

5th Sunday of the Social Justice Series

What Then Shall We Do? Women's Issues

May 14, 2023

Gathering

Wind Chimes Call Us to Worship Emma and Kylie Shenk

Welcome and announcements Ruth Naylor

Prelude *A Mother's Love* Mark Patterson
Jubilate

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 791 *Let Justice Flow Down*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 66

One: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what God has done for me.

Many: I cried aloud to the Lord, and God was extolled with my tongue.

One: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Many: But truly God has listened; God has given heed to the words of my prayer.

One: Blessed be God,

Many: because God has not rejected my prayer

All: or removed God's steadfast love from me.

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Anne Marie Spelman

Hymn VT 519 *God, Give Me Faith like a Child*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 3 going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Victoria Woods-Yee

Special Music

Hope Lingers On
Women's Choir

Lissa Schnekenburger

Scripture

1 Peter 3:8-22

Jan Wiebe & Rebecca Estell

Message

Talking Women

Lynda Nyce / Melissa Friesen

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 546 *There Is a Line of Women*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Elegie
Ken Graber, Pianist

Edvard Grieg

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 168 *Peace to You*

*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 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- Phil's day off - Friday
- Carrie's day off - Thursday

Video: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Kevin Cluts

Chancel: Mary Ramseyer & Sara Brenner

4/30/23 - 5/7/23

Reported Volunteer hours:19

Attendance: 156

Online views: 20 Live; 32 Recorded

Nursery Workers Today SS:

Worship:

Nursery Workers Next Week SS:

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 14, 2023



HAPPY
Mother's Day

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's sermon was written by **Lynda Nyce**, using the words of many women from First Mennonite Church, and is being delivered by **Melissa Friesen**. This sermon is part of our social justice sermon and discussion series, "What then Shall We Do?" Both Melissa and Lynda are daughters of mothers named Dorothy who challenged the Mennonite Church and its perspectives about women in ministry and leadership. Lynda and Melissa both spent time in the on-campus childcare center at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary while our Dorothy mothers attended classes. Melissa and Lynda each have one sister, and are aunts and friends to many children and adults. Lynda is the wife of JD and mother of John-Paul. Melissa is an endowed Professor of Theatre at Bluffton University and Lynda is a former professor of Sociology, now Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Ohio Northern University.

Gerald Mast's mom, Joann Mast, died Thursday morning after a year and a half struggle with cancer. Gerald, Carrie, & Jorian are in Holmes County for the visitation today, Sunday, and the funeral tomorrow, Monday. Carrie will return to the office on Tuesday.

Christian Roth, son of Sally Roth and brother of Carrie Mast, is recovering from 2 of 3 surgeries he is undergoing at the OSU Medical Center for continued efforts to rid him of MRSA and prepare him for a total hip replacement later this year. They are awaiting news of when the 3rd surgery will be performed this week. Continued prayers are welcome.



Stop by the Fellowship Hall today to get your picture taken at our Photobooth to **celebrate** our mothers, grandmothers, sisters and all women in our congregation. Photo ops available before and after the worship service.

A Celebration of Life for Joanne Antibus will be on Saturday, May 27, 1-4 p.m. at the Bluffton Sportsman's Club (405 S Spring St.). Joanne's husband Bob taught for many years at Bluffton University and they knew many of our parishioners who worked at Bluffton College. Joanne also volunteered for many community groups whose members were parishioners of First Mennonite.

May 24th will be our **last Noodle Night** before breaking for the summer. Join us for some noodles followed by a family friendly **movie**. Bring your favorite snacks. Theater popcorn will be provided.

Pastor Phil is ending his family leave early and will return to the office full-time this week.

Mark Suderman will be out of the office beginning May 19 to May 30, 2023.

