

Rooted Faith: Growing Underground

February 18, 2024

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Shelby Cluts

Prelude

Prelude in E Major
Anne Marie Spelman

Frédéric Chopin

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 606 *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

*Responsive Reading

One: Teach us your pathways, O God—

Many: Our eyes and our souls are trained on you.

One: For you are the greatest guide,

Many: You do not take us upward, rising in power like Kings and Queens.

One: But instead you take us downwards. We submerge, like our baptisms underwater.

Many: Like roots as they make paths underground.

One: The path is scary, and it brings us into contact with aspects of ourselves and our world that we would rather remain buried.

Many: The path is muddy, and it lacks clarity and certainty.

One: But Christ is our guide as we descend lower and lower.

Many: The God of love, who is not afraid of what we may unearth, journeys with us underground,

One: Into the soil that is filled with life breaking down, rotting, and decaying.

Many: Into the soil that is filled with the nutrients that will help us to thrive.

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children

Jen Benroth & Judy Steiner

Hymn

VT 777 *Seeds*

(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Confession

One: God, on Ash Wednesday, we remembered that we came from the earth, and it is to the earth we will return. Today, we come to you with this fresh on our minds as we continue our Lenten journey into the ground.

All: Be with us as we dig downward, into the dark, rich soil of our lives.

One: We often try to avoid the dark, the pain of the world, and the pain within us.

All: Forgive our avoidance and our lack of trust in you.

One: Forgive us, Lord, when on our journey, we forget that you love even the parts of us that are buried deep beneath the surface.

All: May we partner with you and your church to remember that all of God's creation is beloved.

Community Prayer

Victoria Woods-Yee

Scripture

Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15

LOGOS

Message

Scratching the Surface

Pastor Phil

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 441 *Crashing Waters at Creation*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Rideaux Lunaires

Chilly Gonzales

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 837 *Lead Me Forth*

*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: Pat Sheidler
Worship: Sunita Hooley & Ray Person

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Judy Steiner
Worship: Victoria Woods-Yee

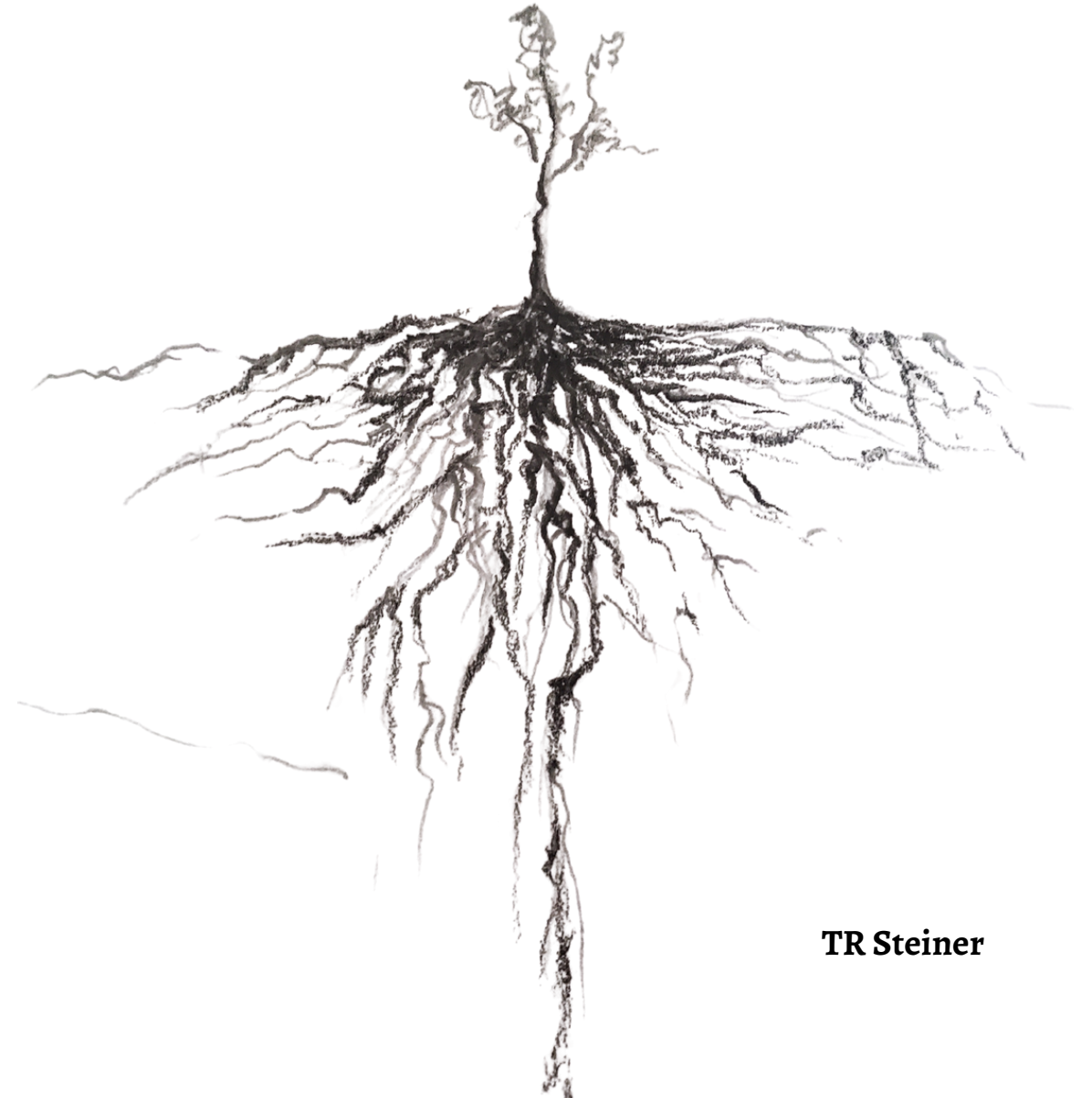
Nursery sign-up here: <http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers>



