

# Eleventh Sunday of the Social Justice Series

November 19, 2023

## What Then Shall We Do? The US Healthcare System

### *Gathering*

Wind Chimes Jonah & Ellie Hilty

Welcome and announcements Mark Suderman

Prelude *Great is thy Faithfulness* Runyan  
Laura Hartzler

Invocation

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

\*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 123

One: To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

**Many: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master,**

One: as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

**Many: so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until God has mercy upon us.**

One: Have mercy upon us, O Lord,

**Many: have mercy upon us,**

**All: for we have had more than enough of contempt.**

### *Telling God's Story*

Special Music *Hope For Resolution* arr. Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory

Chancel Choir, Jubilate, Youth Choir, LuAnn Stuckey (piano)

Ben Hartzler (soprano sax), Adam Phillips (percussion), Anne Marie Spelman (violin)

Of the Father's love begotten, E'er the worlds began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he. Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore. Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Saviour of our race. And the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore. O ye heights of heav'n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing, Pow'rs, dominions bow before him, And extol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

Nation, do not cry. Jehovah will protect us. We will attain freedom. Jehovah will protect us.

*This piece is a celebration of diversity in its juxtaposition of a European chant melody and an anti-apartheid song from South Africa - pointing us toward our potential for peaceful coexistence.*

Conversation with Children

Anne Marie Spelman

Hymn

VT 747 *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

Scripture

1 Corinthians 3: 16-17

Barrett Benroth

Message

*Getting Comfortable Being Uncomfortable*

Jen Benroth

### *Living God's Story*

\*Hymn of Response

VT 527 *Bless the Arms that Comfort*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

*It is Well With My Soul*

Arr. Lorie Line

Dedication Prayer

### *Sending*

\*Hymn of Sending

VT 644 *Healer of Our Every Ill*

\*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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**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:** Cheri Slotter  
**Worship:** Victoria Woods-Yee

**Nursery Workers Next Week SS:** Lori Nester  
**Worship:**

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



**Video:** Ray Raeburn 11/5/23 - 11/12/23  
**Sound:** Chris Moser Reported Volunteer hours: 24  
**Chancel:** Sara Brenner Attendance: 113  
Online views - Live: 26 Recorded: 16 Total Viewing Hrs: 46

**First Mennonite Church**  
**November 19, 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.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**TODAY** is the eleventh Sunday of our **Social Justice Series**, *What Then Shall We Do? The US Healthcare System*. **Jen Benroth** will open our discussion with her sermon. Jen's background is in health care as a registered nurse for the last 15 years beginning in the hospital setting and currently serving at the Mercy outpatient oncology center. Jen is a lifelong member of the FMC family, is married to Darby, and is raising the middle school-aged Benroth Boys: Bodey & Barrett. **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.

A **Candlelight Transgender Day of Remembrance Service** will be held in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20. This will be a remembrance service with a responsive litany, a slide show, and an opportunity to light a candle to honor those whose lives were lost in the last year due to violence focused on their trans identity.

If you can volunteer at **Our Daily Bread** this Tuesday, Nov. 21, contact **John** or **Carolyn Rich** at 419.358.5405. We leave at 10:45 a.m.

**All are invited to a Thanksgiving meal** on Thursday at **noon** in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP by adding your name and a dish to share on the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, by contacting the church office, or just show up! All are welcome even without the RSVP.

Thank You

A HUGE thank you to **Sue Schaaf** and **Shelby Cluts** for their ongoing coverage of the office while Trusty Schumacher is on family leave. Together they are coordinating their schedules to cover the office desk to offer a friendly presence to those who come in to the office, to answer phones, and to keep Phil & Carrie organized! We appreciate all of your volunteer hours and keeping some semblance of stability and routine in our days! ♡

The church **office** will be **closed** on Friday, November 24.

Check your mailboxes for this year's **Advent brochures**. NOTE: The **Children & Youth Christmas Program** will be on **Dec. 10**.

