

**Tenth Sunday of the Social Justice Series**  
**October 15, 2023**  
**“What Then Shall We Do?” Justice for Indigenous Peoples**

***Gathering***

Wind Chimes Milena & Madelyn King

Welcome and announcements Pastor Phil

Prelude *Fantasy on All Creatures of Our God and King* arr.Sandra Eithun  
Adult Bells, Ray Raeburn (director)

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn VT 791 *Let Justice Flow Down*

\*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 19

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God,

**Many: and the firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.**

One: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

**Many: There is no speech, nor are there words;**

One: their voice is not heard;

**Many: yet their voice goes out through all the earth**

**All: and their words to the end of the world.**

***Telling God’s Story***

Special Music *The Heavens Are Telling* Franz Josef Haydn  
Chancel Choir, Mark Suderman (conductor), LuAnn Stuckey (piano)  
Soloists: Kay Huber, Elaine Suderman, Mitch Kingsley, Darryl Nester, John Estell, Steve Phillips

Conversation with Children Anne Marie Spelman

Hymn VT 519 *God, Give Me Faith like a Child*  
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Community Prayer Pastor Carrie

Scripture Amos 5:11-15 Jon Rockhold

Message *They Made Us Many Promises* Gary Wetherill

***Living God’s Story***

\*Hymn of Response VT 181 *Creation Is a Song / Ho’è enemeohe*  
Steve Harnish (recorder), Adam Phillips (drum)

Offering

Words of Invitation and Dedication Prayer

Offertory *How Majestic is Your Name* Smith/arr. Johnson  
Laura Hartzler

***Sending***

\*Hymn of Sending VT 787 *O Day of Peace*

\*Benediction

Wind Chimes

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

**First Mennonite Church**

**October 15, 2023**

**Lead Pastor** Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624  
[phil@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:phil@fmcbluffton.org)

**Associate Pastor** Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568  
[carrie@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:carrie@fmcbluffton.org)

**Communication Coordinator** Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766  
[fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)

**Director of Music** Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368  
[sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)

**Technology & Media Coordinator** Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769  
[ray@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:ray@fmcbluffton.org)

**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:**

**Worship:** Mary Ina Hooley

**Nursery Workers Next Week SS:** Pat Sheidler/Gerald Mast

**Worship:** Jonathan Spelman/Victoria Woods-Yee



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

**Video:** Ray Raeburn

10/1/23 - 10/8/23

**Sound:** Kevin Cluts

Reported Volunteer hours: 31

**Chancel:** Gary & Lois Wetherill & Sara Brenner

Attendance: 121

Online views - Live: 26 Recorded: 25 Total Viewing Hrs: 46



*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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**TODAY** is the tenth Sunday of our **Social Justice Series, What Then Shall We do? Gary Wetherill** will open discussion on **Justice for Indigenous Peoples** 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.

If you can volunteer at **Our Daily Bread** this Tuesday, October 17, contact **John** or **Carolyn Rich**. We leave at 10:45 a.m.

**MCC kits bags** are cut, packaged, and ready to be sewn. Please pick some up in the tub by the library. (If you don't want to thread the strings through, we can do that for you.)

The **Gifts Discernment and Ministry Participation Ministry team** will release the annual **Gifts Discernment Survey** next week. This new survey is concise, short, and easy to fill out! An online version can be completed with a QR code or a paper version will be included in the bulletin. Members of this ministry will be available in the Parlor after the service if you have questions. Members include: **Melissa Friesen, Rich** and **Gloria Bucher, Victoria Woods-Yee, Judy Diller, Greg** and **Ben Hartzler**, and **Pastor Phil**.

