

3rd Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2025

Gathering

Music calls us to worship

Welcome and announcements

Prelude Holy, Holy, Holy arr. D. Busarow

Invocation

*Opening Hymns Oceans VT 456
Beautiful Things VT 551
Bluffton University Praise Band

*Responsive Reading – selections from Psalm 30 and Revelation 5
One: Rejoice in the Lord.
Many: Praise God’s holy name.
One: Worthy is the Lamb of our praise.
Many: Worthy is the righteous one of blessing, honor, and glory.
One: Rejoice in the Lord.
All: Praise God’s holy name.

Telling God’s Story

Special Music How Can I Keep from Singing Gwyneth Walker
Chancel Choir, Camille Lively, director
LuAnn Stuckey, accompanist

Special Music Oh Lord You Know Me arr. Hal Hopson
Jubilate, Laura Hartzler, director
LuAnn Stuckey, accompanist

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

Community Prayer
The Lord’s Prayer

Comforter Blessing

Scripture Acts 9:1-20

Message A Part of Paul

Living God’s Story

*Hymn of Response My Lighthouse VT 597

Offering Invitation
Offertory Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus arr. K.T. Kosche
Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending Sing a New World into Being VT 809

*Benediction

*Postlude Joyous Day J. Leavitt

*Please rise in body or in spirit – VT: Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)
🌿: Anabaptist Heritage Hymn

Preaching
Phil Yoder


Children’s Time
Greg Hartzler

Worship Leader
Victoria Woods-Yee

Community Prayer
Carrie Mast

Pianist/Organist
LuAnn Stuckey

Scripture Reader
Judy Diller



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.”


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 Camille Lively | camille@fmcbluffton.org
Technology Coordinator Ray Raeburn | 419.230.2769 | ray@fmcbluffton.org
Custodians 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: --
Worship: Mary Edmiston
Nursery Workers Next Week SS: --
Worship: Sunita Hooley



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

Last Sunday - 4/27/2025		This Sunday - 5/4/2025	
Attendance last Sunday:	149	Video:	 Ray Raeburn
Reported Volunteer hours:	60	Sound:	Kevin Cluts/Jonah Sheets
Online views:	Live: 20 Recorded: 20	Chancel:	Linda Headings
	Total Viewing Hrs: 26		

Leadership Circle

Moderator	Laurel Neufeld Weaver
Moderator-Elect	Jonathan Spelman
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	Monica Harnish
Recorder	Carrie Phillips

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
MAY 4, 2025



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Todd Rainey's father, Charles Rainey, passed away Apr. 28. Charles' memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 in Illinois. Todd welcomes your prayers as he grieves the loss of his father.

Corwin Croy and **Rita Dietrich** want to thank everyone for their prayers following Corwin's dog attack that led to him falling off his trike. He is well and on his way to recovery.

We are pleased to welcome the Bluffton University Praise Band, who selected the contemporary hymns for today's service: **Danielle** and **Trevor King**, vocals; **Coen North**, cajon; **Colby Schlabbach**, guitar and vocals; **Evan Skilliter**, guitar; **Steve Harnish**, bass.

This Sunday's service was organized by the **Gifts Discovery and Ministry Participation team** (GDMP) that works to strengthen the ministries of the church by expanding the ministry involvement of the church's members and participants. This team consists of **Judy Diller** (chair) **Evan Skilliter**, **Melissa Friesen**, **Victoria Woods-Yee**, **Gloria Bucher**, **Linda Headings**, **Greg Hartzler** and **Pastor Phil**. The GDMP conducts the Ministry Participation Survey every spring to gather information on individual's interests. You can complete this **survey** online using the **QR code**, or by filling out the **bulletin insert** and placing it in the baskets when you exit (or dropping it off at the office at another time). The GDMP team will be in Fellowship Hall following the service to answer any questions.



Today, May 4, at **1 p.m.**, the Bluffton Area Ministerial Association (BAMA) will be having a **"Blessing of the Bikes"** in the English Lutheran parking lot. Come bring yourself and your bicycle or motorcycle for a blessing as you kick off your spring time riding!

Directory photos are due today. Please email your photo to fmce@mcbluffton.org.

