

4th Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2025

Gathering

Music calls us to worship

Welcome and announcements

Prelude Come, Let Us All This Day J.S. Bach, arr. Robert Franz
adapt. Lani Smith

Invocation

*Opening Hymn God of the Bible VT 420

*Responsive Reading – from Psalm 23
One: The Lord is our shepherd.
Many: We have all that we need.
One: God leads us in peace,
Many: even through difficult journeys.
One: Surely God’s goodness is enough,
All: all the days of our lives.

Telling God’s Story

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

Safe Church Policy Recognition

Community Prayer The Lord’s Prayer VT 673

Scripture Acts 9:36–43

Message Feminism in 80 CE

Living God’s Story

*Hymn of Response I Sing the Mighty Power of God VT 182

Offering Invitation
Offertory As Melodies Are Drawn to Me, Op. 105, No. 1 Johannes Brahms
arr. Thomas Chesterton
Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending My Soul Cries Out VT 412

*Benediction

*Postlude

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

Preaching
Kaleigh Coffman
Children’s Time
Kevin Cluts

Worship Leader
Walt Paquin
Community Prayer
Phil Yoder

Pianist/Organist
Anne Marie Spelman
Scripture Reader
Barrett Benroth

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: Sunita Hooley
Nursery Workers Next Week SS: --
Worship: Chaska Yoder & Victoria Woods-Yee
Nursery sign-up here: <http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers>



Last Sunday – 5/4/2025		This Sunday – 5/11/2025	
Attendance last Sunday:	190	Video:	Ray Raeburn
Reported Volunteer hours:	62	Sound:	Melissa Friesen/Jonah Sheets
Online views:	Live: 22 Recorded: 21	Chancel:	Phil Yoder
	Total Viewing Hrs: 33		

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 11, 2025



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barb Stettler suffered a fall last week which resulted in several broken bones in her face. She is now at home recovering and faces many surgeries and doctor's appointments ahead. Mel and Barb welcome prayers for a speedy recovery.

Today's hymns are led by **Ben Hartzler, Phil Yoder** and **Anne Marie Spelman**.



Deborah Yoder spent today's SS hour sharing an update from the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery for Learning and Action for Oak Flat. Oak Flat is sacred land cared for by the Western Apache since time immemorial. Located in Tonto National Forest, about an hour east of Phoenix, in sunny Arizona – this land holds religious, historical, and cultural significance. Since 2014, Oak Flat has been threatened by a land transfer to a foreign owned mining company, Resolution Copper, which Apache Stronghold – a coalition of Native and non-Native allies – has been trying to stop. The federal government announced on Apr. 17 that it plans to release a final Environmental Impact Statement of the proposed mine, which would trigger the land transfer. The fight for Oak Flat is about more than a piece of land in AZ – it is about respecting Indigenous sovereignty, environmental protection for future generations, and religious liberty. This Elective SS Class was recorded. To watch, click the FMC Video Library button on the website.

Congratulations to all graduates for achieving this important milestone! This moment calls for celebration, reflection, and excitement about the upcoming chapter. Wishing each graduate the best in their future pursuits, filled with abundant opportunities and successes ahead.



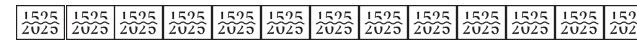
Pastor Carrie, Gerald, & Jori Mast are attending the University of Dayton's commencement ceremony this morning to celebrate son & big brother Jacob.

This Wednesday, May 14, will be our last Noodle Night before breaking for the summer. Join us for hot dogs & noodles and a family friendly movie beginning at 5 p.m. We will watch **Disney's Encanto**, the Sing-Along version. Bring your favorite **snacks**. Theatre popcorn will be provided. All are welcome!



Check out the new **Anabaptism at 500 book** display outside the kitchen. All books can be checked out from the library!

Chancel Choir Announcement: The **final rehearsal** is scheduled for this Wednesday, **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.*



Anabaptism at 500: Upcoming Activities
*This year, 2025, marks
500 years of Anabaptism.*

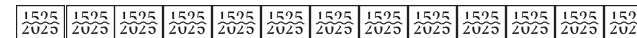
Sunday, May 18

– 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 at FMC in the Assembly Room. Pick up a copy of the book in the in the Assembly Room.

– at 10:30 a.m.

Renewal through Trust and Yieldedness:
Anabaptism at 500 Worship Series #4
Worship with Phil Yoder at FMC.



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!



May 12 -5 p.m. Poetry Group

May 15 -11 a.m. Maple Crest Bible Study

MCC kits. Last Call!! Please have all kits, supplies, or monetary donations in by today, Sunday, **May 11**.

Registration for the 2025 **Central District Conference Annual Meeting** is now open. The conference will be held at Bluffton University, June 19-21. You can find more information and register at <https://mcusacdc.org/2025-annual-meeting/>. Adults, youth, and children are warmly welcome to attend. CDC Delegates include **Gerald Mast, Phil Yoder, Chaska Yoder, Anne Marie Spelman, Jonathan Spelman, Lori Nester & Rachel Skilliter**.

Connecting Borders, an organization that works with local entities to provide resources and support for immigrants and their families in the Lima area, is in need of men's shoes (any size) as well as diapers (Newborn to size 5). Items can be dropped off in the downstairs kitchen. Please label **Connecting Borders** on your items.



The **Tri-church Gathering** at the Pandora Park has been moved to **July 6**.

Safe Church

Ministry Minute!

In 2007, as a requirement of our insurance company, FMC leadership affirmed a Safe Sanctuary Policy to implement when harm is done in the church. Over the last 18 years, there have been numerous updates to the policy, as our denomination began recommending policies in order to have the tools to keep folks safe in churches and respond to incidents where harm has happened.

Our policy opens with the following words:

"This Safe Sanctuary policy reflects our congregation's commitment to preserving this church as a holy place of safety and protection for all who would enter and as a place in which all people can experience God's love, healing, and hope through relationships with others."

This winter, Leadership Circle finalized updates on our **Safe Church Policy**. Today, we recognize the updated policy and our commitment to ensuring a safe place for all in our faith community. On **June 1**, all are welcome to a **finger food potluck** and discussion & q&a 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

11 - Stan Clemens
Ruth Early
Mary Ann Suter
13 - Judy Steiner
14 Mary Herr
15 - Evan Blount
Lori Nester
16 - Ellie Hartzler
17 -John Templin

Happy Birthday!

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 11, 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.

Elective SS Class: Oak Flat Update w/ Deborah Yoder, 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary

Worship: Kaleigh Coffman preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Sojourners SS Class potluck, noon Assembly Room

This Week

Monday, May 12

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, May 13

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Wednesday, May 14

Cherub Choir, 4-4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Room

Noodle Night, come and go 4:45-6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Disney's *Encanto* Movie, 5 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Camp Friedenswald Update w/ Jenna Liechty Martin, 5:45 p.m. Sanctuary

Final Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Chancel Choir Ice Cream Social, 8 p.m. Fellowship Hall

SHY, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 15

Maple Crest Bible Study, 11 a.m..

Anabaptism at 500 Sunday, May 18

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching

Lectionary: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35



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.