

Rooted Faith: Giving Ground

March 24, 2024

Gathering

Welcome and announcements Ellie Hartzler

Prelude *Children's Piece (Op. 72, No. 1)* Felix Mendelssohn
Anne Marie Spelman

Invocation

*Opening Hymn and Palm Processional VT 315 *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

*Responsive Reading

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Many: Christ among us, humble and riding on a donkey.

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Many: Christ among us, God's light shining on us!

One: Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Many: Christ among us, showing the way of a servant.

Telling God's Story

Special Music *The Ground* Ola Gjeilo
Chancel Choir, Mark Suderman (conductor), LuAnn Stuckey (piano)
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Lamb of God, who takes away the
sins of the world, grant us peace.

Conversation with Children Judy Steiner

Hymn VT 777 *Seeds*
(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Child Dedication Skyler Ayanda Ndlovu Schumacher VT 970
Isaac & Trusty Schumacher, parents

Confession

One: When we get caught up in embracing the world's power,

Many: forgive us.

One: When we lose sight of the humble donkey and put our trust in horses of war,

Many: remind us of this Palm Sunday.

One: When we begin to get sucked into the darkness of the "now,"

Many: bring us once again the peace of looking toward the "not yet."

Community Prayer Pastor Phil

Scripture Mark 11:1-10 & Mark 15:33-37 LOGOS

Message *Proving Ground: The Sacred in the Soil* Sarah Augustine

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 750 *God of the Fertile Fields*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Sonata No. 2 in F Major, Mvt II: Adagio* W. A. Mozart

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 330 *Ah, Holy Jesus*

*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 & Victoria Woods-Yee*
Worship: *Victoria Woods-Yee*

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: ??
Worship: *Victoria Woods-Yee*

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



Video: Ray Raeburn 3/10/24 - 3/17/24
Sound: Chris Gott/Jonah Sheets Reported Volunteer hours: 21
Chancel: Pastor Carrie Attendance: 159
Online views - Live: 33 Recorded: 16 Total Viewing Hrs: 45

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
March 24, 2024



TR Steiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate with **Miev Chan** who returned home on Wednesday after spending more than a month in the OSU hospital, and with **Marty Hostetler** who transitioned to the Mennonite Home for rehabilitation on Thursday. Miev & Marty welcome prayers as they continue to heal.

Jan Wiebe's father, Leonard Wiebe, entered hospice this week at Greencroft in Goshen, Indiana. Family has been surrounding Leonard with music and time together. Hold the Wiebe/Andreas family in your prayers.

We begin **Holy Week** today, Palm Sunday. Our guest speaker is **Sarah Augustine**, a Pueblo (Tewa) descendant and co-founder and executive director of the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery and co-author of *So We and Our Children May Live*. Sarah and her husband Dan Peplow and their son live in the Yakima Valley of Washington state. Sarah will begin the morning sharing during an **Elective SS class** in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. Sarah will also be sharing at the **Lion & Lamb Peace Arts Center on Monday, Mar. 25 at 7 p.m.** and on **Tuesday, Mar. 26 at 11 a.m.** during Bluffton University's **Forum in Yoder Recital Hall**. During each speaking engagement, Sarah will be sharing a unique message based on the Doctrine of Discovery and her new book.

Holy Week activities continue with:

- **Palm Sunday Evening Service** co-hosted by Salem Mennonite & Lima Mennonite, 6:30 p.m. at Lima Mennonite: Sarah Augustine will share about the Doctrine of Discovery.
- **Maundy Thursday Service**, Mar. 28, at 6:30 p.m.: Optional practices will include singing, footwashing, candle lighting, and communion.
- Annual **Cross Walk** on Good Friday, Mar. 29: The walk will begin at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 11:30 a.m. and end at St. John's UCC. FMC is the 3rd stop on the route.
- **Easter Sunday Brunch**, Mar. 31: We will be celebrating with a brunch during the Sunday School hour beginning at 9:15 a.m. All are invited to bring a breakfast item to share. Beverages will be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own table service though paper products will be available.
- **Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus"** All are invited to sing during the worship service. You can rehearse with the Chancel Choir on Easter Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The instrumentalists will be rehearsing at 9:45 a.m.
- **Easter Potluck Lunch:** No plans for Easter? Bring a dish to share and join an Easter gathering of FMC folks and friends. No need to sign up or report what you're bringing; it's pot-luck! Thanks to Walt Paquin for organizing!

