

Christ The King Sunday

November 26, 2023

Gathering

Welcome and announcements Pastor Carrie

Prelude Rêverie Claude Debussy
Anne Marie Spelman (piano)

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 28 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

*Responsive Reading - Psalm 100

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

Many: **Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.**

One: Know that the Lord is God. It is God who made us, and we are God's;

Many: **we are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.**

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courts with praise.

Many: **Give thanks to God; bless God's name.**

All: ***For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever and God's faithfulness to all generations.***

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Teri Steinmetz

Hymn VT 747 *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*
v. 1 coming forward & v. 3 going back to seats)

Community Prayer Pastor Carrie

Scripture Jonah 3:10 - 4:8 Jon Diller

Message *Where is Your Nineveh?* Andrea Flack-Wetherald

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 389 *Together*
Led by Evan Skilliter (guitar & vocal), Alicia DeMarco (vocal)

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Gavotte* Jean-Philippe Rameau

Dedication Prayer Anne Marie Spelman (violin)

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 156 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

*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: *Lori Nester*
Worship:

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: *Pat Sheidler*
Worship: *Mary Ina Hooley/Victoria Woods-Yee*

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



Video: Ray Raeburn	11/12/23 - 11/19/23
Sound: Melissa Friesen	Reported Volunteer hours: 21
Chancel: Kayleigh Coffman	Attendance: 185
	Online views - Live: 24 Recorded: 28 Total Viewing Hrs: 40

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.

First Mennonite Church

November 26, 2023



ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome **Andrea Flack-Wetherald** to the pulpit this morning. Andrea is a social worker turned comedian, speaker & bestselling author of *The Funny Thing About Forgiveness*. Andrea teaches brave conversation strategies rooted in mindfulness practice and improvised comedy skills through Leadership Development, Training, Corporate Training, Public Speaking, Corporate Events, Life Coaching, and Executive Coaching. Additionally, Andrea is a Bluffton U. alum and a mom and spouse.

Phil, Chaska, & Flora Yoder have a **new address** for you to update your directories: 10315 Columbus Grove Bluffton Rd, Bluffton, Ohio 45817.

The **Children & Youth Christmas Program** will take place during worship on **Dec. 10. Rehearsals** will take place during the SS hour **Nov. 26, Dec. 3, & Dec. 10**. Children and youth from 0-19 are invited to be a part of the program, and do not need to be present for rehearsals to be part of the program. Parents are welcome to join the rehearsals to help with costuming and stage movement. Contact Pastor Carrie if you have questions.

Caring Connections will meet Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Parlor.

Christmas decorating in the sanctuary and the Christmas trees in the Fellowship Hall is slated for **Wednesday, Nov. 29** during Noodle Night. Share some noodles and some holiday fun! Come and go as you can between 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

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

Sweet Song! Join the **Cinnamon Roll Potluck** and **FMC Music Discussion** next Sunday, Dec. 3 after worship. Pastor Phil and Pastor Carrie will be hosting a time in the Fellowship Hall for folks to share their thoughts and dreams for music at FMC. As we all know, Mark Suderman will be retiring in the next year. As we begin the process of finding new music leadership, we would like to receive feedback from the congregation on what they love about FMC music, and what they would love to have happen at FMC in the future. As a part of this discussion, we would like to invite all cinnamon roll enthusiast to bring a pan of cinnamon rolls to share. (This may seem random, but it will all make sense next Sunday.) You do not need to bring cinnamon rolls to be part of the discussion!

Andrea Flack-Wetherald, a Bluffton University alumna, social worker, comedian and author, will speak during Bluffton University's **Forum at 11 a.m. on Nov. 28** in Yoder Recital Hall. The title of her presentation is "Brave Conversations as Tool for Wellness." During the presentation, she'll discuss how to engage in brave conversations to strengthen emotional well-being. The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Jeff Gundy, professor emeritus of English and writer in (non)residence, will present the **Colloquium, "Phantom Power: Words and Notes," at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1** in Centennial Hall's Stutzman Lecture Hall. During the presentation, Gundy will read new poems and prose related to his current obsession—the "phantom powers" that run under, around and above our everyday lives. Quantum mechanics, Jungian inner landscapes and God are likely to come up, as will Gundy's recent travels to South Africa, Morocco and Greece. There will also be a song or two. This event is free and open to the public.

The newest issue of the **CDC Connector** is available: <https://mcusacdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Connector-November.pdf>. This edition includes stories about chaplaincy and rituals, building community and solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters, a review of The Peace Table Bible, and Doug's Mug on our new CDC theme.

CORRECTION: The Swiss Community Historical Society Christmas Open House is Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2-3 instead of what is listed in your Advent brochure.

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. **We are still in need of \$2,035.90. Your financial support is greatly appreciated.** Checks can be made out to the church 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.

The Bible and Mass Incarceration: On Saturday, Jan. 27, FMC will be hosting our all new "**Winter Bible School**" from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Dr. Ryan Schellenberg, a Mennonite scholar of the apostle Paul from Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio, will be sharing his expertise on Paul's experience in prisons and how that may relate to issues of mass incarceration today. Saturday will feature a meal, music, and discussion. and children's programming as well. Sunday will include an elective Sunday School class, and a sermon from Ryan. Save the date, invite community friends, and stay tuned for more details. Phil says, "If you are frustrated with or don't know what to do with Paul's letters, this Winter Bible School will provide great new ways to engage the text. It will be Fantastic!"



Ministry Minute!

Gifts Discernment and Ministry Participation thanks you for filling out the surveys. We have compiled all of the information which helps us find folks for different roles in our congregation. Your surveys have been looked at and will be consulted as needs arise. If you ever think of positions that you would be interested in, feel free to let the office know, and we can update your information. The Survey will indefinitely be live on the website if you ever wish to fill one out.

Call for Action

Mennonite Action, a movement of Mennonites bonded by a common belief that we must be public about our peace values, is holding a national organizing call on November 28th at 8pm EST on Zoom. We believe that Mennonites have a responsibility to use our voices as powerfully as possible for the cause of peace and justice. With your help, over 500 Mennonites from across the US and Canada will join together to grieve the ongoing violence, to call for a ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine, and to gather together as a community to prepare to take action. You're invited to this emergency virtual meeting for Mennonites who are ready to take action to oppose the ongoing violence in Palestine. For more information visit MennoniteAction.org



- November 29 - Tom Schaaf
- November 30 - Bev Simon
Esther Strahan
- December 1 - Grace Paquin
- December 3 - Carrie Phillips
Sarah Phillips

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 26, 2023

- Coffee Time, 9 a.m.
- Youth Choir, 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Children's Choir Room
- Sunday School for adults & Christmas Program Rehearsal for children & Youth, 9:15 a.m.
- Cherubs, 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir Room
- Worship: Andrea Flack-Wetherald preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.



This Week

Monday, November 27

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, November 28

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
Caring Connections, 10 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, November 29

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. Assembly Room

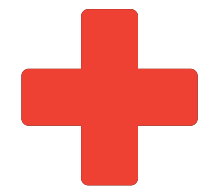


Christmas Decorating in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, come and go 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Thursday, November 30

Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m. Fellowship Hall



Next Sunday, December 3

- First Sunday of Advent
- Worship: Phil Yoder preaching
- Cinnamon Rolls Potluck & Future of FMC Music Discussion, noon Fellowship Hall
- Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.
- Lectionary: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

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.