

5 PRIORITIES: Engage Scripture in Participatory Worship

October 8, 2023

Gathering

Welcome and announcements Victoria Woods-Yee

Prelude *Prelude in B Major* Frederic Chopin
Anne Marie Spelman

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 25 *Brethren, We Have Met to Worship*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 106

One: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,

Many: for God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord or declare all God's praise?

Many: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

One: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

Many: And let all the people say, "Amen."

All: Praise the Lord!

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Teri Steinmetz

Hymn VT 519 *God, Give Me Faith like a Child*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 3 going back to seats)

Child Dedication Flora Saloma Yoder
Parents Phil & Chaska Yoder

Responsive Reading VT 970

Community Prayer Carrie Mast

Scripture Acts 16:16-40 Julie Mackey

Message *The Practice of Meeting* Phil Yoder

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 594 *Over My Head*

Jeff and Marlyce Gundy

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Song Without Words, Op. 19 No. 4* Felix Mendelssohn

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 70 *Praise God*

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

~ VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

To parents of young children: If you're feeling anxious about having them in church, God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel like you have to suppress those wiggles. Consider sitting closer to the front, where it's easier for your little ones to engage. Quietly explain the parts of worship and actions of the worship leader, musicians, pastor, and others who are involved in the service. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn their behavior by mimicking you. If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, please feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

First Mennonite Church
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Lead Pastor Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624
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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:
Worship: Sunita Hooley/Rebecca Estell

Nursery Workers Next Week SS:
Worship: Mary Ina Hooley

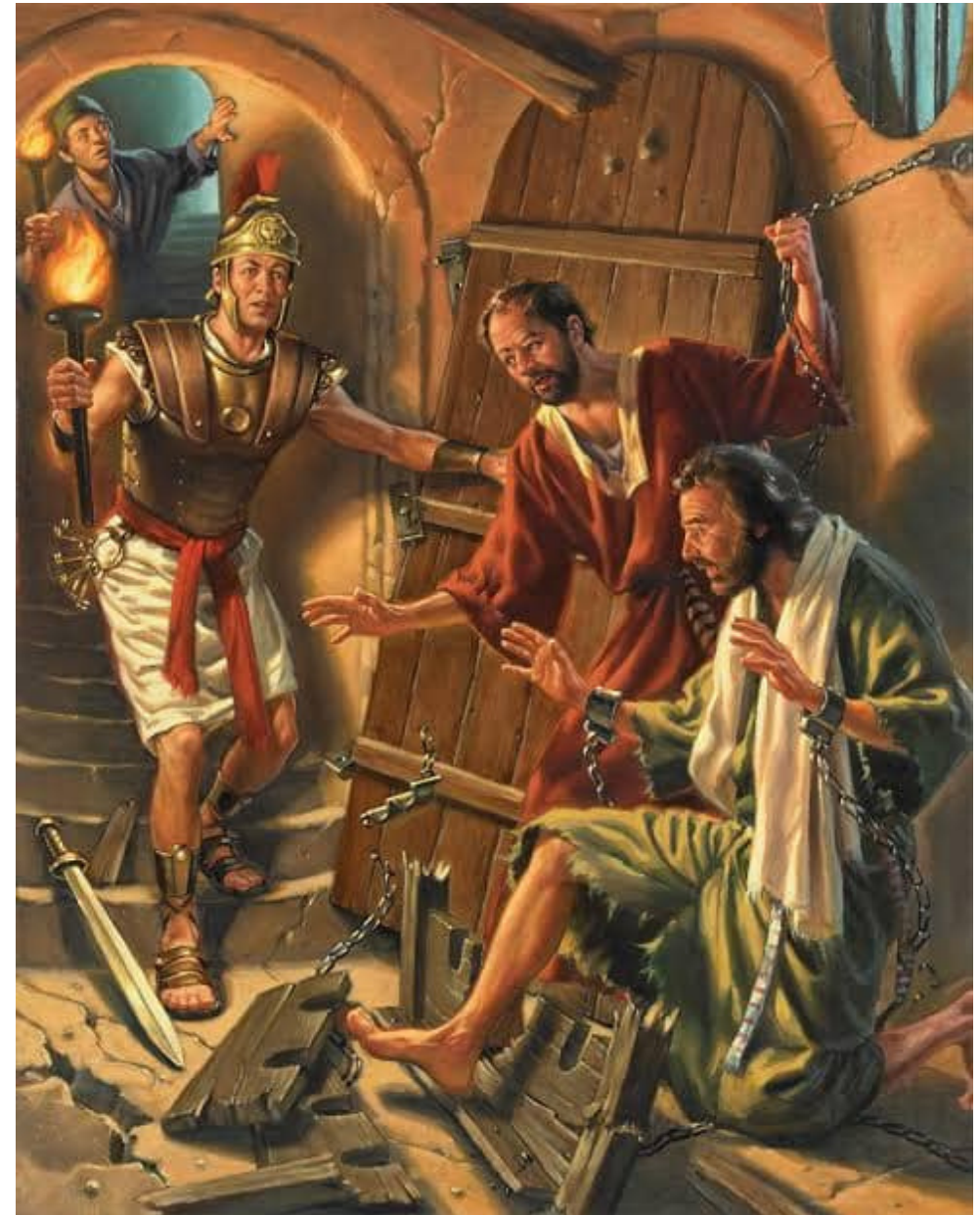
Nursery sign-up here: <http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers>



