5915) or **Lori Nester** (nesterl@bluffton.edu, 419-358-9650).

Ministry Minute!

Are you interested in a ministry of the church but you don't have the bandwidth to take on the whole ministry? Consider forming a team to take on the task! Or share the part you'd like to help with! Creativity welcome! Bring your ideas to the Gifts Discernment & Ministry Participation team! Contact Melissa Friesen, chair at friesenm@bluffton.edu.

May 7 - Pat Sheidler

May 8 - Alice Lora

Victoria Woods - Yee

May 9 - Simon Phillips

May 11- Stan Clemens

Ruth Early

Mary Ann Suter

May 13 - Judy Steiner

Happy
birthday

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, May 7, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

Worship: Lynn Miller preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Congregational Meeting - after worship (sub sandwiches provided)

Catechism Class w/ Potluck, 12 p.m. Assembly Room

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

This Week

Tuesday, May 9

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, May 10

Jubilate, 3:15-4 p.m.

Noodle Night, come and go 4:45-6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Thursday, May 11

Junior High Youth, Elevator training + Snack, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, May 14, 2023

Social Justice Sunday #5: What Then Shall We Do? Women's Issues

Worship: Lynda Nyce / Melissa Friesen preaching

Social Justice Potluck & Discussion, noon Fellowship Hall

Lectionary: Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-20

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.