

# Rooted Faith: Keeping an ear to the Ground

March 10, 2024

## Gathering

Welcome and announcements Ellie Hartzler

Prelude *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word* J. Ahle/B. Culli  
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn VT 80 *We Sing to You, O God*

\*Responsive Reading - based on Psalm 107

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good!

**Many: God's love endures forever.**

One: Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

**Many: God's love endures forever.**

One: We may make careless choices and lose our way.

**Many: God's love endures forever.**

One: We call out to God when we are in trouble.

**Many: God's love endures forever.**

One: God walks with us in our anxieties and fears.

**Many: God's love endures forever.**

One: God's word sets us free to walk in newness of life.

**All: For God's unfailing love, we give thanks to the Creator of all that is good.**

## Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Judy Steiner  
Hymn VT 777 *Seeds*  
(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Special Music *Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake* Richard Farrant  
Chancel Choir, Mark Suderman (conductor)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and ever more. Amen.

## Confession

One: Merciful God, we all too often run from our fears, our anger, our grief, our doubt.

**Many: The world can be too much for one person handle.**

One: Give us strength to face the pain of the world, and in each of us.

**Many: Remind us that you are rich in comfort and grace.**

One: Remind us that you are with us as we journey towards our fear and anger.

**Many: Give us the strength to engage our grief and doubt.**

One: So that our pain may be transformed.

**Many: So that we may be a flourishing garden.**

**All: Nourished by the darkness of the soil.**

## Community Prayer

Pastor Carrie

Scripture Numbers 21:4-9 & John 3:14-21 LOGOS

Message *Charming Snakes* Pastor Phil

## Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response **HWB 576 If You But Trust in God**

## Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* K. Thomerson/S. Glick

Dedication Prayer

## Sending

\*Hymn of Sending VT 156 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

~ **VT** - *Voices Together* (Purple Bound Book) - **HWB** - *Hymnal Worship Book* (Blue 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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419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org)

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**Custodian** Shawna Yoder  
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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:** Carmen Ordonez  
**Worship:** Mary Ina Hooley

**Nursery Workers Next Week SS:** Pat Sheidler  
**Worship:** Sunita Hooley

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

**Video:** Ray Raeburn

2/25/24 - 3/3/24

**Sound:** Chris Gott/Jonah Sheets

Reported Volunteer hours: 29

**Chancel:** Pastor Carrie

Attendance: 151

Online views - Live: 30 Recorded: 30 Total Viewing Hrs: 31



**First Mennonite Church**

**March 10, 2024**



**T.R Steiner**

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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**Miev Chan** remains in the OSU hospital after a successful heart valve replacement. Miev and Kan, as well as their son Simon and his family welcome prayers for continued healing.

**Rosie Dosh** remains in hospice care in her home at Betty House. We hold Rosie, and her family, including daughter and son-in-law, Judy & TR Steiner, in our prayers.

**Elfrieda Ramseyer** had surgery this week and remains in the hospital while recovering. Elfrieda and Dick welcome prayers for comfort.

After a brief transition to the Mennonite Memorial Home, **Marty Hostetler** returned to St Rita's for ongoing care. Prayers for comfort and rest for both Marty and Lowell are welcome.

**Elizabeth Ann Raid, 79**, of Newton, Kansas passed away on Feb. 21 in her home. Elizabeth grew up on Spring St. here in Bluffton while her father, Howard Raid, taught business at Bluffton College. They were members of FMC. Her memorial service is scheduled for Mar. 23 at noon eastern time and will be streamed here at FMC in the Assembly Room. Former FMC pastor and Western District Conference retired pastor **Dorothy Nickel Friesen** will be in town that weekend and will host this event at FMC.

**Teri Steinmetz** is organizing meals through the meal train site for Grace Mennonite member Jodi Diller while Jodi is going through her cancer treatments. If you would like to provide a meal for Jodi and Dave Miller (Teri's dad), visit this link to sign up:



Throughout Lent, Scripture is being shared through **LOGOS**, the FMC reader's theater group. This week's readers include **Kevin Cluts, Jax Gott, and Cheri Slotter**.



**TIME CHANGE! RISE AND SHINE!!** This Sunday, Mar. 10, we spring ahead. Set your clocks an hour forward.



The **All-Age, All-Skill Recital** will be this Monday the 11th at **6 p.m. (which is a change)**. Come out to listen to music by a variety of ages and skills. There will be a cookie reception to follow.