Choir Announcement: Please note that there will be **no choir rehearsal** on **Wednesday**, May 7. The **final rehearsal** is scheduled for **May 14**, which will be followed by an ice cream party. All current and former members are welcome to join! *Sopranos and Basses: Please bring snacks. Altos and Tenors: Kindly bring ice cream toppings.*

This winter, Leadership Circle finalized updates on our **Safe Church Policy**. During worship on **June 1**, we will have a blessing for the updated policy. Following the service, all are welcome to a **finger food potluck** where we can have a discussion about the Safe Church Policy, and show how one can complete the online training that is required for those working with kids or leading a ministry.

May 14 will be our last Noodle Night before breaking for the summer. Join us for hot dogs & noodles followed by a family friendly movie. We will be watching **Disney's Encanto**, the Sing-Along version. Bring your favorite **snacks**. Theatre popcorn will be provided. Thank you, Carrie, for taking the time to organize Noodle Night. Special thanks to **Sunita, Mary Ina, & Don Hooley** and **Walt Paquin** for their help in the kitchen. All are welcome!



Following the last Noodle Night on May 14, **Camp Director Jenna Liechty Martin** will be sharing an update from Camp Friedenswald in the sanctuary at **5:45 p.m.** All are welcome to this conversation! Bring your questions, too!

The MCC kit drive is in full swing. Please pick up a supply list from the bulletin board by the library. Hygiene kits use the bags available in the bins. Put Relief kits in a box or garbage bag. Individual supplies are also welcome – soap, towels, etc. Please have all kits, supplies, or monetary donations in by **May 11**. Contact Sue Schaaf or Brenda Byers with questions.

Central District Conference is inviting congregations to participate in a "Let Wisdom Abound Project" leading up to the Annual Meeting in June. FMC Deacons invite people of all ages to identify and write down one or more wise sayings that have been influential or meaningful to them in their lives. These wise words could come from scripture as well as from parents, teachers, pastors, writers, creation, etc. **Submit your wisdom** in your particular creative vein: a PowerPoint slide, a simple email to the church office, an artistic drawing, a Canva creation, a doodle on a bulletin, etc. Post your submission on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or turn it in to the church office. The project is the culminating event of CDC's biennial theme, "Listen! Wisdom is Calling."

The **Bluffton Community VBS** is hosting *Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace* with set-up similar to last year's *Hometown Nazareth*. We are still looking for **volunteers to bake 2 dozen cookies** and **help prepare the craft items** the shopkeepers will offer in the marketplace. Join our team of volunteers: **Sarah Phillips, Miev Chan, Trusty Schumacher, Kaye Phillips, Quinn Longworth, Milena King, Isaac Schumacher, Mary Ina Hooley, Sunita Hooley**, and **Pastor Carrie** – from **July 13-17** at the Bluffton YMCA.

MC USA's Women in Leadership is hosting a one-day summit on July 8, at the beginning of the Follow Jesus '25 convention, July 8-12, in Greensboro, NC. Register for the summit [here](#).



Ministry Minute!

Comforter Ministry

For many decades, First Mennonite Church's Comforter Ministry has created comforters for MCC to send all over the world. This year, 35 comforters were stitched together in homes and knotted during the Sunday School hour and weekday knotting gatherings. Currently the committee is organized by **Pat Sheidler, Mary Ann Suter, Julie Mackey, and Elysia Bush**, and it relies on many hands to stitch and knot the comforters. Thank you to all that have been part of this work!

Today during the service, we are going to have a blessing for the comforters before they are sent to **MCC and Camp Friedenswald**.



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 4, 2025

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.
Drawing Near Elective SS Class, 9:15 a.m. Assembly Room
Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
Blessing of the Bikes, 1 p.m. English Evangelical Lutheran Church

This Week

Monday, May 5

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, May 6

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 7

Jubilate, 3:15-4 p.m., Cherub Choir, 4-4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Room
Noodle Night, come and go 4:45-6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Youth Bell Party, 6 p.m. Bell Choir Room
SHY, 7:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, May 11

Worship: Kaleigh Coffman preaching
Lectionary: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17 & John 10:22-30

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.