

Service for a Regenerative Earth

November 12, 2023

Gathering

Opening Music Noah DeMarco (guitar)

Welcome and announcements Jeff Gundy

Prelude *Never Weather-beaten Saile* Thomas Campian (1567-1620)

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 179 *At the Dawn of Your Creation*

Telling God's Story

*Responsive Reading - VT 893 (Confession)

Special Music & Poetry *Flora's Departure* Thomas Farmer (fl. 1685)
The Fall of the Leaf Martin Pearson (1571-1650)

Conversation with Children Terry Hermsen
Hymn VT 747 *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 3 going back to seats)

Offering
Words of Invitation and Dedication Prayer Poem
Offertory *Flute Sonata* Diogenio Bigaglia (1678-1745)

Community Prayer Pastor Phil

Scripture Matthew 7:9-12 Carmen Ordonez Moser

Message *The 500-Year-Old Question: Expanding Our Others*
History: Terry Hermsen; Music: David Stefano; & Poetry: Laurie Anderson

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 205 *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

Service of Communion

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 145 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

*Benediction

*Postlude *Flora's Departure* Thomas Farmer (fl. 1685)

**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

Lead Pastor Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624
phil@fmcbluffton.org

Associate Pastor Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568
carrie@fmcbluffton.org

Communication Coordinator Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766
fmc@fmcbluffton.org

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
shawna@fmcbluffton.org

First Mennonite Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

~ Phil's day off - Friday ~ Carrie's day off - Thursday

Nursery Workers Today SS: Mary Edmiston/Tess Eger
Worship: Sunita Hooley/Jonathan Spelman

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Cheri Slotter
Worship: Victoria Woods-Yee

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



Video: Ray Raeburn 10/29/23 - 11/5/23
Sound: Kevin Cluts Reported Volunteer hours: 21
Chancel: Staff Attendance: 178
Online views - Live: 26 Recorded: 25 Total Viewing Hrs: 43

First Mennonite Church
November 12, 2023



Service for a Regenerative Earth

Featuring music from The Early Interval

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 to all who helped out with making our move possible over the last months. From those who baby sat, to helping us move furniture and boxes, to providing food, we **feel deeply cared for and loved.** - Phil and Chaska

We extend a warm welcome to the collaborative team of poets and musicians **Terry Hermsen, Laurie Anderson, Jeff Gundy, Guillermo Salas-Suarez, and David Stefano.** Together they will offer hope and artful insights into creating a regenerative world in the face of climate crisis. The insert in this bulletin includes bios for each of the musicians and poets leading and sharing in worship today.

TODAY:

- The **Annual Congregational Meeting** will begin immediately following worship in the sanctuary. The meeting will be streamed.
- In preparation for the congregational meeting, we will join together in **communion** during worship. An opportunity for **giving alms** will be available and will support our friends and neighbors through the Mutual Aid Fund. Baskets will be available at either entrance to the sanctuary for donations.

NEXT SUNDAY: The eleventh Sunday of our **Social Justice Series, What Then Shall We Do?** is next week, Nov. 19, when Jen Benroth will open discussion on the US Healthcare System 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

"As a denomination, we mourn the loss of life and ongoing suffering and long for an end to violence and oppression. We continue to support the work of Palestinians and Jews who work for peace and justice for all, especially during this complex time of conflict and war."

Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz
Denominational Minister of Peace & Justice



The Gifts Discernment and Ministry Participation Team's survey is due this week. Complete the survey digitally (preferred but not required) by using the QR code or accessing the survey through the church website. Paper copies are also available by the mailboxes This new survey is concise, short, and easy to fill out! **Children and youth** are encouraged to complete the survey, too!



Surprise! The first **hearing** on the **current bill to abolish the death penalty** is in the Ohio Senate and is expected to be held at 9:30 a.m. **Wed. Nov. 15.** We expect the hearing to conclude by noon. The time and date have not been officially confirmed so things could change. The organization Ohioans to Stop Executions (OTSE) estimates 30-60 people in attendance. OTSE will send us final confirmation and parking instructions. We will be greeted at a parking garage gate and given stickers by an OTSE staff person.

