

# New Members Sunday

## May 26, 2024

### **Gathering**

Welcome and announcements Rachel Skilliter

Prelude *Foundation* arr. J. Eggert  
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn *Heart with Loving Heart United* VT 813

\*Responsive Reading

One: God our Creator, we call You Father, Mother, Author of Life:

**All: Gather us in, O God**

One: Christ our Savior, we call You the Son, the Messiah, the One who Saves:

**All: Gather us in, O God**

One: Holy Spirit, we call You the Advocate, the Inspirer, Breath and Wind of God:

**All: Gather us in, O God**

One: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory:

**All: Gather us in, O God**

One: Gather us in, Spirit, Christ and Creator, that we might journey with You more fully and deeply. Amen.

### **Telling God's Story**

Conversation with Children Pastor Carrie  
Hymn *Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us* VT 718  
(vs. 1 coming forward and going back)

Welcoming New Members VT 959-961

Community Prayer Pastor Carrie

Scripture Isaiah 6:1-8 Kian Searcy

Message *A Community of Scorched Lips* Pastor Phil

### **Living God's Story**

\*Hymn of Response *For We Are Strangers No More* VT 409

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Dedication Prayer

*The Church's One Foundation*

arr. A. K. Organ

### **Sending**

\*Hymn of Sending *I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table* VT 801  
Wendy Chappell-Dick

\*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."*

follow us:  Bluffton First Mennonite Church  @fmcbluffton

Lead Pastor Phil Yoder | 717.869.7624 | [phil@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:phil@fmcbluffton.org)  
Associate Pastor Carrie Mast | 419.230.1568 | [carrie@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:carrie@fmcbluffton.org)  
Communication Coordinator Trusty Schumacher | 419.358.5766 | [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)  
Director of Music Camille Lively | [camille@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:camille@fmcbluffton.org)  
Technology Coordinator Ray Raeburn | 419.230.2769 | [ray@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:ray@fmcbluffton.org)  
Custodian Shawna Yoder | [shawna@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:shawna@fmcbluffton.org)

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

Nursery Workers Today SS: *Judy Diller*  
Worship: --

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

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



**5/12/2024 - 5/19/2024**

Attendance last Sunday:	<b>148</b>	Video:	Ray Raeburn
Reported Volunteer hours:	<b>27</b>	Sound:	Melissa Friesen/Jonah Sheets
Online views:	Live: <b>20</b> Recorded: <b>17</b>	Chancel:	New Members
	Total Viewing Hrs: <b>38</b>		

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

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

## MAY 26, 2024



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sarah Basinger** was transferred to the Mennonite Memorial Home on Tuesday where Sarah and Tom now share a room. They welcome visitors during the afternoon between 1 and 4 p.m.

**Ginger Theis** has moved to rehabilitation at St. Rita's. While she has a journey ahead, she is in good spirits and has requested prayers.

My dad, **Howard Baumgartner**, is turning 100 years old on June 8. We are having a card shower for him. If you would like to send a card, his address is 1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711.

-Jean Miller

If the sanctuary seems brighter, it's not your imagination! Recently, some issues with the spotlights resulted in some less-than-glowing worship services...only because the spotlights both burned out! A tall thank you to **Steve Phillips and Joel Steinmetz** for sourcing new LED spotlights and replacing them on a very tall ladder!

**TODAY: Children and youth** will gather together during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. We'll do some Legos, Structures, and storytelling.

**TODAY:** All are invited to join in celebrating the high school graduation of **Theo Andreas, Benjamin Hartzler, Ethan Nickel, and John Paul Yoder** at their open house on today, May 26 from **4-7 p.m.** here at FMC in the Fellowship Hall. You have all been part of their lives and faith journeys so we would love to have you come and help celebrate.

There are several meetings this week covering several areas of ministry:

Tuesday: **Caring Connections** at 11 a.m. in the Parlor

**Staff Relations Committee** at 2:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Thursday: **Gifts Discernment & Ministry Participation committee**, 7 p.m. Parlor

Join other Mennonite women for a **comforter knotting** event this **Thursday**, May 30 in the Fellowship Hall at 1 p.m.

Most Sunday School classes conclude today to take a break for the summer. **One summer SS class** will continue gathering in the Assembly Room to study the Salt & Light series. All are welcome for this time of Scripture study and discussion. Participant guides are available in the Assembly Room.

**Saturday**, June 1: FMC and Ten Thousand Villages are co-hosting a booth at **Findlay Pride** from **10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** in Riverside Park. All are welcome to come hang out at the booth. If anyone is interested in helping staff the booth, contact Wendy Chappell Dick at [mennofolkmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mennofolkmusic@gmail.com).