Video: Ray Raeburn	9/17/23 - 10/1/23
Sound: Kevin Cluts	Reported Volunteer hours: 30.5
Chancel: Todd Rainey	Attendance: 148
	Online views - Live: 21 Recorded: 17 Total Viewing Hrs: 34.5

First Mennonite Church

October 8, 2023



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

Directory Updates:

- **Lawrence Matthews'** new email address lawrence.matthews@myyahoo.com
- **Ron & Linda Headings'** temporary address is 3100 McComick St, Wichita KS 67213.

RESCHEDULED: The Office will be closed from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this **Monday**, October 9, for the rescheduled Staff Retreat.

The **Advent Planning Team** will meet **Tuesday**, October 10, at **7 p.m.** in the Parlor.

FMC Caring Connections is hosting a **Fall Celebration** at 3 p.m. Saturday, October 14 in the Patio Room at Maple Crest. This event is for FMC members and friends “of a certain age” and older. The gathering will include a hymn sing led by a men’s quartet, tasty snacks, and good conversation. Your invitation card includes a number where you can RSVP if possible. We hope you can come!

JHY & SHY! Meet at **Suter’s Corn Maze next Saturday**, October 14 at **12:30 p.m.** Bring \$5 for the maze. If you want to purchase refreshments, bring \$ for that as well. We’ll plan to be out of the maze and finished checking out the activities by 2:30 p.m. If you need a ride, text Carrie Mast: 419.230.1568.

NEXT SUNDAY: The tenth Sunday of our Social Justice Series, What Then Shall We do? is next week, October 15, when Gary Wetherill will open discussion on Indigenous Justice during the sermon. All are invited to a potluck lunch following worship to continue the conversation around tables. Bring your own table service. Paper products will be available.

We are updating the **Shared Items** list on the website. If you currently have items on the list, check to make sure you still have the items noted. If there are changes that need to be made, contact the church office. Password: **fmcshares**.

If you are interested in participating in a **CPR training** hosted by FMC sometime in October, contact the church office. Cost will be \$25 per person. Once interest is determined, a date will be set.

If you would like a **hearing assist unit** to improve your worship experience, reach out to **Ray Raeburn** or another staff member. If you have a hearing assist unit you take home, let us know so that we may track our inventory. You may still keep them at home.

Mennonite Church USA has launched “Learn, Pray, Join: End Gun Violence,” an initiative to bring awareness to the complex issue that intersects with poverty, racism, discrimination, criminal justice, education and the environment.

Anabaptism and U.S. Gun Culture 

October 12, 2023
7 p.m. ET/4 p.m. PT on Zoom

A webinar hosted by Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz, with theologians Malinda Berry and Andrew Suderman.
Intérprete al español disponible.