**All are welcome** to join a **Lenten Hike** this **Saturday**, Mar. 16, at **McLean Teddy Bear Park** in Lima. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall for a carpool departing at 8:40 a.m. or drive to 2004 N. Dixie Highway, and meet at the playground. Details about this Johnny Appleseed Metropark can be found with this QR code.

Beginning with **Palm Sunday, Mar. 24**, we have several opportunities to hear special guest speaker **Sarah Augustine**. Sarah is the co-founder of the Coalition to Dismantle the **Doctrine of Discovery**, the philosophical and legal framework dating to the 15th century that gave Christian governments moral and legal rights to invade and seize indigenous lands and dominate Indigenous Peoples. She is also executive director of the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties. She is the author of the book, *The Land is Not Empty* and co-author of *So We & Our Children May Live*. Sarah will talk about the origins of the Doctrine of Discovery and her work to dismantle it.

- Sarah will be the guest speaker during **worship**.
- Sarah will teach an **Elective Sunday School class** that morning in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join.
- Sarah will speak at Lima Mennonite Church on **Palm Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m.** This event is co-hosted by Lima Mennonite and Salem Mennonite.
- Sarah will also be the speaker at Bluffton University's **Forum** on Tuesday, Mar. 26.

Bluffton University's Forum offers two options this Tuesday, Mar. 12 at 11 a.m.:

- "Film Preview: '**Activismo: Art and Dissidence in Cuba**,'" by Phil Sugden and Carole Elchert, documentary co-directors, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall.
- "The New Peacebuilders: **Shifting Violence, Shifting Peace in Northern Central America**," C. Henry Smith Peace Lecture by Dr. Robert Brenneman, professor of criminal justice and sociology at Goshen College, 11 a.m., Centennial Hall's Stutzman Lecture Hall.

Plans are underway for an **intergenerational Civil Rights Tour** for May 28t - June 5, 2024, organized and led by Mennonite Mission Network. Up to 12 individuals from FMC will travel to Atlanta, Birmingham, Memphis, and other cities to engage with individuals directly involved in the civil rights movement, explore museums, and visit iconic sites such as the Pettis Bridge. Along the way, participants will have some great southern food. A portion of the trip's \$800 cost will be covered by church budget allocations. We don't want cost to be a barrier. If you are interested in learning more, please contact George Lehman ([lehman@bluffton.edu](mailto:lehman@bluffton.edu)) or Jan Wiebe ([wiebe.jan@gmail.com](mailto:wiebe.jan@gmail.com)). We have been assured that the exact structure of the trip will be planned to meet the needs and interests of the participants.

**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. 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.

# Ministry Minute!



Our MCC hygiene and relief kits drive is beginning now and will run until the end of April. These kits are given to refugees and victims of disasters throughout the world. Kit supplies lists and hygiene kit bags are at the bulletin board by the church library. Contact **Jean Miller (419.234.8392)** or **Sue Schaaf (419.230.5645)** with questions.



A brief **congregational meeting** is slated for **Mar. 17** immediately following worship in the sanctuary to consider two items Leadership Circle is bringing: 1. Gifts Discernment's recommendation to elect Judy Diller to the role of leader-elect of the Gifts Discernment & Ministry Participation Team, a role which was still vacant at the November Annual Congregational Meeting; 2. Treasurer Team's recommendation for the 2023 Spending Plan surplus distribution.



**March 13 - Tom Basinger**  
**March 14 - Jonathan Andreas**  
**Louise Matthews**  
**March 15 - Noah DeMarco**

*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, March 10, 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: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
Sojourners SS Class potluck, noon-ish Assembly Room  
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

## This Week

### Monday, March 11

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor  
All-Age, All-Skill Recital, 6 p.m. Sanctuary  
Spring Worship Planning Committee, 8 p.m. Parlor

### Tuesday, March 12

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

### Wednesday, March 13

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.

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary, Cherub Choir, 7 p.m. Children's Choir Room  
SHY, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

### Saturday, March 16

Lenten Hike at McLean Teddy Bear Park, 2004 N. Dixie Highway, Lima, 9 a.m.  
(meet in Fellowship Hall for carpool at 8:40 a.m.)

## Next Sunday, March 17

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching  
Congregational Meeting, immediately following worship  
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.