

Seventh Sunday of the Social Justice Series
What Then Shall We Do? Justice and the Ukraine War

July 30, 2023

Gathering

Wind Chimes Evan Blount

Welcome and announcements Rich Bucher

Prelude Frederic Chopin
Prelude in E Minor
Anne Marie Spelman

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 791 *Let Justice Flow Down*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 105

One: O give thanks to the Lord; call on God's name;

Many: make known God's deeds among the peoples.

One: Sing to the Lord, sing praises to God;

Many: tell of all God's wonderful works.

One: Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord
rejoice.

Many: Seek the Lord and God's strength;

All: seek God's presence continually.

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Phil Yoder

Hymn VT 550 *God Who Touches Earth with Beauty*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Community Prayer Carrie Mast

Special Music Kurt Bestor
Prayer of the Children
Doug Luginbill, Jeff Boehr, Darryl Nester, Ray Raeburn

Scripture Jane Steinmetz
1 Corinthians 13:6-12

Message Perry Bush
*Through a Glass Darkly:
Peace, Justice, and the War in Ukraine*

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 150 *Gentle God, When We Are Driven*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory Frederic Chopin
Prelude in C Minor

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 712 *Beauty for Brokenness*

*Wind Chimes

*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

July 30, 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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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

Nursery Workers Today SS: *This could be you!!!*
Worship: *Scan QR code to sign-up.*

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



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

Video: Ray Raeburn	7/16/23 - 7/23/23
Sound: Melissa Friesen	Reported Volunteer hours: 45
Chancel: Harnishes & Sara Brenner	Attendance: 86
	Online views - Live: 20 Recorded: 26



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

The family of Darrell Huber would like to express our thanks to the FMC family. We appreciated your thoughts, prayers, cards, food, well wishes and hugs. Thank you! Kay, Megan, Kaleigh and Zeke

Lowell Hostetler underwent surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo on Tuesday after a fall at home last Friday that resulted in a broken neck. He returned home Thursday. Many friends and family have stepped up to support both **Lowell** and **Marty**. Prayers for healing are welcome!

Marilyn Diller continues to reside at Betty House and is very appreciative of the visits from people in our congregation. If you make a visit, late morning or late afternoon (after 2:30) work well in Marilyn's schedule. Others from FMC who live in Betty House include **Ernie Porzelius** and **Terry Chappell**.

Carrie Mast will be on vacation July 31 - August 6. 

Mark Suderman has announced that this next year will be his last as Director of Music at FMC. Both he and Elaine will be retiring at some point in the summer/fall of 2024. Soon after their retirement, they will be moving to New Mexico. Mark is especially looking forward to one more great year with the Chancel Choir. Please consider joining the choir this fall. **Mark and Elaine** will continue to enjoy the wonderful fellowship, worship, and friendship here at church during these next months.

The Mennonite Church USA Delegate Assembly acted on three proposed organizational resolutions at its meeting on July 7-8, 2023, in Kansas City, Missouri. The assembly of more than 300 registered delegates approved resolutions to clarify the MC USA bylaws and streamline its agency structure, while narrowly voting down a proposal to meet less frequently. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/news/delegates-vote

The last **Women's Bible Study** on August 23 will consider Genesis 34 and the novel *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant. Contact the church office if you need a copy of the book.

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 bit.ly/43lZWZu or scan the QR Code on the back page of the bulletin.

June 2023 Financial Report.

As of June 30, **giving has exceeded spending by \$15,861** thanks partly to a very generous contribution in May. So, year-to-date, compared to last year at this time, our giving continues to be ahead. Please continue to give generously! We will let you know if we fall behind and keep you informed of any unexpected expenditures. The June report is posted on the bulletin 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 October following the September report.

Annual Tri-Church Worship Service: First, Grace, and Lima Mennonite Churches will gather together for the second annual Tri-Church worship service on **Sunday, August 13**. Worship will be held at **10:30 a.m. in the Pandora Village Park** with a potluck following.

- Bring your own chairs, blankets, table service, and a dish to share (no electricity for crockpots; water will be provided).
- There will be a pick-up one pitch softball game (using tennis balls), and a disc golf tournament. There are also basketball and shuffleboard courts. (bring your equipment)
- Bring an envelope for your offering or designate your check accordingly. Members can designate offerings to their home congregation or as a love offering to the Village of Pandora.
- Hymn accompaniment is organized by Wendy Chappell-Dick and will consist of anyone who wants to play an instrument showing up at 10 a.m. If you would like information on what songs will be sung, contact the church office.
- Tri-church Men's choir will be singing two songs. If you would like to be a part of it, come and practice at 9:50am. Copies of the music are available in the office.
- Worship location is accessible.

Ministry Minute!

Marking Adult Transitions

At FMC we have rituals that mark transitions for our children: Babies are dedicated, 3rd graders get Bibles, 16 year olds get key chains when they start driving, and

when you graduate from high school, you receive an academic study Bible. Beyond weddings and funerals, we really do not mark the transition of adults, and there are a lot of transitions that we go through in adulthood. I was recently introduced to a curriculum for a cohort of 10 people of a variety of adult ages, to reflect and ritually mark whatever transition a person is going through in their life. The program consists of 5 Sunday school classes, and two 2 hr evening retreats on either end of those 5 weeks. The final retreat consists of a ritual that marks the ending of one aspect of your life, and blesses the start of what is next. If you are interested - let Pastor Phil know.

Example of transitions: entering a new decade | disability/physical limitation | job change or searching for meaningful vocation | letting go of a life dream | end of schooling | retirement | miscarriage/stillbirth | embracing singleness | end of an important relationship through death, divorce, geographic move | coming out | embracing childlessness | empty nest | elderhood | spiritual crisis or reorientation | grandparenthood

Happy Birthday!

