

Epiphany Sunday
Sensing the Season: SIGHT
January 7, 2024

Gathering

Call to Worship Emily Hilty
Prelude *Armellodie* Chilly Gonzales
Anne Marie Spelman
Centering
*Opening Hymn **HWB 216 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies**

*Responsive Reading & Candle Lighting

One: Christmas is here, and we still wonder, we still wander,
All: We wonder and wander as a community, together.
One: With the Messiah, the Christ Child, the light.
All: How do we know it is you?
One: Help us to perceive your presence: To smell your fragrance, To meet your embrace, To taste your feast, To feel your love, To hear your song
**All: To see your beauty, and
To prepare a way for you in a chaotic world.**
One: We light the Christ Candle, anticipating your embodied presence among us.
Benroth Family (Candle Lighters)

Telling God's Story

Special Music *Where Is the Baby?* arr. Susan Nipp
Cherub Choir & Jubilate, Laura Hartzler (director)

Conversation with Children Quin Spelman & Phil Yoder
Hymn VT 237 *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Scripture Isaiah 60:1-6 Chris Gott
Pastoral Prayer Victoria Woods-Yee
Scripture Matthew 2:1-12 Walt Paquin
Message Witnessing the Divine Pastor Phil

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 273 *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*
Offering & White Gift Offering
Words of Invitation
Offertory *Toccata* Leonardo Leo
Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 275 *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*
*Benediction
*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

HWB - Hymnal Worship Book (Blue bound book) ~ 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: Pat Sheidler/Bruce or Amy Steingass

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Carmen Ordonez
Worship: Mary Ina Hooley/Mary Edmiston

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



Video: Steve Phillips 12/24/23 - 12/31/23
Sound: Chris Gott Reported Volunteer hours: 5
Chancel: Mary Ann Suter Attendance: 116
Online views - Live: 22 Recorded: 20 Total Viewing Hrs: 36

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

January 7, 2024

Sensing The Season



Epiphany

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jean Miller's mother, Phyllis Baumgartner of Berne, IN, passed away surrounded by family on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2023. Visitation will be at Swiss Village auditorium from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2024. A memorial service will be at Swiss Village auditorium at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2024. Swiss Village is located at 1350 W. Main Street, Berne, IN 46711. Prayers for Jean & Wendell Miller and their family are welcome.

Peter & Geri De Meo are settled into their new rooms at **Birchaven Village** in Findlay. This move will offer additional access to respiratory support for Peter and support their family by keeping them together in the same retirement community. You are welcome to send cards and visit them in their new home: **15100 Birchaven Lane, Findlay, Ohio 45840**.

Individual **Sunday School** classes for children and youth resume today. Members of SHY who are not at camp will gather with Laura Hartzler for Coffee Time at 9:40 in the Fellowship Hall.

THIS WEEKEND: SHY Winter Camp is **Jan. 5-7** at Camp Friedenswald. Prayers for safe travels and meaningful experiences in the peaceful woods for: **Theo Andreas, Ethan Blount, Kaleigh Coffman, Rebecca Estell, Ellie Hartzler, Ethan Nickel, Claire Phillips, and Tate Steinmetz**, as well as special guests **Kate & Mia Pannabecker!** Sponsors for the weekend are **Kevin & Shelby Cluts** and **Carrie Mast**.

NEXT WEEKEND: JHY Winter Camp is at Friedenswald next weekend, **Jan. 12-14**. Campers attending include **Ryan Blount, Micah DeMarco, Jori Mast, Atticus Prothro, Kendyl Shadbolt, and Carter Steinmetz**. Sponsors are **Joel Steinmetz, Ryan DeMarco, and Carrie Mast**.

First Aid and CPR training classes will be held here at FMC on **Jan. 16 at 6 p.m.** The classes are **\$25 each**. If you haven't signed up, please do so in the Fellowship Hall.

On Saturday, **Jan. 27**, FMC & Grace Mennonite will be hosting an 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, discussion, and **children's programming at The Lion & Lamb**, as well. Sunday will include an elective Sunday School class, and a sermon from Ryan. Register at FMC's website or by scanning this QR code:



Senior Sunday is scheduled for **Jan. 21**. High school seniors **Theo Andreas, Jax Gott, Ben Hartzler, Ethan Nickel, and John-Paul Yoder** will share reflections of their experiences being a part of the FMC faith community. There will be an opportunity following the service to talk with the seniors.

Cover: Byzantine depiction of the Three Magi in a 6th-century mosaic at the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo in Italy.

The **Lent Planning Committee** is nearly complete. This year's team consists of:
Worship Leaders: Mentor-Mentee Team **Ellie Hartzler & Shelby Cluts**
Chancel Display: **Wendy Chappell-Dick**
Member at Large: **LuAnn Stuckey**
Conversation with Children: **Jen Benroth & TBD**
Music: **Mark Suderman**
Scripture/Reader's Theater: **Carrie Mast**
Preaching: **Phil Yoder**, Guest Speakers **Sarah Werner** and **Sarah Augustine**
Bulletin/Brochure: **Trusty Schumacher**

It is time to renew our **Anabaptist World subscriptions**. Subscriptions will cost **\$39**, and payments can be made by check or through online giving. If you are interested in ordering a subscription to receive the **group discount**, contact the church office.

FMC is hosting a **Red Cross Blood Drive** on Thursday, **Jan 25**. A volunteer sign-up sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall.

As the conflict between **Israel and Hamas** continues to rage on, Chris Hoover Seidel, who is part of the **Mennonite Spiritual Directors Network**, reflects on how she has learned to handle her own **grief**, while also holding space for those grieving around her. Read her Menno Snapshots blog here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/menno-snapshots/grief-work/>

Save the date for the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on March 8-9! A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event at Fairlawn Mennonite Church to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. We invite you to make comforter tops (60" x 80") and backs (65" x 85") for use at the Comforter Bash. Comforter backs and tops should be marked for Sarah or MRC and dropped off by February 1 at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron (4080 Kidron Road). For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash.

Dates: Friday, March 8 (9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.); Saturday, March 9 (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
Location: Fairlawn Mennonite Church - 8520 Emerson Rd, Apple Creek, OH 44606

Ministry Minute!



Our team of **ushers** is extending an invitation to you to consider assisting with the offering by passing the collection plates. If you have questions about the expectations or just want to try it out, contact **Dave Moser**, head usher, 419-889-5074 or djmfarms@yahoo.com, or contact the church office: 419.358.5766 or fmc@fmclubluffton.org.

January

8 - Gloria Bucher
10 - Milena King
11 - Kan Fong Chan

12 - Allison Diller
Theo Andreas
Janet Yoder

14 - Mary Amstutz
Don Hostetler
Isaac Schumacher

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, January 7, 2024

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 & Jubilate, 9:15 a.m. - 9:35 a.m. Sanctuary
Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
SHY return home from Winter Camp, between 3 & 4 p.m. Church parking lot
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

This Week

Monday, January 8

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, January 9

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Wednesday, January 10

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
SHY, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Friday, January 12 - Sunday January 14

JHY Winter Camp at Friedenswald
Depart Friday 6 p.m. / Return Sunday 3-4 p.m., Church parking lot

Next Sunday, January 14

Worship: Phil Yoder, preaching
Lectionary: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Cor. 6:12-20, John 1:43-51
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.