Khloe, 6 year old granddaughter of **Joyce and Don Hostetler**, and daughter of **Mark Hostetler** (who grew up at FMC and is a member) and Kami Brenneman, was born with global developmental delay due to a hypoxic brain injury she suffered before birth. Khloe's family is seeking financial assistance through a Go Fund Me campaign to support a new form of therapy which would be highly beneficial to Khloe's progress and isn't covered by insurance. The goal is to raise \$5,000. To donate, use this link: [Khloe's Go Fund Me https://www.gofundme.com/f/khloes-krew-needs-you](https://www.gofundme.com/f/khloes-krew-needs-you). Checks are also welcome and can be made out to Mark Hostetler or Kami Brenneman and dropped in the offering plate or in the church office.

Financial Update. As of March 31, giving exceeded spending by **\$4,234**. Year-to-date, compared to last year at this time, our giving is slightly ahead. Please continue to give generously! We will let you know if we fall behind and keep you informed of any unexpected expenditures. The March report is posted on the post outside the office. If you would like a personal copy, or have any questions or concerns, please contact Rita Dietrich. The next update will be in July following the June report.

Summer Schedule: As we celebrate a different pace of life with vacations and travels in the upcoming months, we will adjust our church life to these comings and goings. **Children and youth Sunday School classes**, as well as **nursery care**, will **take a break** from June - August. Most adult SS classes are also taking a break, though a class studying MennoMedia's Salt & Light series will continue meeting in the Assembly Room. **Anyone is welcome** to join this **Bible study**. And as is our custom, **Coffee Time** and fellowship will be in the Fellowship Hall from 9-10:30 a.m.

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

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

Hope Lingers On

My mother, when love is gone (2x) In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.
My father, when peace is gone (2x) In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

CHORUS:

I will not hate and I will not fear. In our darkest hour, hope lingers here.
My sister, when equality's gone (2) In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.
My brother, with tolerance gone (2) In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

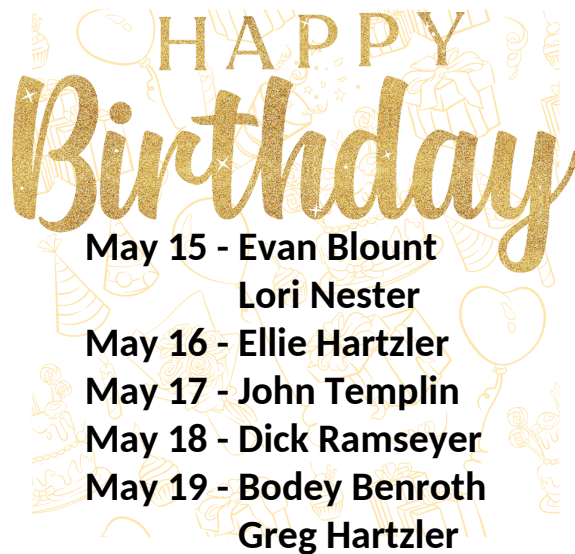
CHORUS

My love, when honor is gone (2) In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.
My country, when justice is gone (2) In our darkest hour, hope lingers on.

CHORUS

I will not hate and I will not fear In our darkest hour, hope lingers here
Hope lingers here...

Lyrics & music by (c) Lissa Schnekenburger, member of Low Lily. All rights reserved.



May 15 - Evan Blount

Lori Nester

May 16 - Ellie Hartzler

May 17 - John Templin

May 18 - Dick Ramseyer

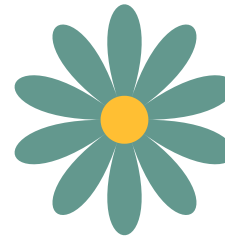
May 19 - Bodey Benroth

Greg Hartzler

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 14, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

Worship: Lynda Nyce / Melissa Friesen preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Social Justice potluck, 12:00 p.m.

This Week

Tuesday, May 16,

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, May 17,

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

Next Sunday, May 21, 2023

Worship - Phil Yoder preaching

Lectionary: Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11;

John 17:1-10

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.

Parents and caregivers are invited to use the nursery located in the basement during Sunday School and worship with their young children.