

Rooted Faith: Shifting Ground

February 25, 2024

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Ellie Hartzler

Prelude

Pre-Bach Invention No. 1
Laura Hartzler

Bach

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 10 *Here in This Place*

*Responsive Reading - based on Psalm 46:2-11

One: Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

Many: Though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

One: Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; God's voice makes the earth melt.

Many: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

One: Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations God has brought on the earth.

Many: God makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. God breaks the bow and shatters the spear; God burns the shields with fire.

One: God says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

All: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children

Jen Benroth

Hymn

VT 777 *Seeds*

(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Confession

One: Holy one, we confess that fear guides us when the ground is shifting.

Many: We confess that when change arrives, we too often close ourselves to the movement of your spirit.

One: We also confess that we can too easily give way to trends of our times,

Many: adopting new ways without considering their implications to our neighbors and to our world.

All: May our traditions guide us and may we hold them loosely, trusting in the renewal that comes from your Holy Spirit. Amen

Community Prayer

Pastor Phil

Scripture

Mark 8:31-38

LOGOS

Message

Shifting Grounds and the Good Story

Sarah Werner

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 154 *What Can I Leave Behind*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Off-Bach Invention No. 8

Bach

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 580 *To Leave the Stones Unthrown*

*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

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

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: *Mary Edmiston*
Worship: *Jonathan Spelman*

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

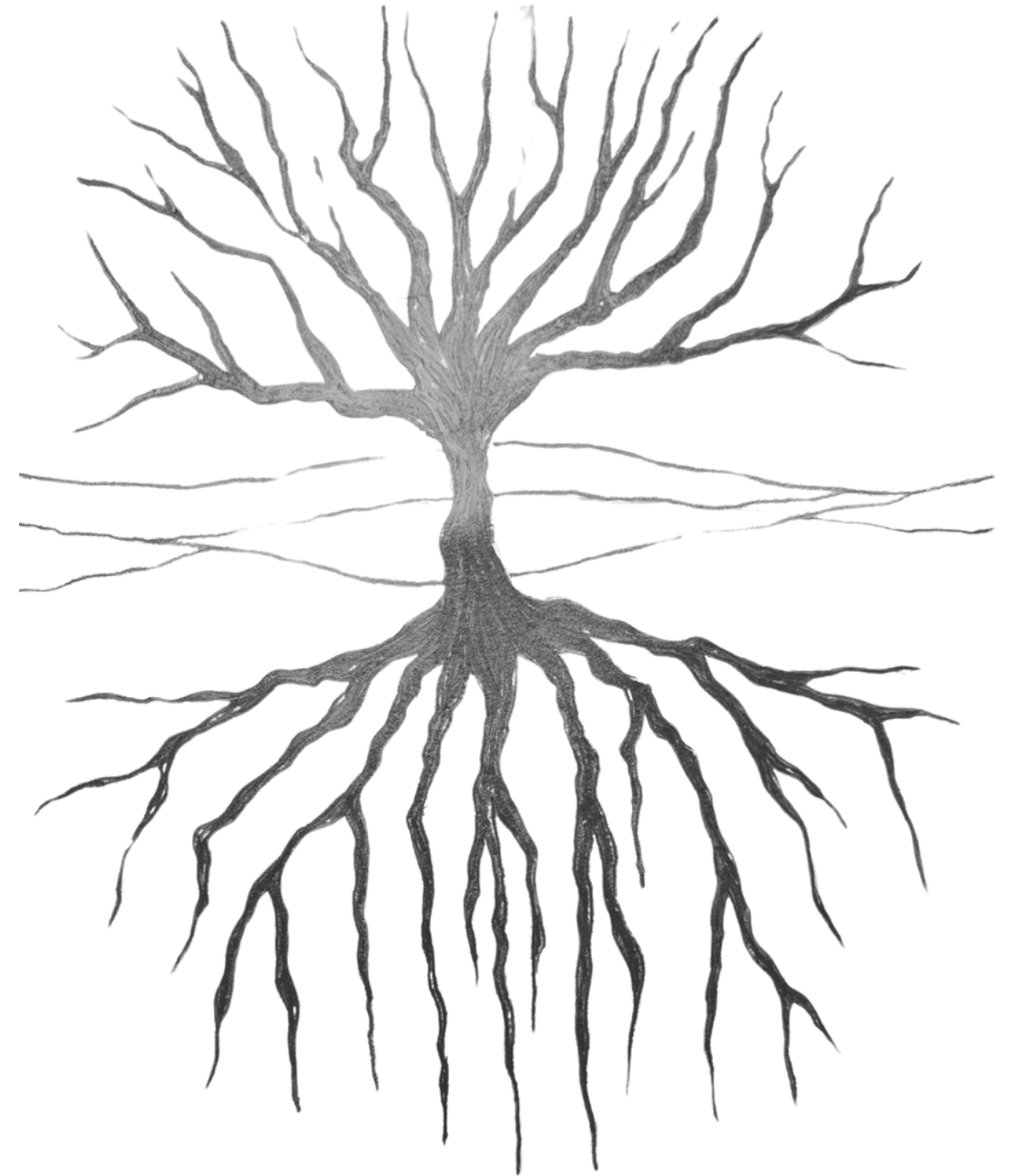


Video: Ray Raeburn 2/11/24 - 2/18/24
Sound: Melissa Friesen Reported Volunteer hours: 30
Chancel: Pastor Carrie Attendance: 149
Online views - Live: 32 Recorded: 20 Total Viewing Hrs: 34

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 25, 2024



TR Steiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our preacher today is **Sarah Werner**. Sarah is the communication coordinator for Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA and pastor of Olentangy Wild Church. She is also a professor of ecotheology with PATHWAYS, an online theological education program affiliated with the United Church of Christ, and lead course reviewer for the Environmental Justice Certificate Program, helping to develop a series of courses to help pastors, laypeople, and theology students confront environmental injustice in their local communities. Her New Book *Rooted Faith* (Herald Press) explores practices for living well on a fragile planet.

