

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

January 28, 2024

Gathering

Welcome and announcements Gerald Mast

Prelude *Holy, Holy, Holy* arr. D. Busarow
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 76 *Holy, Holy, Holy!*
Don Hooley (trumpet)

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 111

One: Praise the Lord!

Many: I will give thanks to God with my whole heart,

One: in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Many: Great are the works of God,

One: studied by all who delight in them.

Many: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

One: all those who practice it have a good understanding.

All: God's praise endures forever.

Telling God's Story

Special Music *Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring* Johann Schop / J.S. Bach
Jubilate, Youth Choir, Chancel Choir, String Ensemble, Trumpet

Conversation with Children Phil Yoder

Hymn VT 512 *Let the Children Come to Me*
(Sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

Scripture

Matthew 12:1-8

Alice Lora

Message

The Letter Kills, but the Spirit Gives Life

Ryan Schellenberg

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 797 *We Are People of God's Peace*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. A.K. Organ

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 776 *Teach Me Thy Truth*

*Benediction - sung

VT 846 *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

**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: *Judy Diller*
Worship: *Victoria Woods-Yee*

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: *Lynda Nyce*
Worship: *Mary Edmiston*

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



Video: Ray Raeburn	1/14/24 - 1/21/24
Sound: Chris Moser	Reported Volunteer hours: 22
Chancel: Monica Harnish	Attendance: 145
	Online views - Live: 34 Recorded: 25 Total Viewing Hrs: 53

First Mennonite Church
January 28, 2024



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

We appreciate all of the volunteers who helped with the **Red Cross Blood Drive** and provided cookies, supplies, set up and tear-down. Donors gave **29 units**.


TODAY: An **Elective Sunday School** class led by Ryan Schellenberg will meet in the sanctuary.

DUE TODAY: Orders for Ten Thousand Villages **“Valentine Bundles”** are due today. Order forms can be picked up in the Fellowship Hall and can be turned in at church or in the store on Monday, Jan. 29, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. 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.

TONIGHT: Mentors & Mentees are invited to **Game Night** this evening, Jan. 28, at **7:15 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. A shared group game will start the evening, followed by other table games. Feel free to bring your own board game to share with the group. Popcorn, lemonade, and water will be provided. RSVP to **Amber Steiner** and/or **Greg Hartzler**: arshelly11@gmail.com or gregphartzler@gmail.com.

MONDAY: Deacons will meet at 6 p.m. in the Parlor.

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

 The Central District Conference (CDC) **Mid-year Gathering** will be Saturday, Feb. 3 from **9-11:30 a.m. via Zoom**. All are invited to gather together in the Fellowship Hall or join from home. Coffeecake, fruit, cheese and coffee & tea will be provided. Our theme for this year’s Mid-year Gathering will be Listen! Wisdom is Calling. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3378130650?omn=88500956560>

NEXT SUNDAY: Jan Wiebe, Theo Andreas, Paul Neufeld Weaver, & Mitch Kingsley will share about their experiences participating in an act of civil disobedience at the Jan. 16 Mennonite Action in DC. Come and hear their stories during an elective Sunday school class in the sanctuary! Check out photos from the event on a pillar in the Fellowship Hall!

In **celebration** of Black History Month (February), Mennonite Church USA invites you to discover the people and events that have helped shape our denomination. Visit MC USA's African American Mennonite History Timeline here: mennoniteusa.org/african-american-mennonite-history-timeline/




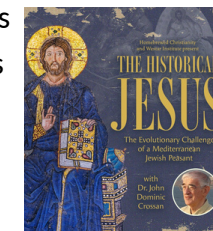
Continued Learning Elder Organization (CLEO): J.P. Schumacher has organized a new series of courses for individuals who would like to continue learning past the traditional student age. C.L.E.O. will provide four weekly courses beginning Wednesday, Feb. 14 here at FMC. To register, pick up a form in the office, visit the church website, or use this QR code. Moderators are Tim Schumacher and Beth Boehr.



