

# 5 PRIORITIES: Identify, develop, and express gifts

## October 22, 2023

### **Gathering**

Welcome and announcements Betsi Werling

Prelude *God's Family* Patty Shelly  
Cherub Choir, Laura Hartzler (conductor)

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn VT 76 *Holy, Holy, Holy!*

\*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 99

One: The Lord is great in Zion; God is exalted over all the peoples.

**Many: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is God!**

One: Mighty Ruler, lover of justice, you have established equity;

**Many: you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

One: Extol the Lord our God;

**Many: worship at God's footstool.**

**All: Holy is God!**

### **Telling God's Story**

Special Music *Samachti B'Omrin Li* Charles Osborne  
Chancel Choir, Mark Suderman (conductor), LuAnn Stuckey (piano)

I rejoiced when they said to me: Let us go up to the House of God. Now we stand within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem, built to be a city where people come together as one! Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you prosper! For the sake of my people, my friends, I pray you find peace. For the sake of the house of Adonai our God, I will seek your good.

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

Community Prayer

Pastor Carrie

Scripture

Exodus 3:1-12

Alice Lora

Message

*Here I Am*

Pastor Phil

### **Living God's Story**

\*Hymn of Response

VT 531 *Holy Presence, Holy Teacher*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

*Pastorale in G*  
LuAnn Stuckey

Wesley/Wolff

Dedication Prayer

### **Sending**

\*Hymn of Sending

VT 831 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Dukes/Culli

*\*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 22, 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  
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**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:** Pat Sheidler/Gerald Mast  
**Worship:** Jonathan Spelman/Victoria Woods-Yee

**Nursery Workers Next Week SS:** Amy Shadbolt/Shelby Cluts  
**Worship:** Kevin Cluts/Ray Person

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



**Video:** Ray Raeburn      8/27/23 - 9/3/23  
**Sound:** Chris Moser      Reported Volunteer hours: 17  
**Chancel:** Alison King      Attendance: 146  
Online views - Live: 26 Recorded: 23 Total Viewing Hrs: 49.5



*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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Last Saturday, October 14th, **Isaac, Trusty** and **Keagan Schumacher** welcomed **baby Skyler** into their family. One way to care for them during this time is by **providing meals**. Visit <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/41ey76> to sign up to bring them a meal or contact **Chaska** at 717-621-7282 to learn about available dates and details.

Having recently experienced the love of Jesus through generous hearts and hands, **Moving Day** on **Saturday, November 4** provides another opportunity for us to serve and work together as a faith community. An open invitation is extended for volunteers to assist **Pastor Phil, Chaska** and **Flora** in their upcoming move to a new home in Bluffton. Help is needed to load and unload boxes and light furniture into and out of the moving truck. Larger items will already be moved. Several trucks and trailers would also be helpful. Early risers will begin at 7:30 a.m., joined by others at their convenience. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Contact **Louise Matthews** ([LouiseMatthews46@gmail.com](mailto:LouiseMatthews46@gmail.com) or 419-303-8057) to volunteer your time and energy. Volunteers will receive an email before moving day with additional information and details.

Wear your costumes and join the fun at **FMC's indoor Fall Festival** Tuesday, **October 31** from **5-7 p.m.** Activities include Trick or Treat stations, photo booth, games, scavenger hunt, pumpkin decorating, and more! Hot dogs and snacks provided. This event is geared towards kids ages 0-12 but open to all. Adult supervision required.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is slated for Sunday, **November 12**, immediately following worship. Report booklets will be in mailboxes no later than November 5th.

The **Congolese family** sponsored through **WelcomeCorps** has reached the 30 day mark living in Bluffton. There are several areas of **support needed**: trips to the park or playground or doing other outdoor activities for the younger children; assistance with finances and money; more evening and weekend social activities for the whole family; van drivers; and ideas for helping them connect with family in Utica, New York. To volunteer or for more information, contact the church office.



Interested in volunteering at Camp Friedenswald? FMC is invited to camp November 10 & 11 for a day of volunteering on Saturday. Originally intended to be a youth work camp, most of the youth have other commitments which opens up 9-10 spots for others to go. Lodging will be in Sycamore and meals will be provided on Saturday. Text or call Carrie Mast if interested: 419.230.1568.

Join MCC Nov. 1-3, on a **Pipeline-to-Prison learning tour** about the complexities of the U.S. criminal legal system as seen in northern Indiana. Cost: \$250 per person - includes all onsite costs such as lodging (if needed), meals and honorariums. Registration deadline is October 23. <https://mcc.org/events/mcc-great-lakes-pipeline-prison-learning-tour-indiana>

**Responding to the Palestine and Israel conflict:** As conflict has escalated in the region, MCC laments the violence and mourns all lives lost in Palestine and Israel. MCC remains committed to a just peace for all, and we invite you to join us in praying for an end to the violence. MCC is planning an emergency response to the current crisis with existing partners. Our response will focus on the humanitarian needs in Gaza, given the vulnerability of the population and lack of resources available to families. MCC's work will build on previous responses to the ongoing conflict, including the distribution of food and bedding. We are also planning to offer trauma healing support and housing reconstruction. Donate online at [mcc.org/Palestine-Israel](https://mcc.org/Palestine-Israel).

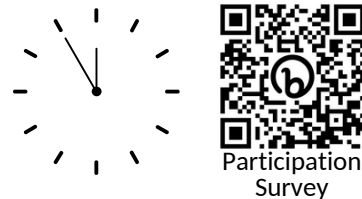
Bluffton University's **Fall Choral Concert** will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 29** at **2:30 p.m.** in Yoder Recital Hall. Under the direction of Dr. Bo Young Kang, director of choral activities, Universal Choral will perform selections including "Gaelic Song of the Boatman" by Sine NicFhionnlaigh, "Weep No More" by David Childs, and "Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen" from German Requiem by Brahms. Camerata Singers will perform selections including "Best Day of My Life" by Zachary Barnett, "Stand Up" from the movie "Harriet" by Joshua Campbell, and "Sing" by Mark Brymer.

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](mailto:kmgratz@gmail.com).



Participation Survey

# Ministry Minute!



The Gifts Discernment and Ministry Participation Team's survey is inside this bulletin. Or, you can complete the survey digitally (preferred but not required) by using the QR code (above right) or accessing the survey through the church website - look for the button (above left) on the home page. This new survey is concise, short, and easy to fill out! Members of this ministry will be available in the Parlor after the service Sunday if you have questions. Members include: **Melissa Friesen, Rich and Gloria Bucher, Victoria Woods-Yee, Judy Diller, Greg and Ben Hartzler, and Pastor Phil.** Please complete the survey by Nov 12. Thanks!



## October

### Happy Birthday!

- |                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 22 - Teri Steinmetz | 25 - Ariana Goings       |
| 23 - Ethan Nickel   | Mary Ramseyer            |
| 24 - Rodney Dyck    | 26 - Wendy Chappell-Dick |
| Mark Suderman       | 27 - Jacob Suter         |
| 28 - Mark Novak     |                          |

*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 22,

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Coffee Time, 9 a.m. & Sunday School 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, October 23

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Capital Campaign Committee, 7 p.m. Parlor

#### Tuesday, October 24

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

#### Wednesday, October 25

Jubilate 3 - 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

#### Next Sunday, October 29

Worship: Carrie Mast preaching

Freudige SS Class potluck

Lectionary: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8;

Matthew 22:34-46

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. Child care is available during Sunday School and worship for young children in the nursery located in the basement.