**Spectrum of Findlay** hosts the event from sunrise to sundown and is looking for more volunteers. Sign up here for a variety of ways to help if interested:



**The Tri-Church Worship** service with Grace and Lima Mennonite Churches is slated for Sunday, **July 28** at Pandora Park. Grace Mennonite will serve as host with members from each church participating in worship and organization of the service. A **Tri-Church Choir** directed by Carolyn McDaniel will be forming to sing during the worship service. Rehearsal details will be coming soon. Interested people should contact Carolyn at [mcdanielcr27@gmail.com](mailto:mcdanielcr27@gmail.com) or 419.615.2515.



**Bluffton Community VBS** registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall or register with the QR code posted on the bulletin board. The *Hometown Nazareth* VBS is July 21-25 from 6-8 p.m. at the Bluffton YMCA.

**Camp Friedenswald 1/2 off camperships** are available. Send your receipt to Pastor Carrie to receive reimbursement. Carpools are being organized. It is helpful for the church office to know everyone who is going even if you already have your carpool privately organized. We will include campers in the bulletin and in the community prayer each week.

**Aly Breece** is the new Community Relations Coordinator at **Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio**. Her role handles marketing operations for all 3 campus

locations and oversees volunteer coordination. One project she is working on is assembling **texture and tactile boxes** for the therapy department. These boxes include various items: bells, fabrics, whistles, sound makers, balls, etc. Each box created is for a different level of therapy: higher-level sound therapies or textile assessments. Multiple boxes at each level are needed to provide therapies in a group setting. An Amazon Wishlist (QR code) includes the item list. Donations can be sent to 410 W Elm St in Bluffton.



The Anabaptism at Five Hundred **Anabaptist Community Bible** is available for presale at a discounted rate. Follow the QR code for order details. Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall to see sample Bible pages, illustrations, and pricing information.



# Divine Creativity

Ministry Minute!

## 2024 Summer Worship Series

This Summer, our worship Series theme is “**Divine Creativity**.” We will be exploring the connections between faith and creativity. So come to worship ready to think and worship creatively! Thank you to **Sara Brenner, Gerald Mast, Jeff Gundy, Isaac Schumacher, Camille Lively, Pastor Carrie, and Pastor Phil** for being part of the worship planning team.

### **Book Study Option:**

As a part of this series, Pastor Phil will be facilitating a book study based on “**The Artist’s Way**” by Julia Cameron which is a 12 week program working towards discovering and recovering your creative self. If you are interested in being part of this **book study and exploration into creativity**, let Pastor Phil know. We will be meeting for 15-30 minutes every Sunday morning this summer during the SS hour to reflect on our creative selves. If interested, purchase the book this week (if you need assistance ordering or with funds, contact the church office), and check out the first chapter!



May 28 - Trusty Schumacher  
May 29 - Lu Derstine  
May 30 - Chad Paul  
May 31 - Bill Croft  
Dottie Long  
Joel Steinmetz



*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, May 26, 2024**

Coffee Time, 9 a.m. & Sunday School for all ages, 9:15 a.m.

Combined SS Children & Youth, 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
Theo Andreas, Ben Hartzler, Ethan Nickel, & John-Paul Yoder's Graduation party, 4-7 p.m. Fellowship Hall

### **This Week**

#### **Monday, May 27**

Office Closed for the holiday!

#### **Tuesday, May 28**

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Caring Connections, 11 a.m. Parlor

Staff Relations Committee, 2:30 p.m. Parlor

#### **Wednesday, May 29**

Staff meeting, 12:30 p.m. Parlor

#### **Thursday, May 30**

Comforter Knotting, 1 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Gifts Discernment & Ministry Participation committee, 7 p.m. Parlor

#### **Saturday, June 1**

FMC & Ten Thousand Villages booth at Findlay Pride, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Riverside Park

### **Next Sunday, June 2**

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching

Lectionary: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20) and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18,

2 Corinthians 4:5-12, Mark 2:23-3:6

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

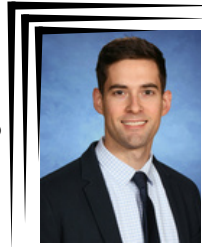


**Welcome to our worship service today.**

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 during Sunday School and worship in the nursery located in the basement.

## Meet our NEW Members

Greetings everyone! My name is **Cory Hilty**, a Bluffton native and resident with my wife, Emily, and our two children, Jonah and Eloise. As a family, we are excited to be joining FMC and providing such a caring place for our children to grow in their faith and develop lasting relationships with those in the church. Currently, I am the elementary principal at Cory-Rawson Elementary, but am excited to join Bath Elementary as the Assistant Principal this coming school year. My hobbies include spending time with my family, gardening, working on our home and exercising. I decided to bring a packet of seeds today, as some of my favorite moments are spent gardening and farming with our family, and helping our children see the wonder in caring for something that needs our help to flourish.



