

5 PRIORITIES: Follow Jesus in the Anabaptist Tradition

September 3, 2023

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Carrie Mast

Prelude

Prelude No. 9 In D Minor
Laura Hartzler

Robert D. Vandall

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 10 *Here in This Place*

*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 God, sing praises to God;

Many: **tell of all God's wonderful works.**

One: Glory in God's holy name;

Many: **let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.**

All: ***Praise the Lord!***

Telling God's Story

Special Music

My Day Vischer, Heineke & Davis
Anna Hartzler (voice), Ben Hartzler (guitar)

Conversation with Children

Phil Yoder

Hymn

VT 516 *Jesus Loves Me*
(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

Scripture

Matthew 5:1-12

Jan Emmert

Message

Kingdom Flipper Upside-downer

Phil Yoder

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 290 *Blessed Are You*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

arr. Richard Kingsmore

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 606 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

First Mennonite Church
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Lead Pastor Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624
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Associate Pastor 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
sudermanme@bluffton.edu

Technology & Media Coordinator Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769
ray@fmcbluffton.org

Custodian Shawna Yoder
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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

Nursery Workers Today SS: Judy Diller/Jean Miller
Worship: Mary Ina Hooley/Jonathan Spelman

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Carmen Ordonez/Cheri Slotter
Worship: Sunita Hooley/Trusty Schumacher

Nursery sign-up here: <http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers>



Video: Ray Raeburn	8/20/23 - 8/27/23
Sound: Chris Gott	Reported Volunteer hours: 38
Chancel: Ray Person	Attendance: 140
	Online views - Live: 25 Recorded: 36

First Mennonite Church
September 3, 2023



KINGDOM FLIPPER UPSIDE-DOWNER
'FIVE PRIORITIES'

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 Leadership Circle has voted unanimously to **call Carrie Mast as Associate Pastor** for a 3-year term, starting September 1. Our decision included the fact that the 129 ballots that were submitted by the congregation **unanimously** supported the motion to call her. We look forward to continuing our work with Carrie and the rest of the staff in the coming years. - Ray Person, Moderator

TODAY: Sunday School resumes for all ages! Children and youth will gather together due to the usual lower attendance on Labor Day weekend. We'll gather on the lawn if the weather is nice or in the ViP Room if it's not so nice. **Special note:** the **JHY Room** has **relocated to the basement** next to the nursery and across from the ViP Room and the **Faithful Living** adult SS class has their own space in the former JHY Room on the **3rd floor**. All are welcome to check out these new digs!

MONDAY The **church office** will be **closed** for the Labor Day holiday.

THURSDAY: FMC is hosting the **Community Meal** at the Senior Citizens Center.

The **Tri-Church** worship service love offering for the **Village of Pandora** totaled \$230.00. The offering was donated on behalf of First Mennonite, Grace Mennonite, and Lima Mennonite to the Pandora Village Park Improvement fund.

A reminder from the **Transportation Ministry: Avoid parking in the loading zone** on Jackson Street. The Mennonite Home bus is up and running again and needs that space to unload and pick up some of our church members.

Yoga with Emily: Join **Emily Hilty** on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as she leads yoga lessons here at FMC. Classes are an hour and will run from September 5- to October 17, 2023. Classes are \$12/ session. Come as you are, no experience needed. If interested contact Emily at warriorfromwithin1@gmail.com.

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, Gerald Mast, and Ruth Naylor**.

Please look through the **Lost and Found** basket under the mailboxes and claim your belongings. Unclaimed items will be donated to Et Cetera.

Michael Bailey, visiting assistant professor of psychology; **Heather Koontz '97**, psychotherapist; and **Laurel Neufeld Weaver**, assistant professor of social work, will share "**Emotional Wellness: A Panel Discussion**" during Bluffton University's **Forum** at 11 a.m. on **Sept. 5** in Bluffton's Yoder Recital Hall. The discussion will introduce Bluffton's 2023-24 Civic Engagement theme: Exploring the Continuum of Emotional Wellness. *The presentation is free and open to the public.*

- **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.

Women's Retreat at Friedenswald (September 15 - 17) -- Come to camp to enjoy a weekend with other women at a camp just for us! The theme this year is: Spacious Places: Contemplative, Creative, Restorative. Finding rest in stories, art making, being outside, connection and community. Spiritual director, Karla Minter will be providing input during our times of worship and will incorporate spiritual practices that foster mindfulness. Brooke Rothshank, artist, will be facilitating two workshops focused on integrating art and gratitude. One will be making mini zines using pens and markers to write and illustrate answering the question, "What makes a good day? " The second session will involve water color painting in response to prompts. There will be other activities offered - including some crafts, boat rides, time for kayaking, trail walks, as well as free time to spend however you like. To register, read more about speakers, and see a draft of the schedule - <https://friedenswald.org/retreats/>. There are scholarship funds available to any who would like to attend and would appreciate that support (see registration form). If you have any questions, please call 269-476-9744 or email program@friedenswald.org

Ministry Minute!

Our congregation offers **children and youth Sunday School** as one of the essential ways we want to support the faith formation of our children. Our model for scheduling teachers has adapted to our lives where many adults are working full-time jobs and more activities outside of church are available for children and youth. Teachers commit to teaching 1x a month and no holidays. A gathering time for the preschool and primary classes from 9:15 - 9:30 a.m. means families have a little grace in their arrival times. A big shout-out to all of our children and youth SS teachers this year! **Sarah Phillips, Melinda Estell, Judy Steiner, Mary Ina Hooley, Karen McCullough, Ruth Naylor, Victoria Woods-Yee, Jonathan Spelman, Isaac Schumacher, Amber Steiner, Alison King, Kendra Nickel, Jen Benroth, Melissa Friesen, and Carrie Mast.** If you're interested in supporting our children and youth as a teacher, sub, or helper, contact Carrie Mast: carrie@fmcbluffton.org or 419.230.1568.



September 3 - Ruth Naylor
September 4 - Paul Neufeld Weaver
September 5 - Wendell Miller
Elam Suter
September 6 - Peter Suter
September 7 - Ken Graber
Landon Novak
September 8 - Rachel Diller
Melissa Friesen
Denny 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, September 3, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Sunday School resumes 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

Monday, September 4

OFFICE CLOSED for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 5

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, September 6

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

Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Youth Bells, 7 p.m. Assembly Room

Thursday, September 7

Community Meal, 5 p.m. Senior Citizens Center

Pastor Phil, Mark Suderman & Ray Raeburn Out of office

Next Sunday, September 10

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching

Lectionary: Exod. 12:1-14 and Psalm 149; Ezek. 33:7-11 and Psalm 119:33-40;

Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

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.

Nursery care is available for young children during Sunday School and worship.

The nursery is located in the basement.