## **Easter: Treading Holy Ground April 20, 2025**

Gathering

Music calls us to worship

Welcome and announcements

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain arr. W. Held Prelude

Invocation

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today \*Opening Hymn

\*Responsive Reading - written by Nathaniel Rhoads

One: Give thanks to the Lord because he is good, because his faithful love lasts forever.

Many: Christ is risen! Praise the Lord!

One: The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance are heard in the tents of

the righteous: "The Lord's strong hand is victorious!"

Many: Christ is risen! Praise the Lord!

One: I won't die-no, I will live and declare what the Lord has done.

Many: Christ is risen! Praise the Lord!

One: This is the day the Lord acted;

All: we will rejoice and celebrate in it!

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children

Eternal, Light, Shine in My Heart v. 1 going forward, v. 3 returning to seats VT 554

VT 346

Community Prayer The Lord's Prayer

Scripture

John 20:1-18

Seeds of Love Message

Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia! VT 341

Offering Invitation

Offertory Awake, My Heart, with Gladness arr. K.T. Kosche **Dedication Prayer** 

### Sending

Special Music|Benediction "Hallelujah" from Messiah Mass Choir & Chamber Orchestra Camille Lively, director

> \*Please rise in body or in spirit - VT: Voices Together (Purple Bound Book) S: Anabaptist Heritage Music

Preaching Phil Yoder Children's Time Rachel Skilliter

**Worship Leader** Melissa Friesen

**Community Prayer** Carrie Mast

Pianist/Organist LuAnn Stuckey Scripture Reader

James W. Bixel back cover of HWB

G.F. Handel

Lisa Shelly

Parents of young children: God put the wiggle in children, so no need to suppress those wiggles. Sitting closer to the front makes it easier for your little ones to engage.

Also, children learn their behavior by mimicking you. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Feel free to leave the sanctuary with your child, but you're welcome to 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





@fmcbluffton

Lead Pastor Associate Pastor Communication Coordinator Director of Music Technology Coordinator Custodians

Phil Yoder | 717.869.7624 | phil@fmcbluffton.org Carrie Mast | 419.230.1568 | carrie@fmcbluffton.org Trusty Schumacher | 419.358.5766 | fmc@fmcbluffton.org Camille Lively | camille@fmcbluffton.org Ray Raeburn | 419.230.2769 | ray@fmcbluffton.org Zack Crawford, Ethan Blount, Ollie Combs, Calvin Derstine

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

Nursery Workers Today SS: Easter Brunch

Worship: Victoria Woods-Yee

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: --

Worship: Mary Ina Hooley & Chaska Yoder

Nursery sign-up here: <a href="http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers">http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers</a>

Last Sunday - 4/13/2025

This Sunday - 4/20/2025

Attendance last Sunday: 216 Video: Ray Raeburn Reported Volunteer hours: Adam Phillips/Jonah Sheets 52 Sound: Live: 20 Recorded: 25

Online views: Total Viewing Hrs: 32

Easter Flowers/Lois Wetherill Chancel:

**■** Moderator Moderator-Elect Stewardship Ministry Circle Leader Kevin Nickel Connecting Ministry Circle Leader Christian Formation Circle Leader

Deacon

Deacon

Deacon

Treasurer

Recorder

Jonathan Spelman Ken Shenk Shelby Cluts Victoria Woods-Yee Kathy Dickson Isaac Schumacher Monica Harnish Carrie Phillips

Laurel Neufeld Weaver

No checks or cash in your pocket? Consider online giving.

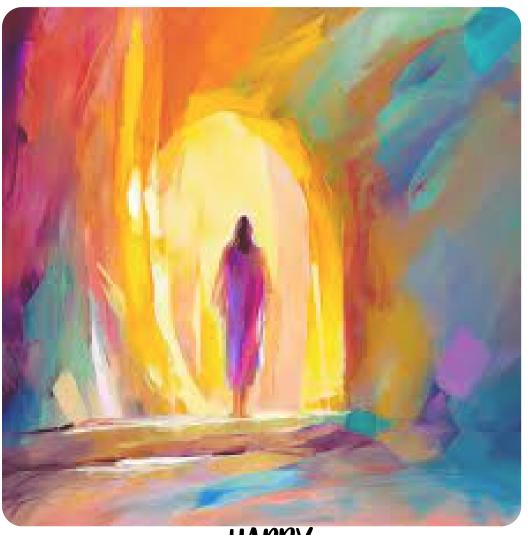


First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the 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 APRIL 20, 2025







### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



"Hallelujah" Chamber Orchestra musicians: Violin I, Anne Marie Spelman, Monica Harnish; Violin II, Melissa Friesen; Viola, Lynda Nyce; Cello, Grace Paquin, Phil Yoder; Trumpet, Don Hooley; Piano, LuAnn Stuckey

### **TODAY: Easter Sunday, April 20**

- We are 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 provided. You are encouraged to bring your own table service though paper products will be available.
- All are invited to sing "Hallelujah" from Handel's *Messiah* during the worship service. You can rehearse with the Chancel Choir on Easter Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. Instrumentalists will be rehearsing at 9:45 a.m.
- Easter Potluck Lunch: 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 organizer Walt Paquin!

