

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Victoria Woods-Yee

Prelude

Brothers, Sing On
This Is The Time I Must Sing
4 Guys & a Gal, Kevin Gratz, (director)

Grieg/McKinney
Gaither/Kirkland

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 28 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 133

One: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

Many: It is like the precious oil on the head,

One: running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron,

Many: running down over the collar of his robes.

One: It is like the dew of Hermon,

Many: which falls on the mountains of Zion.

All: For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Telling God's Story

Special Music

Ride the Chariot arr. William Henry Smith
Youth Choir, Laura Hartzler (director)

Conversation with Children

Teri Steinmetz

Hymn

VT 550 *God Who Touches Earth with Beauty*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 2 going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Pastor Carrie

Scripture

John 20:19-31

Steve Phillips

Message

Doubting Hands

Pastor Phil

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 737 *Breathe on Me Breath of God*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Nearer, My God To Thee
Make Them Hear You
4 Guys & a Gal

Adams/Mason/Hart
Flaherty/Funk

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 347 *I Know That My Redeemer Lives*

*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."

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

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

Nursery Workers Today SS:
Worship: Jonathan Spelman



Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Cheri Slotter
Worship: Mary Ina Hooley

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

3/24/2024 - 3/31/2024

Attendance last Sunday: **201** Video: **Ray Raeburn**
Reported Volunteer hours: **22** Sound: **Chris Moser/Jonah Sheets**
Online views: Live: **33** Recorded: **37** Chancel: **Isaac Schumacher**
Total Viewing Hrs: **46**

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.



"Doubting Hands"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marty Hostetler passed away on Monday, Apr. 1 at Mennonite Home. Her memorial service will be at FMC on Wednesday, Apr. 10 at 11:30 a.m. with visitation prior to the service beginning at 10:30 a.m. The service will be followed with a meal and a time of sharing. A private graveside service will be held in the afternoon. We invite prayers for Lowell and the family as they grieve Marty's passing and remember her life.

Terry Chappell passed away Feb. 12. His memorial service will be this Saturday, Apr. 13, at 11 a.m. at FMC and will be followed with a meal. We continue to hold the Chappell family in our prayers as they gather to mourn Terry's passing and celebrate his life.

Jan Wiebe's father, **Leonard Wiebe**, passed away in Goshen on Apr. 3, with Jan by his side. The Wiebe Andreas family thanks the congregation for their support and prayers during these past months.


The quartet + 1 singing in today's service, **Four Guys & a Gal**, is directed by **Kevin Gratz** and consists of Bluffton High School seniors **Ben Hartzler** (*bass, son of Greg and Laura Hartzler, plans to attend ONU*), **Cole Bowers** (*2nd tenor, son of John and Amanda Bowers, plans to attend University of Akron*), **Riley Greer** (*baritone, son of Greg and Vanessa Greer, plans to attend OSU-Lima*), **Ian Rieman** (*1st tenor, son of James and Jenn Rieman, plans to attend ONU*), and **Caitlyn Couch** (*pianist/vocals, daughter of Roy and Kathy Couch, plans to attend Capital University*).

John and Carolyn Rich have moved to 14 Pinebrook Drive, Bluffton. They are grateful for FMC's help with the move.

Mary Ina Hooley's email has changed: maryinahooley@gmail.com.

Gary Wetherill has been selected by the **Bluffton Lions Club** as **Citizen of the Year** for his work with the Boy Scouts, Swiss Historical Society, The Et Cetera Shop, and church. A public event honoring him will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, Apr. 11, in the Kreider Room of Marbeck Center. Meal tickets may be purchased from John Rich for \$17 no later than **Monday, Apr. 8**.

TODAY: Sunday, Apr. 7, during the SS hour, **President Jane Wood**, Interim VP of Academic Affairs **Alex Sider**, and Trustees **Doug Luginbill** and **Annette Heslep** will be available for a time of questions, answers, and conversation in the sanctuary regarding the merger between Bluffton University and the University of Findlay. More information about the merger can be found here: www.FindlayBlufftonFuture.com. This website includes FAQs. The Bluffton University Facebook page also includes links to the recordings of the two town hall meetings held on the Bluffton and Findlay campuses last week.

