

# 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

February 4, 2024

## Gathering

Welcome and announcements Jan Wiebe

Prelude *Exultation* Matthew Compton  
Adult Bells, Ray Raeburn (director)

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn VT 1 *Summoned by the God Who Made Us*

\*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 147

One: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God,

**Many: for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

One: The Lord builds up Jerusalem;

**Many: God gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

One: God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

**Many: God determines the number of the stars; God gives to all of them their names.**

**All: Great is our Lord and abundant in power; God's understanding is beyond measure.**

## Telling God's Story

Special Music *Alabare Mi Senor* Trad.  
Cherub Choir, Laura Hartzler (director)

Conversation with Children Teri Steinmetz  
Hymn VT 512 *O Little Children, Gather*  
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Community Prayer Isaac Schumacher

Scripture Isaiah 40:28-31, 1 Cor. 9:16-18, 23 Jonathan Spelman

Message *Living into a Story of Liberation* Carrie Mast

## Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response VT 420 *God of the Bible*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Sonatina Op. 36, No. 6, Movement II: Rondo* Muzio Clementi  
Anne Marie Spelman (pianist)

Dedication Prayer

## Sending

\*Hymn of Sending VT 762 *This Little Light of Mine*  
(*This little light / Everywhere I go / Jesus gave it to me*)

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

**First Mennonite Church**

**February 4, 2024**

**Lead Pastor** Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624  
phil@fmcbluffton.org

**Associate Pastor** Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568  
carrie@fmcbluffton.org

**Communication Coordinator** Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766  
fmc@fmcbluffton.org

**Director of Music** Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368  
sudermanme@bluffton.edu

**Technology Coordinator** Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769  
ray@fmcbluffton.org

**Custodian** Shawna Yoder  
shawna@fmcbluffton.org

**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:** Lynda Nyce  
**Worship:** Mary Edmiston

**Nursery Workers Next Week SS:** Cheri Slotter  
**Worship:** Mary Ina Hooley & Jonathan Spelman

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



<b>Video:</b> Ray Raeburn	1/21/24 - 1/28/24
<b>Sound:</b> Kevin Cluts	Reported Volunteer hours: 34
<b>Chancel:</b> Carrie Phillips	Attendance: 168
	Online views - Live: 28 Recorded: 25 Total Viewing Hrs: 44



*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

---

**Elfrieda Ramseyer** remains in the hospital. Visitors are not allowed at the moment. Please hold Dick and Elfrieda in your prayers as Elfrieda recovers.

**TODAY'S ELECTIVE SS CLASS: 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 in the sanctuary. Photos from the event are on a pillar in the Fellowship Hall.

**NEXT 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 Abuhlima sharing his story of growing up in Gaza

The **Bluffton Community Assistance Program** is seeking the following items for the **food pantry**: soups (chunky, cream of mushroom, cream of chicken), cereal, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti pasta, noodles, canned fruit, canned Spaghettios, canned tuna, canned beef, canned pork, cake and cookie mixes, & hygiene products (soap, lotions, toothpaste and brushes, toilet paper, tissue, and paper towels). You can **bring items to FMC** so that we can do one drop off.



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/](https://mennoniteusa.org/african-american-mennonite-history-timeline/)

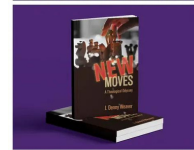
**Continued Learning Elder Organization (CLEO)**: J.P. Schumacher has organized a new series of courses for individuals who would like to continue learning past the traditional student age. C.L.E.O. will provide four weekly courses beginning Wednesday, Feb. 14 here at FMC. To register, pick up a form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



**2023 Financial Review**: You are invited to attend the sharing of the 2023 Financial Review on Thursday evening, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend.

**Bluffton University's Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 13** in Yoder Recital Hall features Dr. Jesse W. Jackson III, CEO and managing partner, Best Man Company, sharing "How to Recognize, Resolve, and Start the Recovery Process from Personal Traumas," at 11 a.m. During the presentation, the school improvement coach and author will help students build resiliency while adapting to and recovering from trauma. This event is free and open to the public.

### BOOK LAUNCH



Join Musselman Library's **Book Launch** celebrating the release of emeritus professor **J. Denny Weaver's memoir**, *New Moves* on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 4 p.m. on the Bluffton University campus! Refreshments will be served. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

**What to do** on these dreary winter days? **Sew MCC kit bags!** Directions are on the bulletin board by the library and some cut fabric packages are there, too. Donated fabric is also available in a tub for you to cut, or use your own fabric. (We can add strings later, if that is difficult for you.) Hygiene and relief kit collection will begin mid-March.

On **Mar. 11 at 6 p.m.** there will be a **recital at FMC**. But not just any recital. An all ages, all skills recital. Whether you are 7 and just learning the violin or 65 and are just learning the piano, you are invited to play. If you are a 46 year old expert trombonist or a child prodigy harmonica player, you are invited. All are invited to come play; all are invited to come and listen. To sign up for a slot in the recital, contact Anne Marie Spelman at [spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com](mailto:spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com).

### SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, Mar. 10, 2 p.m. - "Celebrating 50 Years of Fashion"

We are celebrating Et Cetera, Inc. 50th anniversary this year, and one of our events will be a style show for the public at the Bluffton Middle School Cafetorium. The afternoon will feature local models wearing styles from the decades (all donated to Et Cetera), and Ten Thousand Villages will have a segment with their models titled "The Future is Fair Trade". There will be a silent purse auction (cash or check only), door prizes, including two \$50 Et Cetera gift cards, Ten Thousand Villages retail sales table, Book Reviews table, refreshments and lots of laughs! Tickets are pre-sale only - \$5.00 each, sold at Et Cetera Shop, Book Reviews, Ten Thousand Villages or through your church representative, JP Schumacher. Doors open at 1:30 p.m., so come early to browse our retail tables, look over the purses, make your silent bids, and enjoy the refreshments while you visit with your friends and neighbors before the show. Check out the website for upcoming events, pictures, books and more. [etceterashop50.com](https://etceterashop50.com)



**Lost and Found** items have been placed on a table in the Fellowship Hall. Unclaimed items will be donated to Et Cetera.



# DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

# Ministry Minute!

First Mennonite Church Bluffton, Ohio is seeking a **Director of Music and Worship**. This person will: plan for congregational engagement with music since it is core to this community's spirituality; collaborate with the pastors and others in planning Sunday morning worship services, funerals, etc.; direct our 40 member adult choir that sings 3 times a month; and provide leadership to directors of children's and bell choirs. Depending on gifts of the candidate, a separate adult choir director can be hired. Strong candidates will help foster the creativity of all generations and have a depth of music knowledge. Approximately .25 FTE. Seeking to fill the role ASAP. Contact Pastor Phil Yoder: [phil@fmclubluffton.org](mailto:phil@fmclubluffton.org).

**FEBRUARY**



- February 4- Andrew Raeburn
- February 6 - Walt Paquin
- February 7 - Alicia DeMarco  
Marlyce Gundy  
Chris Moser
- February 8 - Otto Edmiston

*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, February 4, 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/Jan Wiebe, Theo Andreas, Paul Neufeld Weaver,  
& Mitch Kingsley, 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary  
Cherubs, 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir Room  
Worship: Carrie Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

**This Week**

**Monday, February 5**

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor  
Leadership Circle Retreat, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 6**

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

**Wednesday, February 7**

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.

**Next Sunday, February 11**

Worship: 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 Abuhallima sharing his story of growing up in Gaza  
Lectionary: 2 Kings 2:1-12 , Psalm 50:1-6 , 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 , Mark 9:2-9  
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.