

Rooted Faith: Breaking Ground

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024

Gathering

Welcome and announcements Shelby Cluts & Ellie Hartzler

Prelude *In Thee Is Gladness* Gastoldi/Kosche
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 340 *Lift Your Glad Voices*

*Responsive Reading

One: When it is still dark, we come seeking Jesus.

Many: The risen Christ is here among us!

One: The stone has been rolled away, walls torn down.

Many: The risen Christ is here among us!

One: The burial cloth removed, his body transformed.

Many: The risen Christ is here among us!

One: Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and John see and believe.

All: We find the risen Christ among us who has made all things new!

The tomb is empty, the way of Love has prevailed!

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Jen Benroth & Judy Steiner

Hymn VT 777 *Seeds*

(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Prayer of Rejoicing

One: Risen Jesus, you make all things new.

Many: You call us by name to come to you.

One: You come preaching peace and forgiving sins.

Many: You prepare a feast for us and wipe away all tears.

All: You bring life everlasting. We rejoice in your salvation, Lord of all!

*Hymn VT 346 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*
Don Hooley (trumpet)

Community Prayer Pastor Carrie

Scripture Mark 16:1-8 LOGOS

Message *Sprouts of Hope* Pastor Phil

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 352 *This Joyful Eastertide*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *Awake, My Heart, with Gladness* Crüger/Kosche

Dedication Prayer

Sending

Special Music | Benediction *Hallelujah Chorus* G. F. Handel
Mass Choir & Instrumental Ensemble, Mark Suderman (conductor)

*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

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
~ Phil's day off - Friday ~ Carrie's day off - Thursday

Lead Pastor Phil Yoder, 717.869.7624 | phil@fmcbluffton.org
Associate Pastor Carrie Mast, 419.230.1568 | carrie@fmcbluffton.org
Communication Coordinator Trusty 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

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Nursery Workers Today SS: --
Worship: Victoria Woods-Yee



Nursery Workers Next Week SS: --
Worship: Jonathan Spelman

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

3/17/2024 - 3/24/2024

Attendance last Sunday:	177	Video:	Ray Raeburn
Reported Volunteer hours:	22	Sound:	Chris Gott/Jonah Sheets
Online views:	Live: 33 Recorded: 19	Chancel:	Pastor Carrie
	Total Viewing Hrs: 34		

Leadership Circle	Moderator	Ray Person
	Moderator-Elect	Laurel Neufeld Weaver
	Stewardship Ministry Circle Leader	Kevin Nickel
	Connecting Ministry Circle Leader	Ken Shenk
	Christian Formation Circle Leader	Shelby Cluts
	Deacon	Victoria Woods-Yee
	Deacon	Kathy Dickson
	Deacon	Isaac Schumacher
	Treasurer	Rita Dietrich
	Recorder	Carrie Phillips

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

Easter
March 31, 2024



TR Steiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Basilda Rockhold passed away March 27, 2024, with her loving family by her side. Visitation will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at the Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services - **Bluffton Chapel**, and again from 4- 7 p.m. at the Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services - **Shawnee Chapel**. Our condolences and prayers to **Jon** and their family.

We would like to **thank the many kindnesses** shown to our family after the passing of our mother, **Rosie Dosh**. All the hugs, cards, food and words of comfort were so appreciated by us all. We felt so supported by our church family!

~ **Judy Steiner** and the extended Dosh family

TODAY: Easter Sunday, March 31

- We will be celebrating with an **Easter 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.
- All are invited to sing Handel's "**Hallelujah Chorus**" 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!

If you purchased **Easter flowers**, you can pick them up after worship. Trusty has the list of flowers you ordered. Confirm your order with her before you pick up your flowers.

Thanks to T.R Steiner for creating our bulletin covers throughout this Lenten season.

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

The church **office** will be **closed Monday**, April 1 for the Easter holiday.

Bluffton University's Forum offers two options this Tuesday, Apr. 2 at 11 a.m.:

- **From Light into Darkness...and Back into Light,** " Solar Eclipse Forum by Dr. Luke Myers, associate professor of physics, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall
- **"Who am I?"** First Tuesday Forum by Kelly Bilen '24, 11 a.m., Musselman Library Reading Room
- Senior Exhibition **"Pots and PCs,"** 9-5 p.m. weekdays, 1-5 p.m. weekends, through May 4. Reception: 1-3 p.m., Sunday, April 14 Artist Talk 1:30 p.m., Grace Albrecht Gallery Sauder Visual Arts Center

On Wednesday afternoon, Mar. 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. **Next Sunday, Apr. 7**, during the SS hour, **President Jane Wood and Trustees Doug Luginbill and Annette Heslep** will be available for a time of questions, answers, and conversation in the sanctuary.



The church **office** will be **closed Monday**, April 8 as recommended by safety services in preparation for the eclipse. Staff will be working from home and can be contacted.

Eclipse glasses are available free of charge in the Fellowship Hall.

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).

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** at 419.234.8392 or **Sue Schaaf** at 419.230.5645 with any questions.

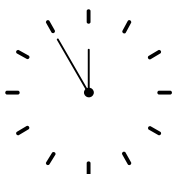
The MMH Service Group is sponsoring its annual Barbeque Chicken Dinner Apr. 13. Cost is \$10 for 1/2 chicken, au gratin potatoes, green beans, and a roll. Curbside pick-up is from 4-6 p.m. at Bubba C BBQ, 158 Jackson St., Bluffton. Tickets are available through Mar. 29 from Gloria Bucher or at the MMH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

Mennonite Church USA is pleased to announce that the **2025 MC USA biennial national gathering** and leading faith formation event, *Follow Jesus '25*, will take place July 8-12, 2025, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. Shé Langley was named the new director of event planning. Read more here: mennoniteusa.org/convention-details-director.

Faith and Mental Health



Ministry Minute!



The month of May is Mental Health Awareness Month. During the month, we will have several opportunities to share one's experiences with mental health during an elective Sunday School class and the worship services. If you have personal stories and experiences that you would like to share as a part of this 3-Sunday series (May 5, 12, and 19), contact one of the members of the worship planning team: Karen McCullough (karenmccullough1@gmail.com) or Janet Schroeder (billschr@bright.net).

Mental Health Month Worship Planning Team

Jax Gott
Liana Gott
Karen McCullough
Janet Schroeder
Phil Yoder
Carrie Mast
Mark Suderman

Happy Birthday!

March 31 - Paula Luginbill
April 2 - Rita Dietrich
April 5 - Jax Gott
April 6 - Mike 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.



Today, Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter brunch, 9:15 a.m.

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Easter potluck lunch, noon-ish Fellowship Hall

This Week

Monday, April 1

Easter Monday: Church Office CLOSED

Tuesday, April 2

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, April 3

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.

Next Sunday, April 7

Bluffton University merger meeting, 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching

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.