Dear church family, Thank you so much for the cards, calls and acts of kindness given to us after my back surgery. We certainly felt loved and cared for! The healing continues.

~Jane Weaver

Throughout Lent, Scripture is being shared through **LOGOS**, the FMC reader's theater group. This week's readers include **Barrett Benroth** and **Melissa Friesen**. They will be reading from the First Nations Version.

Bluffton University's Winter Instrumental Concert will be held at 2:30 p.m. **TODAY**, 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 including "Message of Light," and "No Greater Joy."

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.

The **Gifts Discernment & Ministry Participation** ministry will meet this Thursday, Feb. 29 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Parlor.

Easter flower order form. On Easter morning, the chancel area will be filled with flowers ordered by FMC attendees. If you wish to purchase flowers in memory or honor of someone, complete the form in the insert. The deadline to submit your order is Monday, Mar. 4, at 4 p.m.

The latest issue of the **CDC Connector** & this week's **bulletin from Grace Mennonite** are available on the literature table outside the church office in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Emmanuel United Church of Christ is hosting their **Fish Fry** on Friday, Mar. 8, from 4 - 7 p.m. You can either dine in or carry out (\$12/meal). Carry-out includes up to 3 pieces of fish, cheesy potatoes, green beans, applesauce and a cookie.

Ohio MCC is hosting their **Comforter Bash on Mar. 8-9 : Friday, Mar. 8 (9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.); Saturday, Mar. 9 (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)** Fairlawn Mennonite Church - 8520 Emerson Rd, Apple Creek, OH.



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. For more information scan the QR code.

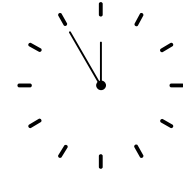
From **Ten Thousand Villages**: All over the world we see injustice, war, and exploitation. The coffee industry is one of the worst for environmental degradation and worker exploitation. According to the Bergon Project, 7% to 10%, but sometimes as low as 1% to 3% - of the retail price reaches the hands of coffee farmers. Our Fair Trade mission is to build long-term trade partnerships with farmers in the developing world that are economically just and environmentally sound. Our mission is urgent enough that for the next year, we are offering an **extravagant deal** for our supporting churches: **Fair Trade Coffee at a 44% discount**, after farmers have been paid in full. All our coffee is organic and comes in cases of 6. The cost for a case of regular is \$50 and decaf is \$55. Orders from the church are due Mar. 18, and coffee can be picked up from **Ten Thousand Villages** and paid for at the store after Monday, Mar. 25.

The Goshen College **Voices of the Earth** choir will spend their spring break touring and performing in churches and schools across Ohio and Chicago from Feb. 25 to Mar. 3. The tour will focus on the theme "New Dreams," and will be directed by H. Roz Woll, assistant professor of music. **Ana Neufeld Weaver** is traveling with this group. The nearest concert will be at Zion Mennonite Church in Archbold, OH on **Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.** Scan the QR code for the choir's itinerary. **Prayers for safe travels.**

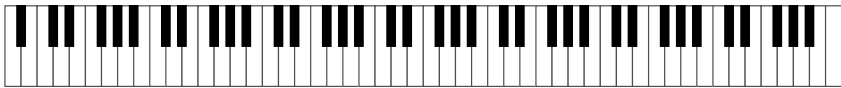


All-Skill-All-Ages Recital

Ministry
Minute!



On Mar. 11 at 5:30 p.m. FMC will be hosting an "All-Skill, All-Ages, Recital." Performing will be 7-year-old prodigies and 51 year-old-beginners, 30 year-old professionals and 70-year-old intermediates. All skills and ages are invited to perform. Contact Anne Marie Spelman at spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com if you have a piece you would like to perform. So far we have more than 20 performers interested. If you would like to attend, the recital will take place in the sanctuary. Refreshments will be served afterward.



Happy Birthday!

February 26 - Andy Chappell-Dick

February 28 - Ethan Blount

March 1 - LuAnn Stuckey



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 25, 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

Sarah Werner preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Freudige potluck, noon Fellowship Hall

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

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

This Week

Monday, February 26

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, February 27

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Forum: Maurice Broaddus (English Festival), 11 a.m. Yoder Recital Hall

Dan Alonso (CEO of Ten Thousand Villages), 11 a.m. Stutzman Lecture Hall

Lentern Taize, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, February 28

CLEO: Radio Shows, 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

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

Thursday, February 29

CLEO: Watercolor, 10 a.m. Assembly room

Gifts Discernment & Ministry Participation meeting, 5:30 - 7 p.m. Parlor

Next Sunday, March 3

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching

Lectionary: Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

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.