

Sixth Sunday of the Social Justice Series

What Then Shall We Do? Pride

June 11, 2023

Gathering

Wind Chimes Keagan Schumacher
Welcome and announcements Jax Gott
Ministry Minute: Caring Connections Gene Long
Prelude *Somewhere over the Rainbow* Harold Arlen
Noah DeMarco
Invocation
*Opening Hymn VT 791 *Let Justice Flow Down*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 33

One: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

Many: Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to God with the harp of ten strings.

One: Sing to God a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Many: For the word of the Lord is upright,

One: and all God's work is done in faithfulness.

Many: God loves righteousness and justice;

All: *the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.*

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Tess Eger
Hymn VT 752 *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah*
(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Community Prayer Carrie Mast
Offering
Words of Invitation & Dedication Prayer
Offertory *To Thee, Lord God of All* arr. K.T. Kosche
LuAnn Stuckey, pianist
Special Music *True Colors* Cyndi Lauper
Wendy Chappell-Dick & Kaleigh Coffman
Scripture Victoria Woods-Yee
Message *Radical Love* Phil Yoder

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 474 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

Communion

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 36 *Let Us Build a House*

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

~ VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

First Mennonite Church
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Interim Pastor of Christian Education & Administration Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568
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Technology & Media Coordinator Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769
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Custodian Shawna Yoder
caretaker@fmcbluffton.org

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: Adam Phillips/Steve Phillips

5/28/23 - 6/4/23

Sound: Chris Moser

Reported Volunteer hours:60

Chancel: Lori Nester/Sara Brenner

Attendance: 185

Online views ~ Live: 20 Recorded: 36

First Mennonite Church

June 11, 2023



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

During worship today, we will be having **communion**. An opportunity to give alms to support the **Mutual Aid Fund** will be available. Baskets for this offering will be located at the entrances to the sanctuary. The Mutual Aid Fund provides assistance for individual needs in our church and community. In the last months, this fund has provided housing, groceries, and gas money to many people. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Following the service, we will continue the discussion raised by the sermon focused on our social justice theme "What then shall we do?" as it pertains to LGBTQ justice and our faith. Join the potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall regardless if you brought food.

Everyone is invited.

A big **thank you** to all those helping with **Sunday morning transportation** for members of our church family at Maple Crest and Frieda House. Pick up and drop off is at the Jackson Street entrance. **You can help by pointing people in that direction following the service if they are using the transportation.**

As you may have noticed, there are **paper hearts** on many of our seats in the pews. They are for you! With love, from **Anna Hartzler**.


It was expected that **Don Hostetler** would return home on Friday after several weeks of rehab at the Mennonite Home. Prayers for both **Don and Joyce** as they make this transition, and Don continues his recovery from a broken femur.

Carrie Mast is adjusting her **day off** this week to split it between Monday and Thursday to accommodate her brother's follow-up appointment with his surgeon in Columbus on Monday afternoon. It is anticipated that the doctor will support a transition home for **Christian Roth**, and so they are planning to move him back into his apartment in Columbus following the appointment.

Next Sunday, June 18th, following worship, **Libby Hostetler** will lead a short informational meeting on **House Bill 103** which is attempting to standardize Social Studies curriculum with "American Birthright: The Civics Alliance's Model K-12 Social Studies Standards." Come to the Fellowship Hall to hear about the bill and ask all your questions!

Father's Day Tie Exchange. To celebrate all the men in our lives, FMC will have a tie exchange, **next Sunday**, June 18th. Got any ties you don't wear anymore? Bring them in and exchange them for some ties new to you!

Camp Friedenswald is hosting High School Camp this week. There are 10 youth from FMC departing today to spend a week in the Peaceful Woods: **Theo Andreas, Ethan Blount, Kaleigh Coffman, Rebecca Estell, Ben Hartzler, Ellie Hartzler, Ethan Nickel, Claire Phillips, Tate Steinmetz, and John-Paul Yoder**. FMC is also helping staff camp this summer. **Patrick Estell, Ben Hartzler, Ana Neufeld Weaver, and Ellie Nickel** are all serving as staff. Ana is serving on the leadership team. Prayers for a safe and fun week for these campers and staffers, and the drivers who are transporting campers!