If you purchased **Easter flowers**, you can pick them up after worship. This year all the pots are labeled with the names of those who ordered flowers. Look for your name when you pick up your flowers. Trusty, Shelby, and Carrie will help distribute.

The church office will be closed Monday, Apr. 21 for the Easter holiday.

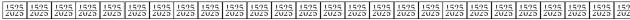
**Deacons** will meet on Thursday Apr. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

Trusty will be out of the office Apr. 24 & 25. Shelby Cluts will cover the front desk.

**The MCC Hygiene and Relief Kit** collection has begun and will run through May 11. Kit lists are on the bulletin board by the library, or find the lists at MCC.org/kits. There are boxes of combs on the collection carts that you can use, or buy your own. The website shows which combs are needed.

To celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism, the Intergenerational Trip Ministry is going to the Behalt-Amish Mennonite Heritage Center in Millersburg Apr. 26. If you signed up, the day will begin at 7:30 a.m. with transportation provided. Stops include Heini's Cheese Chalet, Behalt, and lunch at an Amish home. We will arrive back in Bluffton no later than 5 p.m.

FMC Pictorial Directory. The deadline to submit your photos is May 4.



Anabaptism at 500: Upcoming Activities

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Spring Anabaptist Choral Concert
"Five Centuries of Anabaptist Singing 
a Musical Odyssey"

Tuesday Rehearsal, Apr. 22

- from 7-9 p.m.

Meet in the Gilliom Room of Mosiman Hall.

Sunday Concert, Apr. 27

- 2:30 p.m.

FMC Director of Music Camille Lively will conduct the choral concert in Yoder Recital Hall. Contact Camille at <a href="mailto:camille@fmcbluffton.org">camille@fmcbluffton.org</a> with questions.

Sunday, Apr. 27

- at 9:15 a.m. Elective SS Class continues studying *Drawing Near*, a devotional journey with art, poetry, and reflection facilitated by writers and artists from Mar-Nov. at FMC in the Assembly Room. Pick up a copy of the book in the in the Assembly Room.

1595

- at 10:30 a.m.

Renewal at the Lord's Table: Anabaptism at 500 Worship Series #3. Worship with Gerald Mast at FMC.

Bluffton University Anabaptism at 500 events are free and open to the public.

These events are made possible with the generous support of **Lowell and Marty Hostetler**.

A full list of Activities can be found at <a href="https://www.bluffton.edu/anabaptism500">www.bluffton.edu/anabaptism500</a>

**Bluffton University's** weekly Forum will be the Annual Academic Awards presentation at 11 a.m. in Yoder Recital Hall.

We're exercising our **Mennonite Disaster Service** muscles. A local homeowner requested help to remove brush and take down a dilapidated garage. We can use volunteers on a day-at-a-time basis. If you can offer your muscles, money (\$500 needed) or support (say, lunch or refreshments), there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall with dates you can indicate. (April 23, 24, 25 & 26) Contact **Mitch Kingsley** at 419.236.7106, kingsleymitch@gmail.com or **Lynn Miller** at 419.464.8060.

Challenged Champions Equestrian Center, a nonprofit therapeutic horseback riding center, is seeking volunteers for their Spring Session. Volunteers can engage in classes as horse leaders, ensuring the horses stay focused during lessons, or as side walkers, assisting riders with balance, communication, and encouragement. No prior horse experience is required. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and able to walk for one hour. Classes are available Monday through Friday in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings. For more information, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 419.235.0626.

Central District Conference has added Immigration Resources on the website like this: ICE rarely gets judicial warrants that allow them to enter a building. Instead, they created their own warrants, which are essentially powerless, but they show and ask to enter buildings. Know the difference. <a href="https://bit.ly/440dFig">https://bit.ly/440dFig</a>





Based on our Mutual Aid Fund distributions, our community's primary concerns continue to be access to groceries and housing. So far in 2025, FMC has distributed about 25 Community Market gift cards valued at \$30 each and many bags of groceries from the FMC little free pantry in the

Fellowship Hall. The FMC pantry partners with the Bluffton Community Food Pantry to offer a convenient spot for individuals to pick up items between the scheduled distribution times at St. John's UCC. We are always grateful for grocery donations, particularly Chef Boyardee products, pull-tab cans, easy-prep meals, and microwavable options. Other requests include Pop Tarts, granola bars, and men's deoderant.

Funds from the FMC Mutual Aid Fund are used to purchase the Community Market gift cards. At the end of March, the Mutual Aid Fund balance was healthy, at just under \$9,000. Some of these funds are designated for immigration support and may be used to restock the pantry shelves when needed.





20 - Carmen Ordonez Moser

21 - Becki Ahmed

22 - Margie Closson Melinda Estell

24 - Ryan Niekamp



In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we 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.



#### 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.