**Thanksgiving at FMC** --- Leaves changing color must mean it's time to start planning for Thanksgiving at FMC. The meal will be at noon on November 23. A sign up sheet will be available in the Fellowship Hall to indicate how many people you are bringing - and to sign up for what you'd like to contribute to the meal. We will make sure that the essentials are there (feel free to sign up for any of these) - turkey - mashed potatoes - stuffing - gravy and pumpkin pies - beyond that, whatever makes Thanksgiving special to you is welcome! Any questions - contact Lori Nester - [nesterl@bluffton.edu](mailto:nesterl@bluffton.edu) or 419-358-9650.

**FMC** is hosting a **Fall Festival** on **October 31** 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.

★ **If you can tell Pastor Phil how many recycling bins are in the church, you can win a prize!** ★



Dear First Mennonite Church,

On Indigenous Peoples' Day, we are reaching out to you with an important and urgent call to action to support Oak Flat, a sacred and culturally significant site to the San Carlos Apache tribe and other indigenous communities.

Oak Flat is under threat from mining activities that would not only desecrate sacred lands but also have devastating environmental consequences. As advocates for justice, environmental stewardship, and the protection of cultural heritage, we invite you to take the following actions:

**1. Join Apache Stronghold Day of Prayer:**

Apache Stronghold is a group led by the San Carlos Apache tribe and their allies. Join the **Day of Prayer** on **Nov. 4** to contribute to the spiritual strength and resilience of those who are working together to protect Oak Flat. [Learn more and get involved.](#)

**2. Advocate for Oak Flat:**

Your voice matters, and you can make a real impact by **advocating to Congress** for the protection of Oak Flat. The Save Oak Flat Act, also known as H.R. 1351, aims to repeal the land exchange provision with mining corporation Resolution Copper, and protect Oak Flat from mining and other forms of development.

Together, we can ensure that Oak Flat remains a place of cultural significance, natural beauty, and spiritual importance.

With gratitude and hope,

Daniela Lázaro-Manalo, Racial Equity Education and Advocacy Coordinator  
MCC U.S. National Peace & Justice Ministries



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. In addition to performing prior to the lighting ceremony, the combined vocal groups will help lead the audience in singing Christmas carols after the Presbyterian lawn is ablaze. To sign up, or for information, email Kevin Gratz at [kmgratz@gmail.com](mailto:kmgratz@gmail.com).

# Ministry Minute!



Do you have an idea for an event? Are you interested in leading an elective SS class? Do you have a passion for a new ministry, a current ministry, or reviving an old ministry? Contact any Circle Leader (**Rich Bucher, Ken Shenk, or Shelby Cluts**), a pastor, the office, or a member of the Gifts Discernment Team (**Melissa Friesen, Rich or Gloria Bucher, Victoria Woods-Yee, Judy Diller, or Greg or Ben Hartzler**).

## OCTOBER



*Happy Birthday!*

15 - Phil Yoder  
16 - Sunita Hooley  
Claire Phillips  
21- Joyce Hostetler  
Alison King

*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 15, 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- 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir Room  
Worship: Gary Wetherill preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
Social Justice Potluck & Discussion, noon Fellowship Hall

### This Week

#### Monday, October 16

Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

#### Tuesday, October 17

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Our Daily Bread, depart at 10:45 a.m.

Pastors Phil & Carrie at Climate Changed World Retreat

Yoga with Emily, 6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Staff Relations Committee, 7 p.m. Parlor

#### Wednesday, October 18

Maple Crest Bible Study, 2 p.m.

