

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

Gathering

Opening Music	<i>Musette</i> Junia Spelman (violin)	J.S. Bach
Welcome and announcements		Chris Moser
Prelude	<i>Four Easter Hymns</i> Recorder quartet: Steve Harnish, Don Hooley, Darryl Nester, Mark Suderman	Michael Praetorius
Invocation		
Special Music	<i>Get on Board</i> Cherub Choir, Laura Hartzler (director)	Traditional Spiritual
*Opening Hymn		VT 9 <i>Come Away from Rush and Hurry</i>

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 23

One: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Many: God makes me lie down in green pastures; God leads me beside still waters; God restores my soul.

One: God leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Many: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil,

One: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Many: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

One: you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Many: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

All: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Telling God's Story

Special Music	<i>The Lord Is My Shepherd</i> Chancel Choir, Mark Suderman (conductor), LuAnn Stuckey (organ), Jerry Szabo (oboe)	John Rutter
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Conversation with Children		Pastor Phil
Hymn	VT 550 <i>God Who Touches Earth with Beauty</i> (v. 1 coming forward & v. 4 going back to seats)	

Community Prayer		Pastor Carrie
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Scripture	Acts 4:1-22	Gloria Bucher
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Message	<i>Searching for Stones</i>	Pastor Phil
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Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response		VT 619 <i>In the Rifted Rock I'm Resting</i>
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Offering		
Words of Invitation		
Offertory	<i>Valses Poéticos, No. 1 and 2</i> Anne Marie Spelman	Enrique Granados
Dedication Prayer		

Sending

*Hymn of Sending		VT 838 <i>La paz de la tierra</i>
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(Sing twice in Spanish or English)

*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>

4/7/2024 - 4/14/2024

Attendance last Sunday: **156** Video: **Ray Raeburn**
Reported Volunteer hours: **17** Sound: **Melissa Friesen/Jonah Sheets**
Online views: Live: **28** Recorded: **18** Chancel: **Heidrun Awad**
Total Viewing Hrs: **40**

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.



"Searching for Stones"



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and expressions of love and support as I continue chemotherapy for my cancer. A recent PET scan shows that the treatment is helping. I am grateful that I continue to feel remarkably well. - **Ken Shenk**

To my church family, Thank you for all the prayers, meals and cards you sent me and the love you showed my family during my hospital stay. I am very grateful.
- **Miev Yeng Chan**

On 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 dates and details at 513.748.6585.



Mark & Elaine Suderman's new address is 6772 Cleary Loop NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144, and their new email is sudermanme1982@gmail.com.

Monday, Apr. 22 is the international celebration of **Earth Day**, a day to honor our planet and to join in action to heal and sustain it. Planet v. Plastics is this year's Earth Day theme, developed by EARTHDAY.org. Visit their website for Earth Day ideas, or to find a local celebration to connect with. The Earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it... Psalm 24:1

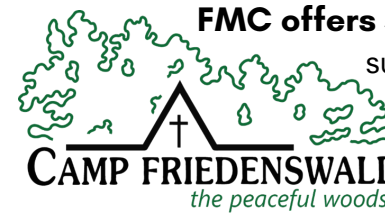
The **Deacons** will meet **Monday, Apr. 22** at 6:15 p.m. in the Parlor.

The **Faith & Life SS Class** is invited to an **afternoon tea** on **Tuesday, Apr. 23**, at **2 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall hosted by Pastor Phil & Pastor Carrie.

Next Sunday, Apr. 28, is Music Sunday! All are invited to **celebrate Mark and Elaine's** ministry with us next week on his last Sunday. We will be honoring him throughout the worship service, and everyone is invited to share their gratitude and farewells with Mark and Elaine immediately following the worship service in the fellowship hall for a **potluck reception** and short program. Cake & cookies will be provided. Please bring your own table service.

Bluffton University's music groups will come together for a **Spring Fling** concert featuring fun, familiar tunes at **2:30 p.m. today**, Sunday, Apr. 21, in Yoder Recital Hall.