Contact the church office if you plan to attend. Having an advance count is very helpful so that we can communicate regarding any changes. We expect two carloads but more is fine. Also indicate whether you are willing to drive your car if needed. We plan to leave FMC parking lot promptly at 7 a.m. If you have questions give **George Lehman** a call or text at 419-230-0952.

Bluffton University's Fall Chamber Ensemble Concert will be presented at **2:30 p.m.** on Sunday, Nov. 19 in Yoder Recital Hall.

FMC will host a **candlelight service** on the **Transgender Day of Remembrance** Monday, Nov. 20. The service will include a responsive litany, a slide show, and an opportunity to light a candle. All are welcome to gather for this annual observance that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

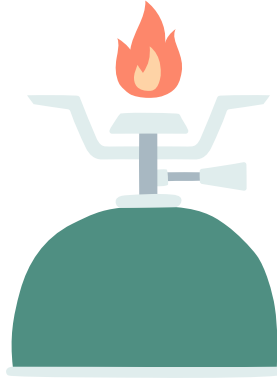
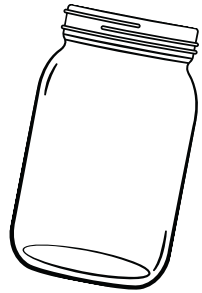
Join friends for a **Thanksgiving meal** at **noon** on **Nov. 23** here at **FMC**. A sign up sheet is available in the Fellowship Hall to indicate how many people you are bringing - and to sign up for what you'd like to contribute to the meal. The essentials will be there (feel free to sign up for 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 or 419-358-9650.

Calling all comforter makers! Mennonite Women would like to invite all who are interested in helping to make comforter tops in preparation for knotting events to help us plan for future knotting events. Whether you are experienced in creating tops - would like to learn - or maybe only tackle a smaller task in the process (cutting fabric squares and assembling kits), we'd love to talk to you. Contact Pat Sheidler for more information. (sheidler@centurylink.net)

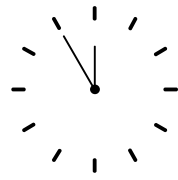
Ten Thousand Villages is bringing a **trunk sale** to **FMC** on **Dec. 3.** You can look forward to shopping for needlework, baskets, jewelry, natural fibers, ingenious recycled items, coffee/tea/ chocolate, soap, and of course, our famous Christmas ornaments, decorations, and nativities.

SHARED ITEMS MINISTRY

A simple act of resistance to our consumer culture is FMC's list of items folks are willing to share. From canning equipment, to tools, to Coleman Stoves, consider checking this list before buying your own. This list is password protected and available on the website. Feel free to contact the church office to add items to the list or for the password to see the list. Sharing items is a great way to save money, live more sustainably, and work together as a community.



Ministry Minute!



Happy Birthday

NOVEMBER

- 12 - Jean Miller
- 13 - Carolyn Gratz
- 15 - Dennis Oxender

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, November 12, 2023

- Coffee Time, 9 a.m.
- Youth Choir, 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Children's Choir Room
- Sunday School open to all youth & adults, 9:15 a.m. Assembly Room
- Cherubs, 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir Room
- Worship: Terry Hermsen, David Stefano & Laurie Anderson preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
- Congregational Meeting, following worship Sanctuary
- Sojourners SS Class potluck, noon-ish Assembly Room
- Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

This Week

Monday, November 13

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, November 14

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Wednesday, November 15

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. Assembly Room

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

SHY, 7 p.m. Rehearse with Adult Choir

Next Sunday, November 19

Social Justice Sunday #11: What Then Shall We Do? The US Healthcare System

Worship: Jen Benroth preaching

Social Justice potluck, noon Fellowship Hall

Lectionary: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

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.