

# Eighth Sunday of the Social Justice Series

August 20, 2023

## Justice for the Elderly

### Gathering

Wind Chimes Lena Skilliter  
Welcome and announcements Isaac Schumacher  
Prelude Sing a New World Into Being (VT 809) Ludwig van Beethoven  
String Ensemble: Theo Andreas, Wendy Chappell-Dick, Melissa Friesen, Monica Harnish, Paul Neufeld Weaver, Lynda Nyce, Anne Marie Spelman, Junia Spelman, Phil Yoder

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn VT 217 *Hark! the Glad Sound!*

\*Responsive Reading - Psalm 133

One: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**Many: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,**

One: on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

**Many: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.**

**All: For there the Lord ordained God's blessing, life forevermore.**

### Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Anne Marie Spelman  
Hymn HWB 621 *Jesus, Friend So Kind and Gentle*  
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Community Prayer Carrie Mast

Scripture Matthew 25: 31-46 & Psalm 71: 1-18a Jane Steinmetz

Special Music *When Memory Fades* Jean Sibelius  
Women's Choir acc. by Ruth Graber and Louise Matthews, psaltry, Joyce Hostetler, hammered dulcimer, and Wendy Chappell-Dick, guitar

Message *Aging, Respect, Compassion* Elizabeth Kelly

### Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response VT 520 *When Aging Takes Its Toll*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing (VT 359)* Psalmodia Evangelica

Dedication Prayer

### Sending

\*Hymn of Sending VT 649 *When Memory Fades*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*~ VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)*

*~ HWB - Hymnal: A Worship Book (Blue Bound Book)*

**First Mennonite Church**  
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH  
419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org)

**First Mennonite Church**

**August 20, 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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**Custodian** Shawna Yoder  
[shawna@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:shawna@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

8/6/23 - 8/13/23

**Sound:** Chris Gott

Reported Volunteer hours:

**Chancel:** Jane Steinmetz & Sara Brenner

Attendance: 160-170

Online views - Live: 35 Recorded: 18



*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.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Jim Porzelius**, the son of **Ernie Porzelius** and brother of **Joan LoBianco** passed away on Monday August due to lung cancer. Prayers for the family as they mourn his loss.

All are invited to join a **Women's Bible Study** this **Wednesday**, August 23 from **6:30-7:30 p.m.** in the **Fellowship Hall**. This is the third and last gathering in a series meeting the 4th Wednesday of each month this summer. The Bible study is focusing on women's issues, and all are welcome regardless of gender and whether or not you've attended the previous sessions. Kaleigh Coffman will serve as facilitator. This week's session is titled "**Women's Role in the Bible**" and will focus on **Genesis 34** and the novel **The Red Tent** by Anita Diamant. ***If you need a copy of the book, contact the church office.***

**NEXT SUNDAY:** We will be partaking in **Communion** next week. 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 and groceries to many people. Thank you for your ongoing support.

**Congregational Meeting:** There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship next Sunday, Aug. 27th for consideration of the following motion from Leadership Circle: **First Mennonite Church, Bluffton calls Carrie Mast as Associate Pastor to begin a 3-year term starting on Sept 1, 2023.**

**Church Staff meetings** have permanently moved to Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

**George & Anita Lehman's** new address is 139 Rainbow Drive. Bluffton, OH.

**Continued Learning Elder Organization. J.P. Schumacher** has organized a new series of courses for individuals who would like to continue learning past the traditional student age. **C.L.E.O.** will provide four weekly courses beginning Monday, September 11 here at FMC. Register at <http://fmcbluffton.org/2023-c-l-e-o-fall-registration-form/> or pick up a form in the office. Speakers are **Fred Steiner** and **Ruth Naylor**.

**Music Ensemble Rehearsals 2023** - *Music Ensemble Rehearsals to begin in September: note the dates, times, locations, and ages for the church's music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship for our congregation and encourage others to join. We would gladly welcome new additions to the ensembles and will greatly enjoy the return of former members.*

- **Chancel Choir** (adults of all ages) begins on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. (Mark Suderman, director) – sanctuary.
- **Adult Bells** (adults of all ages) and **Youth Bells** (Grades 7-12) - both begin on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively (Ray Raeburn, director) – assembly room.
- **Cherub Choir** (3 yr. olds-2nd graders) begins on Sunday, September 10 at 9:15-9:45a.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- **Jubilate** (3rd-5th graders) begins on Wednesday, September 13 at 3:00-3:45pm (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- **Youth Choir** (6th grade and up) will meet on Sunday, September 10 at 8:30-9:15a.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
  - o *Parents with new children in a choir are welcome to stay as needed.*

**A Grief Support Group** offers help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. The group meets on Thursday evenings 7-8:30 p.m. from September 7 to December 7 in the Bluffton Town Hall, 3rd floor. Contact Pastor Dick Potter 567.204.0647 to sign up.

You are invited to the **Fiesta Familiar** on **Sunday, October 1**, from **4 – 6 p.m.** There will be food, games (including piñata), music, worship, and fellowship. Fiesta Familiar is sponsored by **Brazo en Brazo**, a ministry of five area Mennonite churches to provide services to immigrant families in our area. The event will be held at **Lima Mennonite Church**, 1318 N. Main St, Lima, Ohio. This is our first joint event since Covid, although Brazo en Brazo has continued to provide important services to area families including translation & interpreting, immigration assistance, transportation to appointments, school enrollment help, and tax assistance. If you are able to **bring cookies** as part of FMC's contribution, please contact **Paul Neufeld Weaver** or sign up on the list in Fellowship Hall.

The August 2023 Central District Conference **Connector** issue is out. Copies are available in the Fellowship Hall.

# Ministry Minute!



What's black and white and red all over? A newspaper!! Many of us aren't getting hard copy newspapers like we used to anymore. Sometimes though, a newspaper is just what is needed for that messy job, crafting project, window washing



job, or packing material. To help supply us with newspapers when needed, a bin has been placed under the table outside the office door. Feel free to put any extra newspapers that you don't want in it or take some newspapers if you need some.

**40<sup>th</sup>** *Happy Anniversary!*  
August 20 - Bill & Janet Schroeder  
40 Years

*Happy Birthday!*

August 20 - Bruce Steingass

August 21 - Mustaq Ahmed  
Kay Huber

August 23 - Jeff Boehr

August 25 - Heidrun Awad

August 26 - Jane Weaver



*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, August 20, 2023**  
Coffee Time, 9 a.m.  
Sunday School open to all youth & adults, 9:15 a.m. Assembly Room  
Worship: Elizabeth Kelly preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
Social Justice potluck, 12 p.m. Fellowship Hall

**This Week**  
**Monday, August 21**  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor  
**Tuesday, August 22**  
Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary  
**Wednesday, August 23**  
Women's Bible Study, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

**Next Sunday, August 27**  
Worship: Carrie Mast 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  
Congregational Meeting, following worship  
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.