Bluffton University's Forum this week is the Academic Awards program, Tuesday, Apr. 23 at 11 a.m. in Yoder Recital Hall.



FMC offers 50% camperships for children and youth to attend summer camp at Camp Friedenswald. Email your receipt to Pastor Carrie (carrie@fmcbluffton.org) to receive the discount. You can turn in the receipt even if you haven't fully paid yet. If you know of a child or youth outside of FMC who would like to attend camp, contact Pastor Phil or Carrie to make arrangements for a campership.

Camp needs volunteers in April/May. Throughout the spring they will serve over 1,000 area school children as part of their Outdoor Education program, and they need help feeding them! They are seeking volunteers to help with food preparation, meal service, and dishes. If interested, please contact Kenda or call 269.476.9744 for more information. Housing and meals provided.

Columbus Grove Christian Church invites you to their **72nd annual Pancake and Sausage drive thru Supper** on **Apr.25 from 4 to 7 p.m.** at 105 S. Broadway St, Columbus Grove. **Tickets, \$8**, can be purchased at Alt's gas station, Carl's Hardware, Shear Power Salon, and Tabler's Carry-out, or call the church at 419.659.2182. Frozen uncooked sausage links will be for sale at the drive-thru.


The next virtual meeting of the **Mennonite Public Educators group** is **Thursday, Apr. 25, at 7 p.m.** The conversation topic will be "Simple ways to show our faith." These conversations are moderated by public school teachers who are Mennonite and are intended for all Mennonite education professionals working in public school settings. **Registration** is required. Email info@MennoniteEducation.org to receive registration information.

Mennonite Public Educators
Thursday, April 25, 2024 - 7pm Eastern, Zoom

"Simple ways to show our faith"

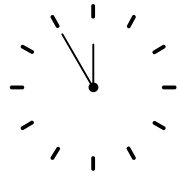
There is no cost, but registration is required.
Contact info@MennoniteEducation.org.

— join us! —

 Mennonite Education Agency
The education agency of Mennonite Church USA



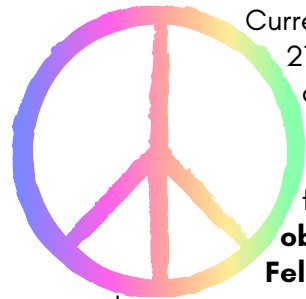
Ministry Minute!



The military draft may feel irrelevant today, a thing in our distant past. However, in the fall of 2021, The U.S. House Armed Services Committee voted to expand registration for the Selective Service System, commonly known as the draft, to include women, a move that brings the requirement one step closer to becoming law. As part of the debate on the fiscal 2022 defense policy bill, committee members voted 35-24 to require all Americans ages 18 to 24 to register for the draft, not just men. Air Force veteran Rep. Chrissy Houlahan, D-Pa., proposed the measure, saying the current system is unconstitutional because it discriminates based on gender.

Current news includes Ukraine's consideration of lowering their draft age from 27 to 25 years old. Globally, young people are still concerned about the draft.

FMC equips youth and family with information and recommendations in preparation of registering when youth turn 18, including building a CO file which the church maintains for years. **Join a CO (conscientious objector) conversation this afternoon, Apr. 21, at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** 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.



April 21 - Becki Ahmed

April 22- Margie Closson
Melinda Estell

April 24 - Ryan Niekamp

April 27 - John Estell
Bill Suter

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 21, 2024

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: Pastor Phil preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Spring Fling Concert, 2:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall

CO Conversation, 4 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.



This Week

Monday, April 22

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Deacons, 6:15 p.m. Parlor

Tuesday, April 23

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Faith & Life SS Class tea, 2 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 24

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.

Music Sunday, April 28

Worship/Music Sunday: Mark Suderman preaching

Potluck reception in honor of Mark & Elaine Suderman, noon Fellowship Hall

Lectionary: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

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 for young children in the nursery located in the basement during Sunday School and worship