Video: Ray Raeburn 2/4/24 - 2/11/24
Sound: Chris Gott Reported Volunteer hours: 22
Chancel: Carrie Mast Attendance: 145
Online views - Live: 24 Recorded: 22 Total Viewing Hrs: 35

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
February 18, 2024



TR Steiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Terry Chappell passed away Monday, Feb. 12. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at 11 a.m. at FMC. Pray for comfort for his family as they navigate this time of grief.

Ken & Natalie Shenk are happy to report that a 5 lb. 10 oz. granddaughter, **Ava Fu Shenk**, was born on Feb. 11 in Toledo. The parents are Jay Shenk and Janet Fu of Perrysburg. In the Shenk family Ava joins her two-year-old sister Cleo, Uncle and Aunt Allen and Anita Shenk and cousins **Emma and Kylie**.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, **Mark Suderman's** mother, Alice Suderman, passed away in North Newton, Kansas. Mark and Elaine were able to be with Alice in her room at Kidron Bethel, along with Mark's father, John Suderman, and Mark's siblings and spouses. The family would appreciate your prayers during this time.

Mary Stahlman, sister of **Marty Hostetler**, passed away last Friday, Feb. 9. Visitation begins at 9 a.m. followed by a memorial service at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Sidney First United Methodist Church, Sidney, Ohio. Prayers for Marty & Lowell and their family during this time.

Throughout Lent, Scripture is being shared through **LOGOS**, the FMC reader's theater group. This week's readers include **Barrett Benroth, Mary Ina Hooley, Trusty Schumacher, and Sarah Phillips**.

There may be a few gaps in the pews during worship this Sunday, as **Family Winter Camp at Friedenswald** wraps up. A number of FMC folks are joining the fun in the Peaceful Woods. Prayers to all for safe travels and a restful weekend together.

Youth Choir & the Cherubs Choir will **not** meet today, Sunday, because Choir Director Laura Hartzler is spending some time in the Peaceful Woods at Family Winter Camp.

Pastor Carrie is taking some **vacation** to attend Family Winter Camp this weekend. **Pastors Carrie & Phil** will be out of the office Monday - Thursday to attend **Pastors & Leaders Week** at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS). For any pastoral care needs during this time, contact the office or **Elizabeth Kelly** at 419.348.1886.

If you plan to volunteer at **Our Daily Bread** this Tuesday, contact **John or Carolyn Rich** at 419.358.5405. We leave at 10:45 a.m.