Hello! I am **Hannah Searcy** and this is not my first time being a member of this church. I grew up here and was baptized back in the 2000s. When I moved to New York, I transferred my membership to Watertown Mennonite Church and am excited to transfer my membership back to First Mennonite! It had been several years since I had regularly attended any church before coming here again. I am most looking forward to having a church community again as well as worshipping in a fellowship that feels like home. My mother, Lu Derstine, attends here and I have 4 children who you may see from time to time here. I am currently a Special Education teacher at Lima Senior High School. I am also taking classes to become a nurse in hopes of a career change in the next few years. I enjoy reading, spending time with my family, and cooking and baking. The object that I brought to represent me this morning is a serving spoon. I chose this item because I am very passionate about cooking and baking delicious foods and enjoy cooking for others. It is one of the ways I show support and love to family and friends.



I'm **Rachel Skilliter**! I have been married to Evan for nearly eight years and we have one daughter, Lena, who just turned three. I grew up in Lima where my mom and one brother reside. My father lives in Cincinnati and my other brother in Stow. I moved to Bluffton for college and never left! Upon graduating from Bluffton University, I became a high school mathematics teacher. Two years ago, I took a position at Bluffton High School. I teach Algebra 2 as well as the College Credit Plus mathematics courses offered. Once upon a time, running was my biggest hobby, which segued into coaching. I recently finished a season of coaching middle school track. My hobbies outside of work include spending time outdoors with my family, attending music festivals, reading, and crocheting. I am currently working on a large "temperature blanket" project where I change the color of the yarn each day depending on the daily high temperature. My pregnancy is a surrogate baby that I am carrying for friends. It is due at the beginning of July. This process has been very God-led and I feel very fortunate to be able to serve my friends in this way. Becoming a member at FMC feels like the natural next step for me. The values of FMC as well as the community have drawn me in and helped reveal my purpose in the world. My love language is "acts of service". FMC and the Mennonite values show me many ways in which I can serve God using that trait. My item on the chancel is a picture of my forearm tattoo which says, "Teach Peace". While I have a natural connection to classroom teaching, this goes beyond that. I want everything that I do, every interaction with others, how I raise my daughter, and how I serve the world to leave a mark of teaching peace to others.



My name is **Emily (Huxman) Hilty**. I am married to Cory Hilty and we have two beautiful children, Jonah and Eloise. I grew up in Wichita, Kansas where my family were members at Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church. When I was in high school my family moved to Waterloo, Ontario and I finished my final two years of school in Canada. I decided to attend Bluffton University for my undergrad and during my time in college, Cory and I would often attend First Mennonite Church together on Sunday mornings. After graduation, we moved to Columbus, Ohio for a few years before moving back to the Bluffton area as we started to grow our family. We are so thankful for the community and connections we have here. I am now an elementary teacher for Ohio Connections Academy and enjoy being able to work with students from all across the state. As a previous event planner and a current teacher, connection and bringing people together is something that is very important to me, but has also become a hobby. From planning fun events, friend get-togethers or play dates for my kids, I thoroughly enjoy making connections in our community as well as maintaining the connections I have from the many places I have lived. My chancel display item is a chain necklace to represent connection and relationships that are important to me.



Hello! I am **Kian (Ian with K) Searcy** and I am very excited to be joining First Mennonite Church. My passions include my family, history, traveling, hiking and being active outdoors, cooking, baseball, and a lot of reading. I more specifically read mostly non-fiction, am a long-suffering Cincinnati Reds fan, and love cooking recipes from all corners of the globe. I teach college credit American History and American Government at Lima Senior High School and also an elective class on the Holocaust, but I have taught several other classes in my career. I am originally from Lima, Ohio and am joining First Mennonite Church with my wonderful wife Hannah, with whom I help raise four great kids. I have been a religious nomad most of my life, with varying Christian faith traditions, but I am happy to have finally found a home here. I am most interested in joining FMC because of the fabulous community that exists here, but also, I feel that I have finally found the right religious fit for me and that better represents who I am as a person. The item that I have chosen for the chancel display is a book of Abraham Lincoln's collected writings. History has been my friend, guide, and even profession for nearly my entire life. It often inspires me and guides my thinking. I think an appropriate quote from Lincoln's words for this occasion would be, "With malice toward none; with charity for all..." Those words accurately embody this church, which makes it a special place.



My name is **Evan Skilliter**. I was born and raised in Bluffton. I'm a 2010 graduate of Bluffton High School and a 2014 graduate of Bluffton University, where I currently teach as Assistant Professor of Sport Management. I married Rachel in 2016 and we have a 3-year-old, Lena, as well as two dogs, Tucker and Benny, a fish named Blub Blub, and some neighborhood ducks that live in the front yard, called Ted and Wanda. My life and core beliefs were transformed by the principles of the Mennonite faith, during my time as a student at Bluffton University. I'm excited to become a member of a community that aligns with my personal mission of serving God's entire kingdom with love and compassion, and seeing the value of ALL people despite our differences. In my spare time, I'm deeply involved in basketball coaching and scouting, broadcasts local sports on radio and TV, and I own and operate a clothing brand that supports mental health awareness. I enjoys spending time with family and close friends, playing music with my daughter, and studying the impact sport has on the development of children and adults.