[REGISTER NOW](#)



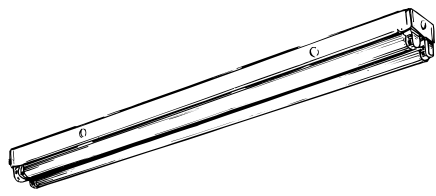
END GUN VIOLENCE
Learn. Pray. Join



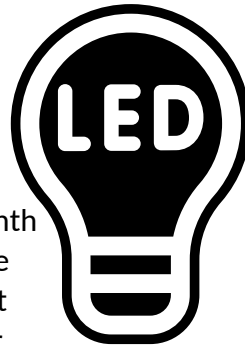
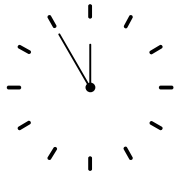
FMC is hosting a **Fall Festival** on **October 31, 2023** from **5-7 p.m.** for children ages 0 to 12. This is a community event and will include a number of fun activities, food, and candy. We are looking for volunteers to help set up stations, decorate, and help serve food. If you are interested in helping or have any decorations you are willing to donate, please contact the office.

Camp Friedenswald’s Restoration Retreat October 20–22 is coming up! If you see the need for restoration in our world and desire connection with others interested in the same, consider participating in this weekend retreat. You will leave feeling more connected, inspired, and empowered to work for positive change in your community and the world beyond. **This retreat is open to all ages.** Interested individuals, families, youth groups, green teams, and small groups are all welcome. Scholarships available through Camp. Weekend Facilitator **Sarah Werner** teaches ecotheology and environmental justice courses at PATHWAYS, a theological education program affiliated with the United Church of Christ, and also works as the communications coordinator for CDC and pastors Olentangy Wild Church in Columbus. She has an MDiv from Candler School of Theology at Emory University and a PhD in Religion and Nature from the University of Florida. Each participant will **receive a signed copy** of her book, ***Rooted Faith: Practices for Living Well on a Fragile Planet***, which offers resources for Christians on how to connect their faith with the earth and better understand the earthy context in which the Bible was written.

The 37th annual Blaze of Lights, A Journey Through Time, is Saturday, November 25, in downtown Bluffton! **Vocal groups (3-8 members) are being sought** to provide all types of Christmas music before and after the traditional parade. These groups can be acappella or accompanied by acoustic guitar and should be prepared to sing 3-4 songs. To sign up, or for information, email Kevin Gratz at kmgratz@gmail.com.



Ministry Minute!



Rodney Dyck began replacing fluorescent light fixtures in the church last month as part of his work on **Trustees**. As bulbs and ballasts need replaced, and as the trustees have time, the goal is to update our lighting to more efficient LED light fixtures. Many thanks to Rodney for his work so far in changing out 20 bulbs or ballasts. **Steve Phillips** and **Dave Moser** round out the Trustees current crew of 3, and have taken the lead on repairing automated light switches and coordinating with M&R Plumbing for A/C and plumbing repairs and maintenance. Unofficial trustee **Everett Collier** continues to tend to the church landscaping and has helped coordinate with other members of the **Freudige SS class** to trim bushes, mulch, reseed grass, prune rose bushes, and weed. We give all of these behind-the-scenes volunteers a **huge thank you** for literally keeping the lights on and the church building a welcoming place!

THANK YOU!

October Happy Birthday! *October*

- 8 - Joan Diller
- 10 - Elizabeth Shelly
- 14 - Beth Raeburn
- Mary Ann Ring

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, October 8, 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.
 Cherubs 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir Room
 Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
 Sojourners SS Class potluck, noon Assembly Room

This Week

Monday, October 9
 Staff Retreat 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. offsite

Tuesday, October 10
 Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
 Yoga with Emily, 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
 Advent Planning, 7 p.m. Parlor

Wednesday, October 11
 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. Room #113
 Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary
 SHY: Livy Dougherty, Bluffton U student sharing, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 14
 SHY & JHY: Suter's Corn Maze, 12:30-2:30 p.m. meet at the maze
 Caring Connections' Fall Celebration, 3 p.m. Maple Crest

Next Sunday, October 15
 Social Justice Sunday #10: What Then Shall We Do? Indigenous Justice
 Worship: Gary Wetherill preaching
 Social Justice potluck, noon Fellowship Hall
 Lectionary: Ex. 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Phil. 4:1-9; Matt. 22:1-14

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.