The church office will be closed **Monday, Apr. 8** as recommended by safety services in preparation for the eclipse. *Staff will be working from home* and can be contacted. Contact information is on the back page of the bulletin. 

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.

Under the direction of Dr. Roy Couch, the **Bluffton University Brass Quartet** will perform pieces including "Be Thou My Vision," "How to Train Your Dragon" and "Sweet Caroline" during their spring concert **today**, Sunday, Apr. 7 at **2:30 p.m.** in Yoder Recital Hall.

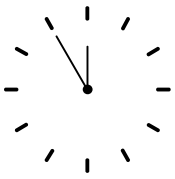
Bluffton University presents the Civic Engagement Forum this Tuesday with a presentation by FMC member and Professor of Social Work **Dr. J. Walter Paquin** titled "Balancing Life's Challenges: How Small Actions Improve Emotional Well-Being." Forum is at 11 a.m. in Yoder Recital Hall and is free and open to the public.

The C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest will be Wednesday, Apr. 10 at 7 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall on the Bluffton University campus. This year's contest includes six student speakers including FMC attendee **Micah Dodson**. The first prize winner will advance to compete with winning students from other North American Mennonite colleges. The bi-national competition awards additional monetary prizes for the top three competitors. Judges for this year's contest include Emeritus Professor of English **Jeff Gundy**, **Pastor Carrie**, and Assistant Professor of Communication **Marathana Prothro**.

Bluffton University's Masterworks performance of French composer **Maurice Duruflé's** "Requiem" will be held at **2:30 p.m. next Sunday**, Apr. 14 in Yoder Recital Hall. The event is free and open to the public with first-come, first-served seating. The concert will be conducted by Dr. Bo Young Kang, director of choral activities, and will feature a chorus comprised of Camerata Singers, University Chorale and Bluffton University Choral Society and orchestra. The choruses, which include Bluffton University students and Bluffton-area community members, held weekly rehearsals to prepare for this event.

The **Bluffton Community VBS** is hosting Hometown Nazareth formerly known as Marketplace. There are several ways to help: donate paper towel tubes, bake 2 dozen cookies, be a shopkeeper in the Marketplace, be a Tribe Leader or an Assistant Tribe Leader, or help prepare the items the shopkeepers will sell in the marketplace. A great crew is already forming: **Pastor Phil**, **Gary Wetherill**, **Laurel Neufeld Weaver**, and **Pastor Carrie**. If interested in helping in any way, contact Pastor Carrie.

Ministry Minute!



Funeral Meal Ministry

The Funeral Meal Ministry is one way our congregation shows care for one another during a difficult time. **Susie Gratz** and **Mary Edmiston** tag team the organization, planning, and work required to provide a meal for the family and their guests. Together, they coordinate volunteers from the congregation to provide onsite prep and clean-up and to provide food for the meal. Susie, Mary, and their volunteer teams provide meals from small (35) to medium (60-65) to large (150-200) gatherings of people.



This ministry is highlighted this week as FMC prepares to grieve and celebrate the lives of two long-time members of our congregation with memorial services and meals on Wednesday and Saturday. More help is needed this week, particularly on Saturday. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, either this week or in the future, contact Susie at 419.358.4822 or Mary 419.230.9659 or access the link to sign up for food or to work a shift on the FMC website: fmcbluffton.org/links.

HAPPY Birthday



- April 8** - JP Schumacher
- April 10** - Jim Harder
- April 13** - George Lehman
Kendra Nickel

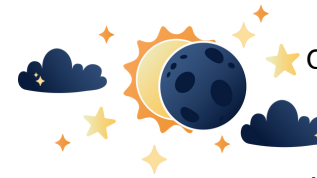
In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

Today, Sunday, April 7, 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.
Bluffton University merger meeting, 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary
Cherubs, 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Children's Choir Room
Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Brass Quartet performance, Bluffton University, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

This Week

Monday, April 8



Church office closed for the eclipse
(staff working from home)

Tuesday, April 9

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, April 10

Marty Hostetler's Memorial Service, 11:30 a.m. Sanctuary
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

Saturday, April 13

Terry Chappell's Memorial Service, 11 a.m. Sanctuary

Next Sunday, April 14

Worship: Carrie Mast preaching
Masterworks Choral Concert, Bluffton University, 2:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall
Lectionary: Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48
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.