

# Senior Sunday

January 21, 2024

## Gathering

Welcome and announcements Kaleigh Coffman

Prelude *How Firm A Foundation* Trad. Melody, Funk's 1832  
Youth Bells, Ray Raeburn (director)

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn VT 120 *For the Beauty of the Earth*  
Laura Hartzler (piano)

\*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 62 Claire Phillips

One: For God alone my soul waits in silence;

**Many: from God comes my salvation.**

One: God alone is my rock and my salvation,

**Many: my fortress; I shall never be shaken.**

One: Trust in God at all times, O people;

**Many: pour out your heart before God;**

**All: God is a refuge for us.**

## Telling God's Story

Special Music *Praise, I will Praise You Lord* (VT 131)  
Youth Choir, Laura Hartzler (director)

Conversation with Children Seniors + Youth Group + Phil Yoder  
Hymn VT 512 *Let the Children Come to Me*  
(Sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Ellie Hartzler

Senior Reflections

Theo Andreas, Jax Gott, Ben Hartzler,  
Ethan Nickel, John-Paul Yoder

\*Hymn

VT 549 *Be Thou My Vision*

Bible Presentation

Pastor Carrie

## Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response

VT 419 *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

*Here I Am, Lord*  
Theo Andreas & Ben Hartzler (violin)

Daniel Shutte

Dedication Prayer

## Sending

\*Hymn of Sending

VT 412 *My Soul Cries Out*

\*Benediction/Congregational Reading

A Blessing for Seniors

\*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**  
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH  
419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org)

**First Mennonite Church**

January 21, 2024

<b>Lead Pastor</b>	Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624 <a href="mailto:phil@fmcbluffton.org">phil@fmcbluffton.org</a>
<b>Associate Pastor</b>	Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568 <a href="mailto:carrie@fmcbluffton.org">carrie@fmcbluffton.org</a>
<b>Communication Coordinator</b>	Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766 <a href="mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org">fmc@fmcbluffton.org</a>
<b>Director of Music</b>	Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 <a href="mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu">sudermanme@bluffton.edu</a>
<b>Technology Coordinator</b>	Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769 <a href="mailto:ray@fmcbluffton.org">ray@fmcbluffton.org</a>
<b>Custodian</b>	Shawna Yoder <a href="mailto:shawna@fmcbluffton.org">shawna@fmcbluffton.org</a>

**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: *Monica Harnish*  
Worship: *Sunita Hooley*

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: *Judy Diller*  
Worship:

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



<b>Video:</b> Ray Raeburn	1/7/24 - 1/14/24
<b>Sound:</b> Melissa Friesen	Reported Volunteer hours: 37
<b>Chancel:</b> Claire Phillips	Attendance: 145
	Online views - Live: 36 Recorded: 20 Total Viewing Hrs: 41

*“May God Give You The Grace To  
Make Wise Choices And To Be  
Faithful To Your  
Commitments. Always Confident  
In The Support Of This  
Community Who Loves You.”*



*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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**Jane Weaver** will be having back surgery in New Albany on Tuesday. Prayers are welcome!

**We are very grateful** for the kindness and love you showed us during our first months with Skyler. It was a blessing to have hot meals, cards, visits and encouragement. And a thank you to Shelby Cluts, Sue Schaaf, and Ray Raeburn for filling in while I was on leave.

- Trusty, Isaac & Keagan

**TODAY:** We celebrate our high school seniors: **Theo Andreas, Jax Gott, Ben Hartzler, Ethan Nickel, & John-Paul Yoder**. The service features reflections by the seniors, special music by the **Youth Bell Choir, Youth Choir, and Theo Andreas & Ben Hartzler**, as well as worship leadership provided by members of the Senior High Youth group. A receiving line for the Seniors will be in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

**THURSDAY:** FMC is hosting a **Red Cross Blood Drive** this Thursday, Jan 25. **Volunteers are still needed** for set up, tear down, registration, making sandwiches, and kitchen clean-up. A volunteer sign-up sheet is located in the Fellowship Hall.