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.

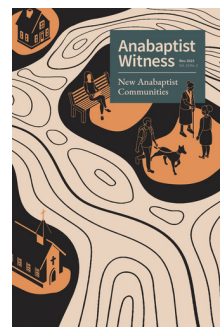
 Join an online **Lenten Class** with Dr. John Dominic Crossan starting in February. For this five-week series with four image-based classes, the question is not the theological, but the historical challenge of Jesus. The class is asynchronous, so you can join anytime. To register, go to: <http://www.crossanclass.com/> (A clickable link is available on the FMC website.) If interested in joining this class, let the church office know. A donor from FMC will cover your cost.



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. Open to all ages!

On **Sunday, Feb. 11**, we will be hosting a day of **worship and events** around **stories from Palestine** and learning about the history of the **Israel/Palestine conflict**.

- Worship: Retired Chaplain & Palestinian American Lydia Brenneman preaching
- 1 p.m.: Baklava-making w/ Lydia Brenneman
- 3 p.m.: Watch Party for Documentary on the Israel/Palestine conflict
- 4 p.m.: Lion & Lamb Peace Arts Center Graduate Assistant Tareq Abuhalima sharing his story of growing up in Gaza



We invite you to read an article, **From Skeptic to Proponent**, written by **CDC Conference Minister Doug Luginbill**. The article was published in the most recent issue of **Anabaptist Witness** a global Anabaptist and Mennonite dialogue on key issues facing the church in mission. The latest issue, Volume 10, Issue 2, focuses on new Anabaptist communities. The issue is available online for free: <https://www.anabaptistwitness.org/volumes/volume-10/issue-2/> or you can purchase copies of the print edition from Amazon.

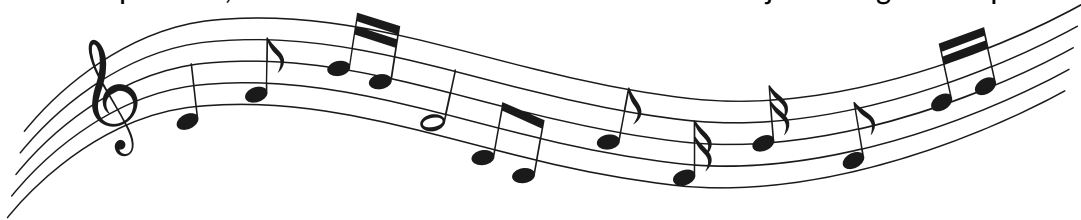


Director of Music and Worship Ministry Search Committee


Ministry Minute!



The search committee consisting of **Pastor Phil, Laura Hartzler, Claire Phillips, Shelby Cluts, and Ken Graber** was recently affirmed by Leadership Circle and has begun the process of the search for a new Director of Music as **Mark Suderman** enters his last months of overseeing music at FMC since 2006. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Music Survey and conversation this past fall. The information is informing our work as we begin the search process. If you have questions or know of anyone who might be interested in the position, feel free to reach out to Pastor Phil. The job listing will be posted soon!



HAPPY
Happy Birthday
January 29 - Linda Miller



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 28, 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.
Elective SS Class w/ Ryan Schellenberg, 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary
Cherubs, 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir Room
Worship: Ryan Schellenberg preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Freudige SS Class potluck, noon-ish Fellowship Hall
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.
Mentoring Event, 7:15 p.m. Fellowship Hall

This Week

Monday, January 29

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor
Deacons' meeting, 6 p.m. Parlor

Tuesday, January 30

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
Caring Connections, 11 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, January 31

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 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 3

CDC Mid-Year Gathering, 9-11:30 a.m. Zoom

Next Sunday, February 4

Elective SS Class w/ Mennonite Action participants:
Jan Wiebe, Theo Andreas, Paul Neufeld Weaver, & Mitch Kingsley, Sanctuary
Worship: Carrie Mast preaching
Lectionary: Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:11, Corinthians 9:16-23, Mark 1:29-39
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.