NEXT SUNDAY: **Andrea Flack-Wetherald**, a Bluffton U. alumna, social worker, comedian and author, will be our guest speaker during worship.

Volunteers are needed for the **Red Cross Blood Drive Thursday, Nov. 30**. Check out the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

It is time to send money for **Nataly Chavez**, Adan Ortiz's granddaughter in Guatemala for her education. Thank you to those who provide ongoing support for Nataly; we have over half of Nataly's educational costs collected for this year. At the request of Nataly's grandmother, the school discounted her educational costs by over \$2,200, yet we are still **in need of \$2,035.90** to meet the total cost of \$4,418.34. Nataly may conclude her education after this year, or she could opt for a professional education to become a nurse or secretary. Your financial support is greatly appreciated. Checks can be made out to the church and designated for Nataly Chavez. If you are considering an online donation, use the International Student Assistance Fund and be sure to add "Nataly Chavez" to the Designation.

**Helen Shelly**, a former member of FMC, passed away after a battle with cancer. Helen moved to Canada in the 90s, but is well-connected to many in the FMC congregation.

**Bluffton Presbyterian Church**, 112 N. Main St., will have a '**Mix and Match**' **Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale** Saturday, Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to noon in the basement Fellowship Hall. Choose your own assortment - \$7 per pound. Public welcome!

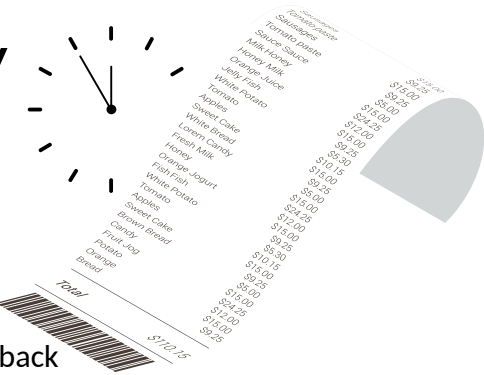
**Camp Friedenswald** is hosting winter camps on the following dates:

- High School Winter Camp - January 5-7
- Junior High Winter Camp - January 12-14
- Winter Family Camp - February 16-18





# Ministry Minute!



Your Community Market receipts translate to dollars for the youth! Our grocery store supports our community by giving 1% of qualifying purchases back to the non-profit groups who turn in their receipts. There is a box next to the mailboxes in the Fellowship Hall where you can place your receipts. While volunteering in the office, Sue Schaaf & Shelby Cluts have been powering their way through HUNDREDS of receipts - straightening, stapling, and entering them on a spreadsheet to be totaled in preparation of turning them in to Community Market. Thank you to past volunteers Julie Mackey, Gloria Hernandez Bucher, and Rita Dietrich who took on these tasks, and thank you to Sue & Shelby!



- 21 - Junia Spelman
- 22 - Lois Jean Andreas
- 23 - Steve Harnish
- 24 - Emily Hilty
- Judy Kingsley
- 25 - Indigo Gott
- Marsha Hector

*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 19, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.  
 Youth Choir, 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Children's Choir Room  
 All Choir Rehearsal, 9-9:30 a.m. (NO CHERUBS) Sanctuary  
 Sunday School open to all youth & adults, 9:15 a.m. Assembly Room  
 Worship: Jen Benroth preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
 Social Justice Potluck & Discussion, noon Fellowship Hall

### This Week

**Monday, November 20**  
 Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor  
 Candlelight Transgender Day of Remembrance Service, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

**Tuesday, November 21**  
 Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary  
 Our Daily Bread, leave church at 10:45 a.m.

**Wednesday, November 22**  
 No Activities

**Thursday, November 23**  
 Thanksgiving Gathering for All, noon Fellowship Hall

**Friday, November 24**  
 Office Closed

**Next Sunday, November 26**  
 Worship: Andrea Flack-Wetherald preaching  
 Lectionary: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46  
 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.