**THIS 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 for ages 5-12**, as well as **child care** at the church. Sunday will include an elective Sunday School class, and a sermon from Ryan. Register at FMC's website:



**MENTORS & MENTEES:** A **game night** mentoring event is scheduled for next Sunday, **Jan. 28 at 7:15 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a shared group game to start the evening, and then plan to open the evening up to additional table games as you would like! If you would like to bring your own board game to share with the group, feel free to do so! Popcorn will be provided for a light snack, as well as lemonade and water. Please let Amber Steiner and/or Greg Hartzler know if you and your mentor/mentee are planning to attend via email: [arshelly11@gmail.com](mailto:arshelly11@gmail.com) or [gregphartzler@gmail.com](mailto:gregphartzler@gmail.com).

**Adult Baptism Class:** Have you never been baptized and are interested? This winter, FMC would like to host a catechism class for folks to discern if they would like to be baptized. If you are interested, contact Pastor Phil.

**Youth Catechism & Baptism:** Youth who are interested in exploring baptism this spring should contact Pastor Carrie.

**Ten Thousand Villages (TTV) Valentine's Sale:** Valentine's Day is just around the corner and TTV is again preparing a variety of decoratively packaged "**Valentine Bundles**" for your gift giving. Order forms can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall and are due by **Jan. 28 at church or Jan. 29 in the store**. Payment is due with the order. Your order may be picked up at TTV on Sat. Feb. 10 or at church on Sun. Feb. 11.

**LOGOS Reader's Theater Group:** During Lent, we will be sharing Scripture through Reader's Theater. If you are interested in joining the group for this season, text, call, or email Carrie Mast: 419.230.1568 or [carrie@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:carrie@fmcbluffton.org). **Open to all ages!**

Bluffton University presents the **Presidential Leadership Forum** on **Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 11 a.m.** in Yoder Recital Hall. Alumna Bethny Ricks, business executive, author and speaker will share "See Your Way Clear: Leading Through Chaos." Ricks will focus on what it takes to stand firm and lead yourself through the many seasons of life.

It is time to renew our **Anabaptist World subscriptions**. Subscriptions are \$39, and payments can be made by check (designated for Anabaptist World) or through our online giving. If you are interested in ordering a subscription to receive the group discount, contact the church office. **Payment is due Jan. 28.**

There is **new information on the pillars** in Fellowship Hall to check out!

- There is a new section for **Volunteer Opportunities** on one of the pillars, which has a variety of ways in which you can volunteer at Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio with contact information for Aly Breese if you are interested in one of them!
- The **Grapevine** is a publication for Mennonite Women USA. There is information under the Ministry Highlights heading on the pillar by the mailboxes if you would like to subscribe to this quarterly publication. If you would like to see what the publication is like, the November 2023 issue is in a bin labeled Mennonite Women in the First Mennonite Church column of the literature rack by the main doors into Fellowship Hall. There are some very interesting stories shared!
- There are also some fun pictures of the **SHY & JHY Winter Camps at Friedenswald** from this month!

## A Blessing for Seniors

One: May God who began this good work in you carry it through to completion, enabling you to use your talents to the fullest.

**Many: May God give you the grace to make wise choices and to be faithful to your commitments, always confident in the support of this community who loves you.**

One: May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep within your heart.

**Many: May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.**

One: May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them in their pain.

**Many: May God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.**

**All: May your integrity be a gift to the world and may the Spirit of God be with you always. Amen.**

*adapted words from Fr. Michael Graham SJ*

JANUARY



Nancy & Jerry Tripp - January 26 - 10th Anniversary

January 21 - Ryan Blount

Kevin King

Todd Rainey

January 22 - Karen Klassen Harder

Amber Steiner

January 24 - Zeke Coffman

Jeanne Novak

January 25 - Jackson Niekamp

Janine Paul

Nancy Tripp

January 27 - Betsi Werling

*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



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Bluffton First Mennonite Church

## Today, Sunday, January 21, 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.

Cherubs, 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir Room

Worship: Senior Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

## This Week

### Monday, January 22

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

### Tuesday, January 23

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Presidential Leadership Forum, 11 a.m. Yoder Recital Hall

### Wednesday, January 24

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

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

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

### Thursday, January 25

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

### Saturday, January 27

Winter Bible School w/ Ryan Schellenberg 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## Next Sunday, January 28

Worship: Ryan Schellenberg preaching

Lectionary: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

Mentoring Game Night, 7:15 p.m. Fellowship Hall

## 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.