You are invited to the celebration of  **50 years** of marriage for **Linda Falk Suter & Bob Suter** on Friday, June 16, 2023, any time between 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Kreider Room in Marbeck Center on the Bluffton University Campus. This is a casual come and go event. Please no gifts or cards. Your presence will be a gift! There will be light refreshments, and close parking is available at the Sommer Center and at the Sauder Visual Arts building. If you have questions, you can reach out to Bob & Linda: suterlr@bluffton.edu, 419-230-2744.

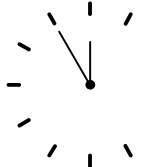
Watch Party: Come join us for the showing of the movie *The Wereth Eleven* on Sunday, June 25th at 3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. **Everett Collier**, whose uncle was a member of The Wereth Eleven, will lead a discussion after the movie.

UPDATE: The Swiss Community Historical Society of Bluffton and Pandora invite ALL to our Swiss Day Potluck at the Ebenezer Mennonite Church on Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 12:30 pm. **(Note the change of date and location.)** Join us for our annual meeting and an update on what's new at the Schumacher Homestead. Non members are welcome to attend (membership will be available if you wish.) Bring a hot and cold dish along with your own table service.

Summer Worship Series: Jubilee. Leviticus 25 describes the year of Jubilee - where every 50 years land is given rest, debts are forgiven, and liberty is proclaimed. A nearly unimaginable law for our times. What does it look like to celebrate Jubilee in our time? What would a world look like where a spirit of forgiveness was prevalent, and people were prioritized over money? Are we ready to embrace the idea of Jubilee? Join us for worship this summer to reimagine our lives as we explore faith through the lens of Jubilee.

This is an invitation to any First Mennonite Church women who want to join the **Bluffton Women's Choir** in singing a justice song August 20th. Email mennofolkmusic@gmail.com for details.

Ministry Minute!



What do the members of the **Caring Connections Committee** have in common? They love connecting with others! These connections are primarily with FMC

members 80 years and older and may be in the form of personal visits, by phone, or by mail. Friendships grow through these connections and are enjoyed by all involved. An average of 30 to 40 connections are made each month. Members of the committee are **Gloria Hernandez Bucher, Ann Kingsley, Dottie & Gene Long, Carolyn Rich, Pat Sheidler, Jane Weaver, Ruth Graber, Janet Schroeder, and Pastor Phil.** If you would like to be on either side of these connections let anyone on the committee know!

Happy Anniversary

June 15
Sarah & Adam Phillips - 

June 16
Pat & Dennis Sheidler - 

Happy Birthday

June 11 - **Carlin Carpenter**

June 12 - **Marie Yoder Dyck**

June 13 - **Judy Diller**

Cameron Shadbolt
Dennis Sheidler

June 14 - **Jenny Moser**

Ellie Nickel

June 16 - **Quin Spelman**

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, June 11, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Sunday School open to all youth & adults, 9:15 a.m. Assembly Room

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Social Justice potluck, 12:00 p.m.

This Week

Tuesday, June 13

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Thursday, June 15

Community Meal (hosted by FMC), 5 p.m. Senior Citizens Center
Leadership Circle Meeting, 7 p.m. Parlor