Throughout Lent, Scripture is being shared through **LOGOS**, the FMC reader's theater group. This week's readers include **Leah Niekamp, Sarah Phillips, JP Schumacher, and Trusty Schumacher**.

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. Please contact Jean Miller or Sue Schaaf PHONE NUMBERS with any questions.

The MMH Service Group is sponsoring its annual Barbeque Chicken Dinner Apr. 13. Cost is \$10 for 1/2 chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans, and a roll. Curbside pick-up is from 4-6 p.m. at Bubba C BBQ, 158 Jackson St., Bluffton. Tickets are available through Mar. 29 from Gloria Bucher or at the MMH reception desk, 8:30-11 a.m. and 12-4 p.m. Thanks for your support.

Visitors to the area or family and friends home for the eclipse who are looking for something to do on Sat. or Sun. before the event can step back in time April 6 and 7 at the **Schumacher Homestead** at 8350 Bixel Road, Pandora, Ohio. We will be open for self-guided tours of the 1843 restored Swiss Homestead including house, garden, workshop, and barn. Activities for children will include games and toys, candle making, and corn husk dolls. Open fire popcorn and lemonade will be served. Hours are 1-4 p.m. both days. Docents will be available for questions. No entrance fee, but donations to support the **Swiss Community Historical Society** will be gratefully accepted. For any questions, contact: Gary Wetherill at 419 358 1049 or 419 819 8268 (text).

On Wednesday afternoon, March 20, **Bluffton University and the University of Findlay** announced their intention to become one university on two campuses. More information can be found here: www.FindlayBlufftonFuture.com. This website also provides a form in which questions can be posted. Bluffton University was created by the two predecessor conferences that now make up



Central District Conference. Please pray for the students, faculty, and staff of both universities during this time of further discernment and uncertainty. There are opportunities for the community to ask questions and learn more about the proposed merger at 7 p.m. on Monday, Mar. 25 at the University of Findlay, Winebrenner Building and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 26 at Bluffton University in Yoder Recital Hall. An elective SS class offering at FMC on Apr. 7 will be another opportunity for questions and conversation with President Jane Wood and Trustees **Doug Luginbill** and **Annette Heslep**.

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.



Ministry Minute!

Did you know that our Confession of Faith includes **foot washing**? Article 13 describes Foot Washing: “We believe that Jesus Christ calls us to serve one another in love as he did. Rather than seeking to lord it over others, we are called to follow the example of our Lord, who chose the role of a servant by washing his disciples’ feet. Just before his death, Jesus stooped to wash the disciples’ feet and told them, “So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”¹ In this act, Jesus showed humility and servanthood, even laying down his life for those he loved. In washing the disciples’ feet, Jesus acted out a parable of his life unto death for them, and of the way his disciples are called to live in the world. Believers who wash each other’s feet show that they share in the body of Christ.² They thus acknowledge their frequent need of cleansing, renew their willingness to let go of pride and worldly power, and offer their lives in humble service and sacrificial love. Read **John 13** for the only account of Jesus’ foot washing at the Last Supper. **All are welcome to participate** in this ritual at the Maundy Thursday service this Holy Week.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

- 24 - Jim Dillman
Evan Skilliter
- 25 - Micah DeMarco
- 28 - Linda Suter
- 29 - Annette Heslep
- 30 - Elaine Buroker
Ruth Graber

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 24, 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/ Sarah Augustine, 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary
 Cherubs, 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Children’s Choir Room
 Worship: Sarah Augustine preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
 Freudige SS Class potluck, noonish Fellowship Hall
 Bluffton U. Theater Event: “Pride and Prejudice,” 2:30 p.m. Ramseyer Auditorium
 Sarah Augustine: Doctrine of Discovery, 6:30 p.m. Lima Mennonite Church

This Week

Monday, March 25
 Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor
 Staff Relations Committee, 2:30 p.m. Parlor
 Sarah Augustine, 7 p.m. Lion & Lamb

Tuesday, March 26
 Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
 Caring Connections, 9 a.m. Parlor
 Bluffton U. Forum: Sarah Augustine, 11 a.m. Yoder Recital Hall

Wednesday, March 27
 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. Bell Choir Room
 Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary
 SHY, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 28
 Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 29
 BAMA Cross Walk, 11:30 a.m. begin at St Mary’s

Easter Sunday, March 31
 Easter Brunch, 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall
 Worship: Phil Yoder preaching
 Easter Potluck, noon-ish, Fellowship Hall
 Lectionary: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30




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.