

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 14, 2024

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Pastor Phil

Prelude

No.18 in F# Major
Laura Hartzler

Robert Vandall

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 4 *Christ Is Our Cornerstone*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 4

One: Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

Many: **You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.**

One: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!"

Many: **Let the light of your face shine on us, O God!"**

One: You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

Many: **I will both lie down and sleep in peace,**

All: ***for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.***

Telling God's Story

Jubilate

Halle Halle Halle arr. John Michnirwicz
Laura Hartzler (director), Anne Marie Spelman (piano)

Conversation with Children

Pastor Phil

Hymn

VT 550 *God Who Touches Earth with Beauty*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 3 going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Kathy Dickson

Scripture

Acts 3:12-19; Luke 24:36b-48

Louise Matthews &
Carter Steinmetz

Message

Engaging Dangerous Texts

Pastor Carrie

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 715 *Longing for Light*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Dedication Prayer

Down the Valley

Lorie Line

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 810 *Go, My Friends, in Grace*

*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 | fmce@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: Cheri Slotter
Worship: Mary Ina Hooley & Amy Shadbolt

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Judy Steiner
Worship: Sunita Hooley



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

3/31/2024 - 4/7/2024

Attendance last Sunday:	190	Video:	Ray Raeburn
Reported Volunteer hours:	29	Sound:	Chris Gott/Jonah Sheets
Online views:	Live: 21 Recorded: 22	Chancel:	Amy Freeman
	Total Viewing Hrs: 26		

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, Apr. 5, Evan & Amber Steiner welcomed baby Calvin into their family. One way to care for them during this time is by providing meals. To sign up to bring them a meal, visit <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/mogr96> or contact Tess Eger to learn about available dates and details at 513.748.6585.



Scrapbook pages for **Mark & Elaine Suderman** are due tomorrow, April 15!

TUESDAY: If you plan to volunteer at Our Daily Bread this week, contact John or Carolyn Rich at 419.358.5405. We leave at 10:45 a.m.

Bluffton University's **Masterworks performance** of French composer Maurice Duruflé's "Requiem" will be held at **2:30 p.m. today**, Sunday, 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.

Bluffton University will recognize its top student-athletes at the annual **Athletics Awards Forum, Tuesday** Apr. 16 at 11 a.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Featured is a presentation by author, "Success is a Choice" podcast host, and former basketball coach Jamy Bechler.

Join a CO (conscientious objector) discussion Sunday, Apr. 21 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. During the conversation, Ryan DeMarco will share his personal experience with the military, and peace packets will be distributed and reviewed. This conversation is planned with youth and their families in mind but anyone with interest is invited to attend.

The Friends of the Library invite you to a **Spring Tea & Silent Auction** on Thursday, **Apr. 25** at 6 p.m. The guest speaker is **Perry Bush**. Tickets are \$20 and are available at the Bluffton Public Library.

The Racial Justice planning committee met Thursday evening and decided to **postpone the Civil Rights sites tour**. We did not have enough stated interest in the 8-day trip slated for May 29-June 5 to offer it at this time. We are hopeful that with more long range planning we will be able to successfully offer this opportunity in the future.

MCC hygiene and relief kit collection continues through April. Both types of kits are desperately needed. Lists are on the bulletin board by the library. Full kits, any listed supplies, or money/checks are accepted. Response has been slow, thus far.

The Bluffton Community VBS is hosting **Hometown Nazareth** formerly known as *Marketplace 29 AD*. 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, contact Pastor Carrie.

Kenneth Dadzie, a recent Bluffton University graduate, faced many obstacles as an international student: financial, housing, and employment. Individual and congregational support from FMC, assistance from members of the Bluffton community, and help from some other local faith communities made it possible for Kenneth to complete his college education. He recently relocated to Columbus, OH to find work in his area of expertise, TESOL, and sent a **letter of gratitude**. You can read the letter posted on the Thank Yous column in the Fellowship Hall.

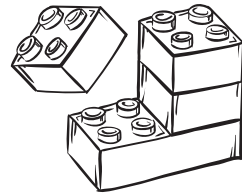
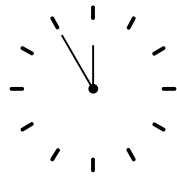
The April issue of the **Central District Conference Connector** is available online and in hard copy in the Fellowship Hall. The theme of this issue is Curious and Open to Change, part of our year-long series on stories that were gathered from the sacred listening process. It includes a reflection on relationships with the land, photos from community gardens, updates from Mennonites in CDC involved in the Israel/Palestine conflict, and a review of Anabaptist Disabilities Network's newest baptism curriculum.

Don't know what to do with your **Eclipse glasses**? We will be collecting them to send to schools in South America that will also be experiencing an eclipse this Fall.

MHCO Volunteer Opportunities:

- As we begin to have warmer weather, we will be looking for a volunteer on Tuesdays that would drive our golf cart around for able-bodied Willow Ridge Elders. Flexible time frame: 1-4 p.m. on Tuesdays beginning in May.
- Mail pass during the week
- Snack pass in the evenings (6:30-7 p.m.)
- Bingo callers
- Golf cart rides for ice cream
- Weeding flower beds
- Sitting outside with residents on warm days
- Transport residents from their rooms to chapel Tuesday evenings,

Ministry Minute!



The **Capital Campaign Committee** will meet tomorrow, Monday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor. The Capital Campaign Committee consists of **Mike Edmiston, Darryl Nester, Steve Phillips, Amy Shadbolt, Rodney Dyck, Dave Moser, Rita Dietrich, Monica Harnish, Ray Raeburn, Pastor Phil,** and **Pastor Carrie.** If you have any ideas, let any one of the committee members know!

Projects Being Considered

- Complete kitchen remodel
- Organ restoration
- Replace carpeting and tile in basement and upstairs
- Paint hallways and common spaces
- Basement bathrooms (old) "reinvention"
- Stair treads
- Library outside steps
- Sanctuary: Plaster, possible ADA updates, lighting
- LED lights everywhere
- Bike racks at main entrance
- Balcony facade wood finishing, glass railing
- Additional AC in parlor, library, upstairs SS rooms



- April 14** - Sarah Basinger
Jorian Mast
Flora Yoder
- April 15** - Jen Benroth
- April 16** - Carla Richard
- April 19** - Julie Mackey
- April 20** - Carmen Ordonez Moser

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 14, 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: Carrie Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Sojourners SS Class potluck, noonish Assembly Room
Masterworks performance, 2:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

This Week

Monday, April 15

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor
Capital Campaign meeting, 6:30 p.m. Parlor

Tuesday, April 16

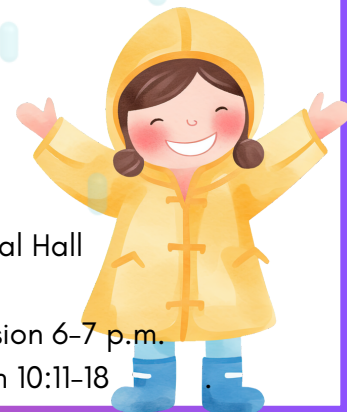
Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
Our Daily Bread, 10:45 a.m. meet in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 17

Maple Crest Bible Study, 2 p.m. Maple Crest
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 21

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching
Spring Fling Concert, 2:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall
CO conversation, 4 p.m. Sanctuary
Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.
Lectionary: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18



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.