Next Sunday, June 18

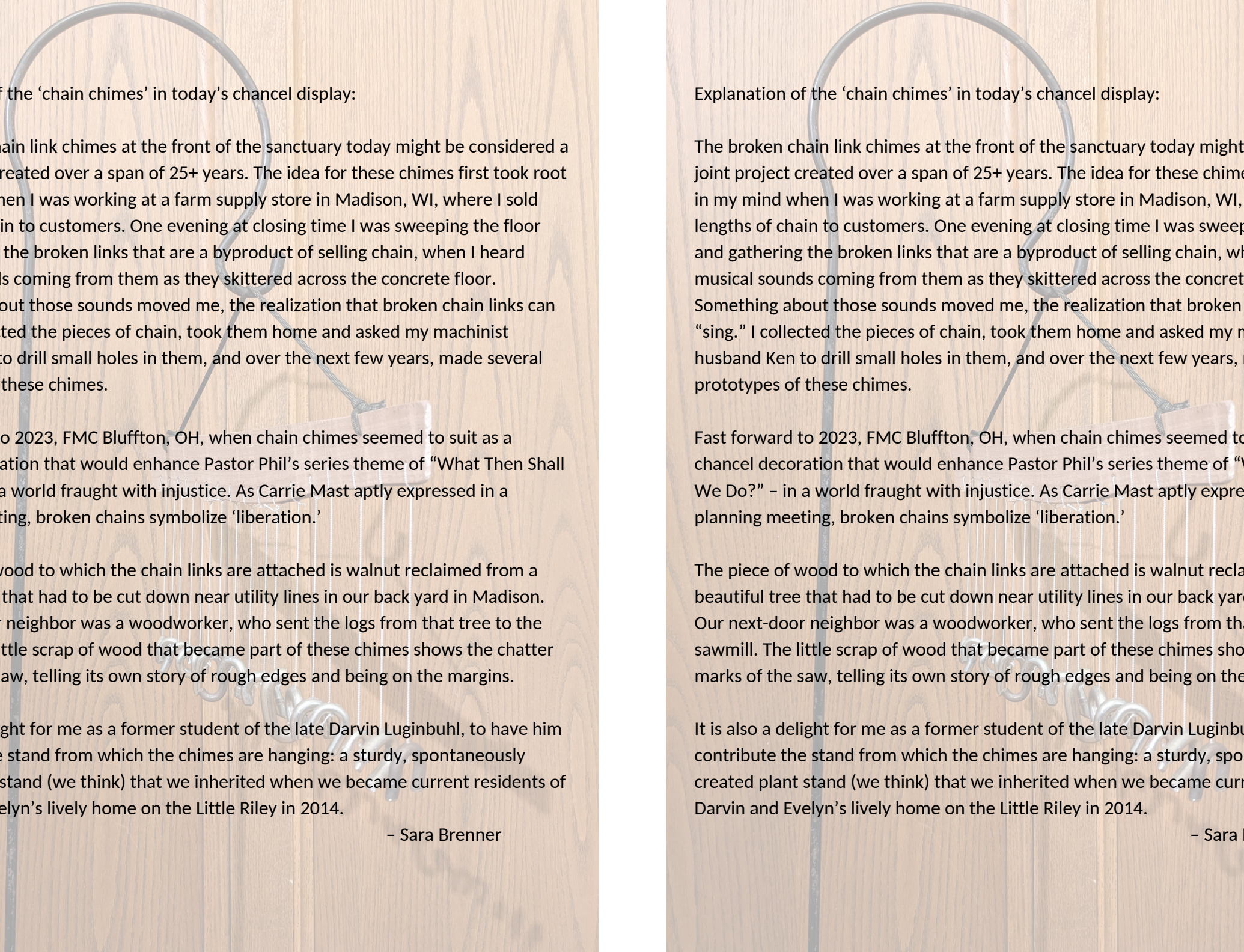
Worship - Phil Yoder preaching
Father's Day Tie Exchange

Lectionary: Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19;
Exodus 19:2-8a and Psalm 100; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

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.



Explanation of the 'chain chimes' in today's chancel display:

The broken chain link chimes at the front of the sanctuary today might be considered a joint project created over a span of 25+ years. The idea for these chimes first took root in my mind when I was working at a farm supply store in Madison, WI, where I sold lengths of chain to customers. One evening at closing time I was sweeping the floor and gathering the broken links that are a byproduct of selling chain, when I heard musical sounds coming from them as they skittered across the concrete floor. Something about those sounds moved me, the realization that broken chain links can "sing." I collected the pieces of chain, took them home and asked my machinist husband Ken to drill small holes in them, and over the next few years, made several prototypes of these chimes.

Fast forward to 2023, FMC Bluffton, OH, when chain chimes seemed to suit as a chancel decoration that would enhance Pastor Phil's series theme of "What Then Shall We Do?" – in a world fraught with injustice. As Carrie Mast aptly expressed in a planning meeting, broken chains symbolize 'liberation.'

The piece of wood to which the chain links are attached is walnut reclaimed from a beautiful tree that had to be cut down near utility lines in our back yard in Madison. Our next-door neighbor was a woodworker, who sent the logs from that tree to the sawmill. The little scrap of wood that became part of these chimes shows the chatter marks of the saw, telling its own story of rough edges and being on the margins.

It is also a delight for me as a former student of the late Darvin Luginbuhl, to have him contribute the stand from which the chimes are hanging: a sturdy, spontaneously created plant stand (we think) that we inherited when we became current residents of Darvin and Evelyn's lively home on the Little Riley in 2014.

– Sara Brenner

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