

5 PRIORITIES: Extend Hospitality

September 17, 2023

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Melissa Friesen

Prelude

Your Strong Word
LuAnn Stuckey

arr. K. Hildebrand

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 34 *We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Exodus 15

One: I will sing to the Lord, for God has triumphed gloriously;

Many: horse and rider God has thrown into the sea.

One: The Lord is my strength and my might,

Many: and the Lord has become my salvation;

One: this is my God, and I will praise my Savior;

Many: my ancestor's God,

All: and I will exalt God.

Telling God's Story

Special Music

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

Chancel Choir, Mark Suderman (conductor), LuAnn Stuckey (pianist)

Conversation with Children

Jen Benroth

Hymn

VT 516 *Jesus Loves Me*

(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Pastor Carrie

Scripture

2 Kings 4:8-37

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

Message

Strangers Getting Stranger

Pastor Phil

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 778 *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Foundation (II)

arr. J. Eggert

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 797 *We Are People of God's Peace*

*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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Technology & Media Coordinator Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769
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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: Amy Shadbolt/ Trusty Schumacher
Worship: Mary Edmiston/Tess Eger

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Monica Harnish/Gerald Mast
Worship: Victoria Woods-Yee/Melissa Friesen

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



Video: Ray Raeburn

9/3/23 - 9/10/23

Sound: Kevin Cluts

Reported Volunteer hours: 30

Chancel: Steve & Monica Harnish

Attendance: 146

Online views - Live: 24 Recorded: 16

First Mennonite Church

September 17, 2023



STRANGERS GETTING STRANGER
'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

Thank you for your prayers and expressions of care during these past months with the loss of my mother. We are very grateful for our FMC community.

- **Jan Wiebe (and Jonathan Andreas, Theo, Seth, and Isaac)**

Phyllis Reynolds is recovering from surgery. Prayers for Phyllis are welcome as she continues to navigate ongoing health challenges.

TODAY: All **Mentor pairs** are invited to a mentoring event this afternoon from **3 - 4 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall to welcome our new members! We will have a “snack potluck”, so please coordinate with your mentor pair to bring something to share with the group. Check your email for more information coming your way!

If you see some empty seats in the pews, you might be noticing the absence of some FMC women who have traveled to the Peaceful Woods this weekend for the annual **Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald**. May this weekend be one of renewal and reconnection!

Fall Festival is coming next Saturday, **September 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.** to **Maple Crest**. There will be activities for children and adults including an antique tractor show, fishing derby, games, and of course food. Hot dogs and chicken sandwiches will be sold in the Patio Room, with the proceeds going towards purchasing more outdoor furniture for Memorial Home residents. Maple Crest's traditional apple crisp and cinnamon ice cream will also be available. Come enjoy a fun family event!

The Swiss Historical Society seeks someone to prepare the **ham and bean soup** this week that will be served next Saturday during the Fall Festival. **Judy Kingsley** has the recipe and can be contacted at 419-236-5678 or hiltykingsley@gmail.com.

NEXT SUNDAY: The ninth Sunday of our **Social Justice Series, What Then Shall We do?** is next week, September 24, when **Jan Wiebe** will open discussion on the **US Justice System** during the sermon. All are invited to a **potluck lunch** following worship to continue the conversation around tables. Bring your own tableservice. Paper products will be available.

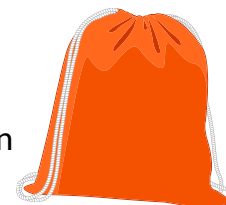
Volunteers for Our Daily Bread this Tuesday, Sept. 19, should contact Carolyn Rich at 419-969-4965 for a ride.

The SHY is looking for adults to simply be present with them on Wednesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall from 7:30-9 p.m. as they hang out doing homework together, playing games, snacking, and just generally messing around. To follow our Safe Sanctuary policy, two adults need to be present when gathering with the youth. Join Carrie Mast, the other adult. Bring a book, do your own homework, or scroll on your phone right along with the youth! Social interaction not required! However, if you're an extrovert living with introverts, this could be a beautiful outlet! All are welcome! No ongoing commitment! Unless you want to! Curious? Text, call, or email Carrie Mast at 419.230.1568 or carrie@fmcbluffton.org.

