

7th Sunday after Easter

May 21, 2023

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Ken Shenk

Prelude

O Christ, Our Hope (I & IV)
LuAnn Stuckey

arr. J. Blersch

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 705 *For the Healing of the Nations*

*Responsive Reading - VT 1043

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children

Phil Yoder

Hymn

VT 519 *God, Give Me Faith like a Child*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Child Dedication

Juniper, Otto & Ansel Edmiston

Parents

Tess Eger & David Edmiston

Responsive Reading - VT 970

Community Prayer

Adam Phillips

Scripture

Acts 1:1-14

Hannah and Noah DeMarco

Message

Our Expansive Ascensions

Phil Yoder

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 308 *How Can We Worship Caesar's Cross*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Be Thou My Vision

arr. R. Hartsell

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 416 *Beyond a Dying Sun*

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

~ VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

First Mennonite Church
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org

First Mennonite Church

May 21, 2023

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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Communication Coordinator Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766
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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: Chris Moser

Chancel: Mary Edmiston

5/7/23 - 5/14/23

Reported Volunteer hours:3

Attendance: 160

Online views: 28 Live; 35 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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don Hostetler transitioned from Blanchard Valley Hospital to the Mennonite Memorial Home this week for rehabilitation after sustaining a break to his femur. Prayers for healing for Don, and prayers for Joyce and the family as they care for him.

Pastor Phil will be taking his quarterly Sunday off on the 28th to attend the wedding of Chaska's brother in Harrisonburg, VA. Phil will be out of the office beginning Thursday, May 25th, and he will return on Tuesday, May 30th when the office reopens after the Memorial holiday.

Movie Night! Join us for a kid friendly movie following Noodle Night on **May 24th at 6 p.m.** Bring your favorite snack. Theater popcorn from the Shannon will be provided.

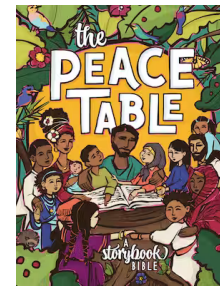
Anabaptist History Today Webinar, May 23, 8 p.m.: "Confessing Faith to Each Other" Preview historical letters, hear from the archivists who care for them, and discuss how we confess faith to each other in Anabaptist communities in everyday settings. This webinar is resourced by **Sara Wenger Shenk**, president emerita of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and author of *Tongue-Tied: Learning the Lost Art of Talking about Faith*. **Registration is required by May 22:** bit.ly/aht-reg.

Retreat for Young Adults: MTSO will hold an exploration in **food sovereignty June 20-24** for young adults ages 18-25. Participants will receive a **\$600.00 stipend** for full participation. **Food, lodging, and travel support is also provided.** Participants will have the opportunity to listen to food and climate experts and activists and to visit a cross-section of urban and rural farms. The retreat will challenge and inspire to reflect on how to live into a vocation centered in living in deeper relation to our world. Further info and access to the application can be found here:

<https://www.mtso.edu/theologicalcommons/summer-exploration-in-food-sovereignty/>

All are welcome to come help us celebrate **Elam Suter's** graduation from Pandora-Gilboa High School! Elam will be graduating today, Sunday, but we will host a celebratory party on **Saturday, May 27th from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.** at the Arthur Lugibihl Community Center at 301 N. Jefferson Street in Pandora. ~ Pete, Kim, Jacob, Elam and Makayla Suter

Baptisms and BBQ! On **June 4th**, the catechism class will be sharing their faith statements during worship. Following the service, everyone is invited to go to the **DeMarco's pond** where the **baptisms** will take place. Following the baptisms, everyone is invited to stay for a BBQ including vegan options. Bring a side to share, a drink for yourself, a lawn chair, and yard games. Freshly grilled burgers and vegan burgers will be provided. The DeMarco's address is **20674 White Hawk Way, Bluffton, OH 45817.**



25% off all pre-orders until June 1st! FMC is taking advantage of MennoMedia's deal on **The Peace Table**, a Bible storybook for children. This storybook is used in the **Shine SS curriculum** and is an excellent resource for children to learn how to love Jesus, grow in faith, and become peacemakers who change the world! If you are interested in ordering a copy, contact the church office or sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Our order will be placed on Tuesday, May 30th.

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). Choose "opening hymns" or provide music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble. Contact Director of Music, Mark Suderman: 419.230.5368 or sudermanme@bluffton.edu.

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 from 9-10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

In April, Bill & Carole Schumacher shared information about **arsenic in the drinking waters of Bangladesh**. They continue to raise both awareness and money for water testing and filters for homes in Bangladesh. Make a tax deductible **donation** to support their work at <https://www.simusa.org/give>. Under 'I want to support a specific SIM worker or project' type 'arsenic' and select 'Arsenic Awareness & Alleviation Program - Bangladesh'. Under 'Notes' type in 'Expansion Support'. Or send a check made out to SIM to: SIM, 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273. Write "project #098335 expansion support" on the memo line.

Ministry Minute!

Caring Connections is our ministry dedicated to connecting with members over 80 years of age. Currently, we have 9 members who are making dozens of visits every month. If you have interest in being a part of Caring Connections, or receiving a visit from one of the members of Caring Connections, contact Pastor Phil.

May 22 - Gayle Trollinger

May 23 - Kaleigh Coffman

Juniper Edmiston

Ann Kingsley

May 24 - Art Shelly

May 25 - Amy Freeman

Mary Ina Hooley

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 21, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

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

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

This Week

Tuesday, May 23

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, May 24

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

Kid-friendly Movie Night, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

SHY & Parents MennoCon23 Meeting, 6 p.m. Parlor

Next Sunday, May 28

Worship - Pentecost: Doug Luginbill preaching

Lectionary: Numbers 11:24-30; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13;

Acts 2:1-21; and John 7:37-39

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** with their young children during Sunday School and worship. The nursery is located in the basement.