Thank you to all who attended the **2023 Financial Review** meeting on Thursday evening. A copy of the handout, summarizing major areas of income and spending, and the front page of the December report are in your mailbox. Full copies of the December report are available upon request.
-Rita Dietrich, Treasurer

A **Lenten Taizé service** is scheduled for **Tuesday evening, Feb. 27, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This time of prayer, singing, and candle lighting also includes Legos and other activities to connect with people of every age.

Bluffton University's Forum offers two options at 11 a.m. on Feb. 27:

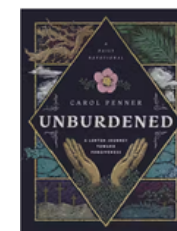
- **English Festival Forum** speaker **Maurice Broaddus**, a writer, community organizer and teacher, will share, "Journey of an Afrofuturist," in Yoder Recital Hall. During the event, the award-winning, science-fiction writer will describe what Afrofuturism looks like alongside communities imaging the future together.
- The **CEO of Ten Thousand Villages Dan Alonso** will share, "Designing the Future of Fair-Trade Retail in the U.S." the fair-trade advocate will share his journey of volunteer service to leadership for the organization that transforms the lives of artisans around the world. This Forum also celebrates the 50th anniversary of Ten Thousand Villages. FMC opened the first fair-trade storefront in the country in 1974. The effort was led by the late Lois Kreider, wife of Bluffton's sixth president, Robert Kreider.

Bluffton University's Winter Instrumental Concert will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25 in Yoder Recital Hall. The concert, under the direction of **Dr. Roy Couch**, director of bands, will kick off the 2024 music department concert schedule with a program of wind band music featuring selections that signify hope and joy, such as, "Message of Light," and, "No Greater Joy."

Project Peace Tiffin and Toledo 4 Palestine present *Let's talk Palestine*. Have any questions about the ongoing crisis? Curious about the context of what we are seeing unfold? Join us for a presentation and Q&A on Feb. 22 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Seneca County Public Library, 77 Jefferson St., Tiffin, OH 44883.

Two Lenten Devotionals Available:

- Mennonite Education Agency offers "Lent at Home," a 2024 Lenten Worship Guide. The theme this year is "Christ among us" and is written by Talashia Keim Yoder and designed by Erin Ramer. Available in English and Spanish.



Free download: <https://www.mennoniteeducation.org/resources/lent-at-home/>.

- MennoMedia offers *Unburdened, A Lenten Journey Toward Forgiveness*, written by Carol Penner. It is available in ebook (\$14.99) or paperback (\$16.99). A special discount is available through Feb. 11. Order: <https://www.mennomedia.org/deal-of-the-week/>.

FREE



Ministry Minute!

The **Racial Justice Ministry** is planning a meeting for Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. They will meet at Maple Crest in the Family Room just to the right of the main entrance.

Here are the agenda items:

- Considering the possibilities for sponsoring a local United States Civil Rights Pilgrimage
<https://www.mennonitemission.net/Serve/placements/just-peacepilgrimage/United%20States/10/United%20States%20Civil%20Rights%20Pilgrimage>



- Anticipating a conversation with Sarah Augustine to learn more about the Repair Network. The Repair Network is a coalition that supports church communities in education, solidarity, and reparative action alongside Indigenous Peoples.



The Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

<https://dismantleddiscovery.org/get-involved/repair-network/>

Happy Birthday

February 18 - Kendyl Shadbolt
- Anne Marie Spelman
February 21 - Carrie Mast
February 22 - Avila Spelman



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 18, 2024

Coffee Time, 9 a.m. & Sunday School for all ages, 9:15 a.m.
Worship: Pastor Phil preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

This Week

Monday, February 19

Pastors & Leaders Week begins, AMBS

Tuesday, February 20

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Our Daily Bread, depart at 10:45 a.m.

CLEO: Radio Shows, 10 a.m. Assembly room

Wednesday, February 21

CLEO: Watercolor, 10 a.m. Assembly room

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

Thursday, February 22

Pastors & Leaders Week concludes, AMBS

Next Sunday, February 25

Worship: Sarah Werner preaching

Freudige SS Class potluck, noon Fellowship Hall

Bluffton University's Instrumental Concert, 2:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall

Lectionary: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

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.