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

#### Thursday, October 19

Leadership Circle, 7 p.m. Parlor

#### Next Sunday, October 22

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching

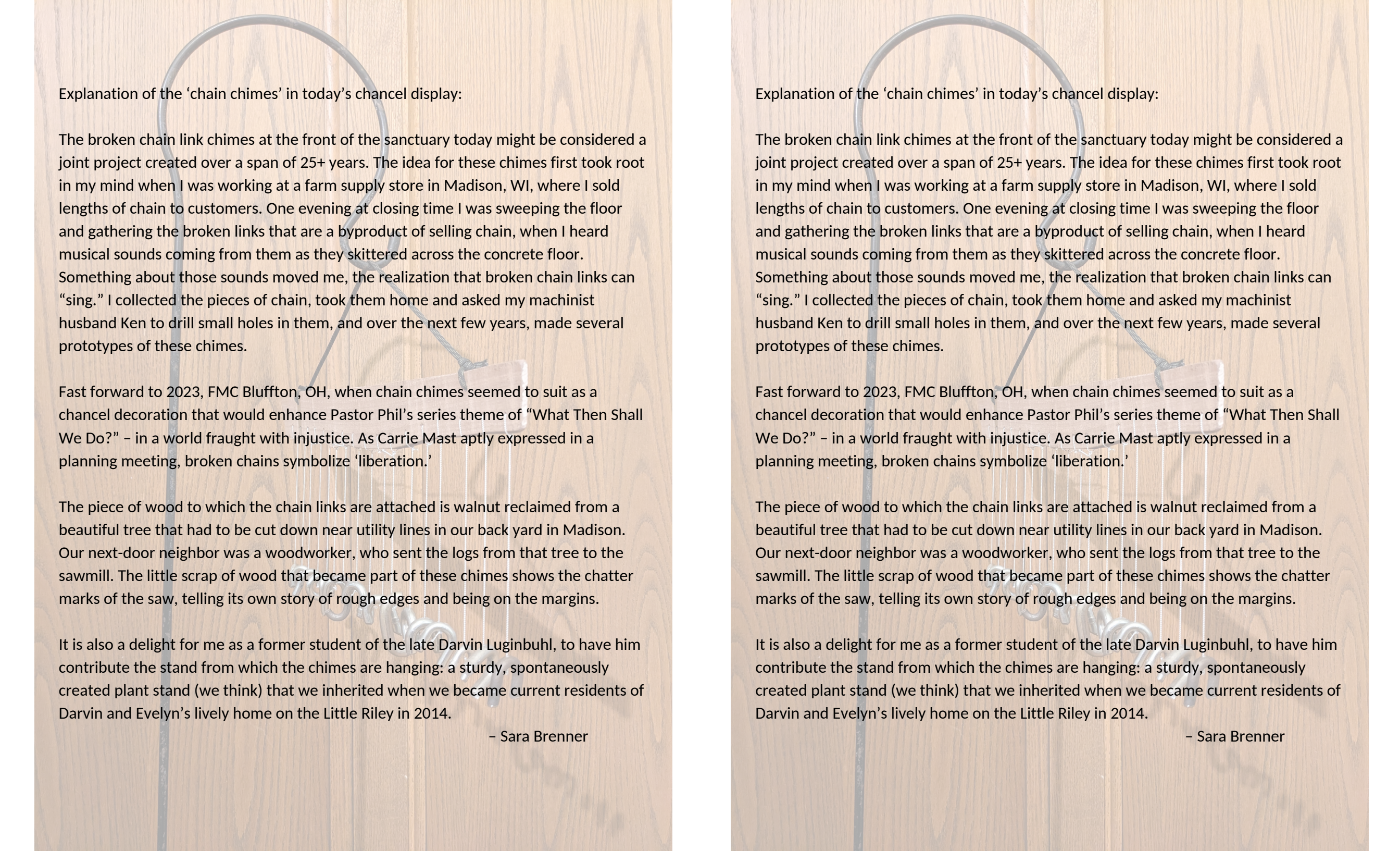
Freudige SS Class potluck, noon Fellowship Hall

Lectonary: Exodus 33:12-23 and Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

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 metal ring against a light wood background. The chimes consist of a wooden block with a metal ring attached to the top, and several metal chains of varying lengths hanging from the ring. The chains are made of small metal links, and some are broken, creating a clinking sound when they move. The wooden block is made of walnut and has a natural grain. The metal ring is made of a dark metal. The background is a light-colored wood with a vertical 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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