

# Jubilee: The Gospel of All Creatures

July 23, 2023

## Gathering

Opening Music

*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*  
Hannah DeMarco

Helen Marlais

Community Prayer

Adam Phillips

Welcome and announcements

Kaleigh Coffman

Scripture

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30

Rita Dietrich

Prelude

Laura Hartzler

Message

*The Bible of Creation*

Carrie Mast

Invocation

\*Opening Hymns

VT 179 *At the Dawn of Your Creation*  
VT 205 *Light Dawns on a Weary World*  
(sing verse 1 in unison and 2 & 3 in parts)

## Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response

VT 788 *The Garden Needs Our Tending Now*

\*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 139

One: O God, you have searched me and known me.

**Many: You know when I sit down and when I rise up;**

One: you discern my thoughts from far away.

**Many: You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.**

One: Even before a word is on my tongue, O God, you know it completely.

**Many: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;**

**All: it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

*Laura Hartzler*

Dedication Prayer

## Sending

\*Hymn of Sending

VT 145 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

## Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children

Teri Steinmetz

Hymn

VT 550 *God Who Touches Earth with Beauty*  
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 5 going back to seats)

*\*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](http://fmcbluffton.org)

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**Custodian** Shawna Yoder  
[caretaker@fmcbluffton.org](mailto: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

Nursery Workers Today SS: *This could be you!!!*  
Worship: *Check out the new sign-up sheet on our website.*

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: *Starting this September!*  
Worship: *Or contact Mary Edmiston if you have questions.*

To volunteer in the nursery, sign up here: <http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers>

**Video:** Steve Phillips  
**Sound:** Chris Moser  
**Chancel:** Lori Nester & Carrie Mast

5/14/23 - 5/21/23  
Reported Volunteer hours:60  
Attendance: 137  
Online views - Live: 20 Recorded: 19

*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**

**July 23, 2023**



Love.Local.Food. Painting by Susie Huser

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Jan Wiebe's** mom, **Joan**, died on Thursday, July 20, in Goshen, Indiana. Prayers for the family are invited.

**Ray Raeburn** will be on vacation July 21-29.

**Caring Connections** will meet on **Tuesday, July 25** in the Parlor at 11 a.m. Anyone interested in joining is welcome.

All are invited to join a **Women's Bible Study** this **Wednesday**, July 26 from **6:30-7:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. This is the second gathering in a series meeting the 4th Wednesday of the month over the summer. The Bible study is focusing on women's issues, and all are welcome regardless of gender to join this discussion. Kaleigh Coffman will serve as facilitator. This week's session is titled "**Let's Talk About Sex and Women**" and will focus on **Ezekiel 16:8-18**.

**Next Sunday**, July 30: Join us for our **7th Social Justice Sunday**, What Then Shall We Do?: The Ukraine War. Worship will be followed by a **potluck lunch** discussion to continue the conversation around the questions of war and justice for the Ukrainian people.

**Everett Collier** is looking for his **Wereth Eleven DVD**. If you have it, please return it to him or the church office.

**Amy Shadbolt** and **Ethan Blount** were recently hired as substitute custodians to clean the church when Shawna Yoder is on vacation and to help tackle some larger projects this summer. A big thank you to Amy and Ethan for pitching in to support the church this way!

**Family Camps at Friedenswald** continue this week! Prayers for safe travels, connections with old friends and new, and renewal in creation for the FMC families spending time in the Peaceful Woods.

**Mary Edmiston** will be coordinating the **Nursery** ministry this year. Check out the most recent issue of the Menno-Life to see pictures of Mary and some of her crew who helped sort, clean, and reorganize toys last month. Better yet, be a volunteer in the nursery this fall and see their work!

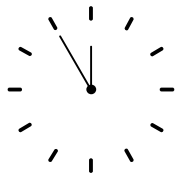
To follow our Safe Church policy, two unrelated adults must be in the nursery for parents to leave their children with volunteers. Parents will be asked to remain in the nursery when there aren't two adult nursery workers. **To volunteer**, sign up here <http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers> or on the church website.

**MCC School Kit Drive:** "Back to School" sales are starting up again. School kit supplies are much cheaper, and easier to find, at this time. MCC is hoping to collect 10,000 school kits during the month of August. We will collect kits starting now through the end of August.

Lists are on the bulletin board by the library or on the MCC website. One change this year is 4 pens, instead of just 2. We will have metal sharpeners available in the supply bin for you to add to your kits, if you want to use them. (If you have extra metal sharpeners that you purchase, you feel free to add them to our supply.) \*If donating money, please write "MCC KITS" on the memo line.

The **Mutual Aid Fund** balance is down to about **\$2,000**. Affordable housing including utilities continues to be a significant need in our community. In 2023, FMC has provided over \$2,000 in support for housing and utilities. In total, we have spent over **\$8,000** so far this year to support members and community connections including housing, medical expenses, food, car payments and gas, and immigration. **Rich Bucher**, our Everence Advocate, continues to apply for Sharing Fund grants, and we have received **\$1,600 in grants** for the Mutual Aid Fund in 2023. We need your ongoing financial support of this fund as an important part of FMC's mission in the Bluffton community.

# Ministry Minute!



Your **Community Market receipts** translate to dollars for the **youth!** Our grocery store supports our community by giving 1% of qualifying purchases back to the non-profit groups who turn in their receipts. There is a basket to place your receipts in the Fellowship Hall by the church office. All those receipts add up to about **\$500** each time we turn them in! All those receipts also need to be straightened, bundled, recorded on a spreadsheet, and totaled to turn them in. Julie Mackey volunteered this way for years, and more recently, Gloria Hernandez Bucher and Rita Dietrich have helped. If you're **interested in helping out** by either **bundling receipts** or **entering them on a spreadsheet**, contact Carrie Mast or the church office.

*Happy Birthday!*

July 23 - Cheri Slotter

July 27 - Phil Blount

July 28 - Joan LoBianco

Daryl Richard

July 29- Sam Diller

Tami Hardy

Lawrence Matthews

John Rich



*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, July 23, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

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

Worship: Carrie Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

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

## This Week

### Tuesday, July 25

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Caring Connections, 11 a.m. Parlor

### Wednesday, July 26

Women's Bible Study, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

## Next Sunday, July 30

Social Justice Sunday #7: What Then Shall We Do? The Ukraine War

Worship: Perry Bush preaching

Social Justice potluck, 12:00 p.m.

Lectionary: Genesis 29:15-28 and Psalm 105:1-11, 45b or Psalm 128;  
1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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.