Bluffton University's Grace Albrecht Gallery will host the art exhibit “A Line is a Point” by Kathleen Pahl, Sept. 25-Oct. 22, 2023. Using color, organic forms and lines, Kathleen Pahl explores the complex intersections of life and death and our relationship with the unknowable. The exhibit, featuring oil on canvas paintings, is free and open to the public. Gallery hours in the Sauder Visual Arts Center are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. A reception for the artist will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 21 with an artist talk scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m.



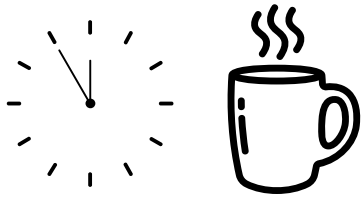
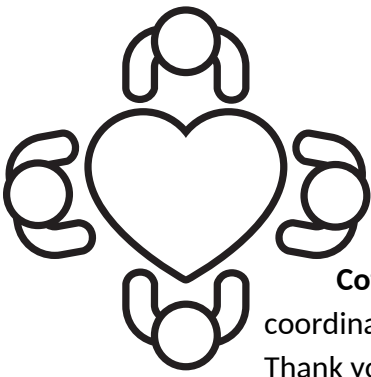
Our final total of **school kits** was **285 bags!** Thanks to everyone who donated, sewed bags, filled, packed, or transferred the boxes. Hygiene and relief kit collection will begin in mid-March. (Keep sewing those bags! Contact Jean Miller or Sue Schaaf with any questions.)



The **United States Census Bureau** announced last week that the **Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) rate rose** from 7.8% in 2021 to 12.4% in 2022 – the first increase since 2010. SPM is a measure of economic deprivation. "The church has a crucial role in responding to increased poverty rates by addressing root causes and advocating for systemic change as well as providing compassionate support to those in need. Our collective efforts, guided by love and justice, are needed to ensure poverty is not just alleviated but eradicated." -Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, MC USA denominational minister of Peace & Justice. Learn more about the impact of poverty and how you can respond at MC USA's Cost of Poverty webpage:

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/ministry/peacebuilding/learn-pray-join/cost-of-poverty/>.

Ministry Minute!



It's not just the coffee! One of the acts of hospitality at FMC that is greatly appreciated each week, are those who prepare

Coffee Time on Sunday mornings. Thank you to **Walt Paquin** for coordinating the coffee ministry, and to everyone who jumps in to help out. Thank you **Ray Person, Lori Nester, and Todd Rainey**, our frequent fill-ins!

This ministry reaches across the age spectrum both in participation - hot chocolate is always available - and serving others: **Anna Hartzler** and **Junia Spelman** began helping by washing cups this summer and have continued on into the school year. A special shout-out to Anna who has been keeping the old men's table in line...

Happy Birthday!



**September 17 - Mary Edmiston
Jane Steinmetz**
September 18 - Beth Boehr
September 20 - Ansel Edmiston
**September 22 - Ryan DeMarco
Leah Niekamp**



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



hello FALL

Today, Sunday, September 17, 2023

Youth Choir, 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Children's Choir Room
Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages, 9:15 a.m.

Cherub Choir, 9:15 a.m. Children's Choir Room

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 18

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, September 19

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Our Daily Bread, 10:45 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 20

Jubilate, 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. Children's Choir Room

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

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

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

SHY, 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, September 24

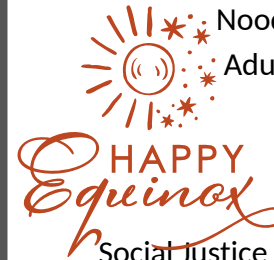
Social Justice Sunday #9: What Then Shall We Do? The US Justice System

Worship: Jan Wiebe preaching

Social Justice potluck, noon Fellowship Hall

Lectionary: Exodus 16:2-15 and Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11:

Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16



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.