**August 3 - Carter Phillips
Rachel Skilliter
Bob Suter**

August 4 - Ginger Theis

August 5 - Steve Phillips

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.

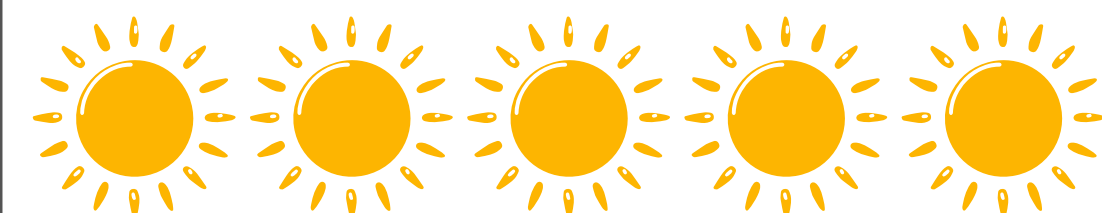
follow us



Today, Sunday, July 30, 2023
Coffee Time, 9 a.m.
Sunday School open to all youth & adults, 9:15 a.m. Assembly Room
Worship: Perry Bush preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Social Justice potluck, 12 p.m. Fellowship Hall

This Week
Tuesday, August 1
Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Next Sunday, August 6
Worship – Phil Yoder preaching
Lectionary: Genesis 32:22-31 and Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5 ;
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.



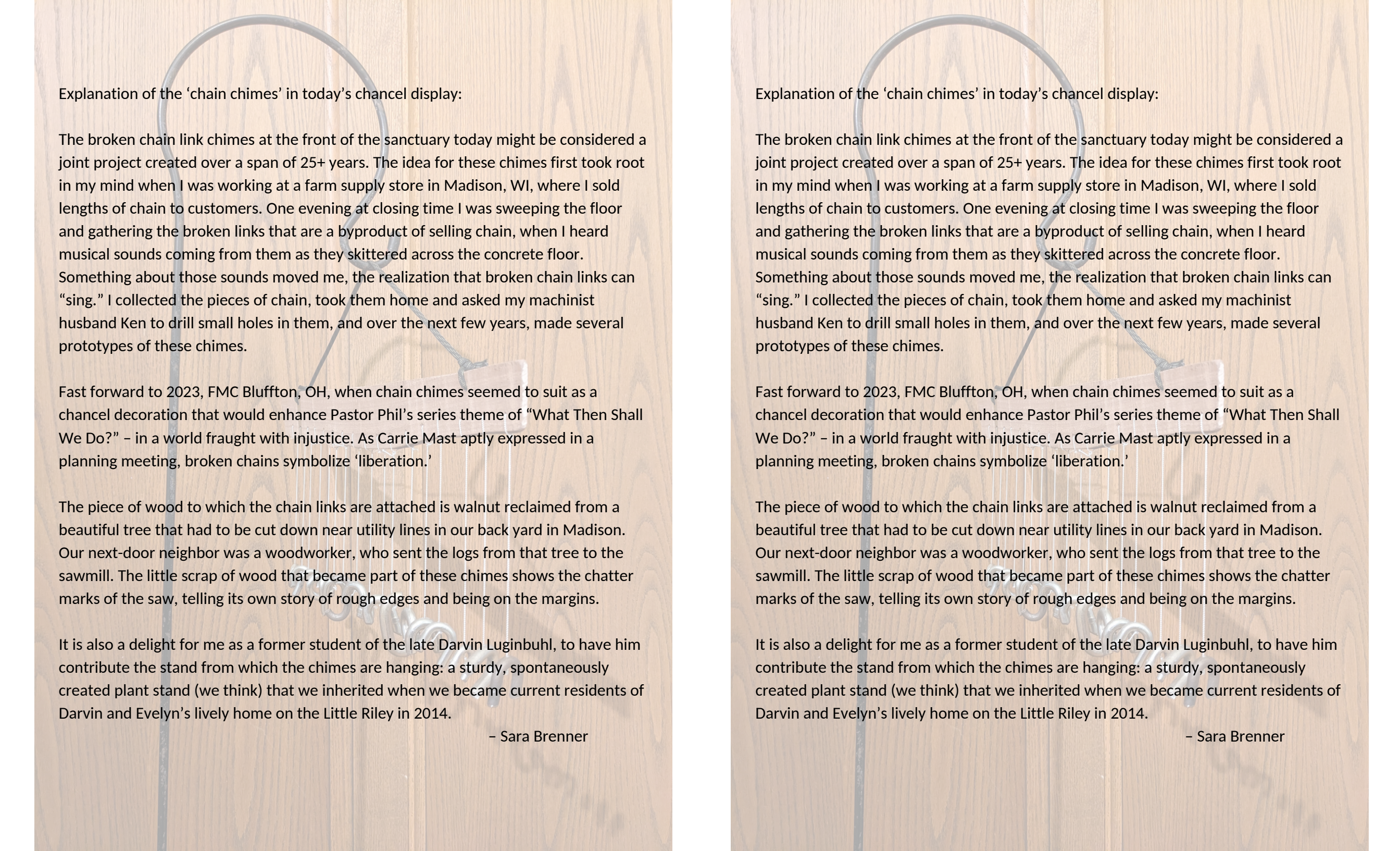
Welcome to our worship service today.

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.

A pair of chain chimes hanging from a wooden stand against a wood-grain background. The chimes consist of a circular metal ring at the top, from which several thin metal chains hang down. Each chain has a small metal link at the bottom. The chains are attached to a rectangular wooden block. The background is a light-colored wood grain.

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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