

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 20, 2025

Preaching Phil Yoder	Worship Leader Bruce Steingass	Accompanist String Ensemble
Gathering		
Music Calls Us to Worship		
Welcome, Announcements, Centering		
Candle Lighting		
Prelude	Appalachia Waltz Jon, Ella & Kate Wiebe	Mark O'Connor
Invocation		
*Opening Hymn	I Sing with Exultation	VT 444
*Responsive Reading – Psalm 52:6–9		
One: The righteous will see and fear and will laugh at the evildoer, saying,		
Many: “See the one who would not take refuge in God but trusted in abundant riches and sought refuge in wealth!”		
One: But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God.		
Many: I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.		
One: I will thank you forever because of what you have done.		
All: In the presence of the faithful I will proclaim your name, for it is good.		
Telling God’s Story		
*Hymn	Christ, We Do All Adore Thee	VT 138
Conversation with Children		
O Little Children, Gather		
v. 1 coming forward, v.3 returning to seats		
Sue Schaaf		
VT 515		

Community Prayer The Lord’s Prayer		Carrie Mast
Scripture	Luke 10:38–42	Rich Bucher
Message	Rest Your Weary Heads	
Living God’s Story		
*Hymn of Response	Quietly, Peacefully	VT 533
Offering Invitation		
Offertory	Pilgrim’s Waltz Jon, Ella & Kate Wiebe	Mark O'Connor
Dedication Prayer		
Sending		
*Hymn of Sending	Heart with Loving Heart United	VT 813
*Benediction		
*Postlude		
* Please rise in body or in spirit – VT: Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)		
: Anabaptist Heritage Hymn		
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](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)  
Technology/Interim Worship Coordinator Ray Raeburn | 419.230.2769 | [ray@fmcbluffton.org](mailto: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

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER  
IN A WHILE CROCODILE  
TAKING A SUMMER BREAK  
SEE YOU IN THE FALL

Nursery Workers Today SS: NO NURSERY STAFFING  
Worship: —  
Nursery Minutes: Jack Mack S. —  
Worship: —  
Nursery sign-up here: <http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers>



Last Sunday – 7/13/2025		This Sunday – 7/20/2025	
Attendance last Sunday:	117	Video:	Ray Raeburn
Reported Volunteer hours:	33	Sound:	Chris Moser
Online views:	Live: 22 Recorded: 15	Chancel:	Janine Paul
	Total Viewing Hrs: 17		

Leadership Circle

Moderator  
Moderator-Elect  
Stewardship Ministry Circle Leader  
Connecting Ministry Circle Leader  
Christian Formation Circle Leader  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Treasurer  
Recorder

Laurel Neufeld Weaver  
Jonathan Spelman  
Kevin Nickel  
Jan Wiebe  
Shelby Cluts  
Victoria Woods-Yee  
Kathy Dickson  
Isaac Schumacher  
Monica Harnish  
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  
JULY 20, 2025

PLAY  
&  
REST

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank you** to the string ensemble this morning for leading our hymns: **Monica Harnish, Theo Andreas, Lynda Nyce, Wendy Chappell-Dick, Phil Yoder, and Paul Neufeld Weaver.**

Special music this morning provided by **Jon, Ella, & Kate Wiebe.** They are the son-in-law and granddaughters of **Bill and Mary Ann Suter.**

Please join us in honoring **Ruth & Ken Graber** as they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday, Aug. 3 from 2 – 4 p.m. The event will be held at the Maple Crest Patio Room. No gifts.

**Family Camp III** begins Monday July 21. Prayers for safe travels and deep learning in creation through this year's theme of *The Wisdom of Trees* for family campers and summer staff.



**Safe Church Training:** A reminder that if you work with kids or lead a ministry at FMC, you need to complete our online training at [fmcbluffton.org/safe-church](https://fmcbluffton.org/safe-church).

Furthermore it has come to our attention that MCUSA requires background check forms to be filled out by hand and NOT digitally. If you completed a digitally filled form, please stop by the office to fill out a new one. We apologize for the inconvenience.

**Grace Mennonite Church** is hosting a free Community Pancake Breakfast on **Sat. Aug. 9 from 8-10 a.m.** at Grace Mennonite Church. Everyone is welcome! *See flyer in the Fellowship Hall and at all entrances for more information.*

**Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples Pilgrimage** – Engage with contemporary Indigenous realities, explore the histories of Indigenous Peoples, and examine the complexities of Indigenous-settler relations. What might it mean for your community to stand in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and actively contribute to the work of truth telling and repair? The trip to Utah is led by Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery Executive Director Sarah Augustine and Joe Hubbard, Episcopal priest and convener of the Episcopal Indigenous Justice Roundtable. Date: Oct 7-11, 2025; register by Aug 1.

**Civil Rights Pilgrimage** – Led by MC USA Executive Director **Glen Guyton**, this young-adult focused, multiracial pilgrimage through the southern United States fosters shared learning and deep understanding of the racial divides that our society perpetuates. Date: Oct 28 – Nov. 2, 2025; register by Sept 15.



A big shout out to the volunteers who braved the heat at the Bluffton YMCA to make Joseph's Journey and the Egyptian Marketplace VBS a fun and memorable experience

for so many kids! **Miev Chan, Mary Ina Hooley, Sunita Hooley, Sarah Phillips, Kaye Phillips, Trusty Schumacher, Isaac Schumacher, & Kaleigh Coffman** – you rock! Thanks to **Gloria Hernandez Bucher** for helping prep our crafts and bake cookies, more thanks to cookie bakers **Julie Mackey & Janet Yoder**, and thanks to **Ray Raeburn** for his cat craft design! It takes a community to make VBS happen, and I'm glad to be part of it with you! – Carrie Mast

**Connecting Borders**, which has been doing substantial care for the Haitian Community in Lima, is running out of funds. As individuals apply for asylum, they are not allowed to work for 6 months, so there is a gap in time where they are unable to pay for food, rent, etc. Ways to help:

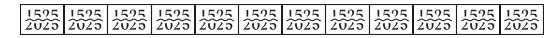
- donate money at <https://connectingborders.net/> or through FMC;
- accompany people to immigration court in Cleveland and Indy;
- donate a sewing machine – they go as fast as they are donated!

FMC will be using some Racial Justice Ministry funds and Reparative Act funds in support.

**Brazo en Brazo**, a collaborative ministry of 4 area Mennonite churches and Ohio Mennonite Conference which supports Spanish-speaking immigrants, is in need of additional funds to support over 50 families and individuals in the area. Donations can be made through FMC by designating for Brazo en Brazo.

The July issue of **Central District Conference's** newsletter **Connector** is available on the literature table.

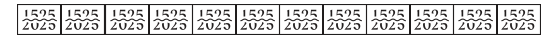
**Release Time/Weekday Christian Education Board** of Bluffton is seeking to fill a teaching position in its Elementary School program, specifically four 4th grade classes which meet for 30 minute classes per week from the third week in September through the second week of May, and is a paid position. Contact President Mark Yoder (419.236.5172) or Teacher Janice Basinger (419.296.5041) for questions or an application.



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

**Sunday, August 13  
- at 10:30 a.m.**

Anabaptism at 500 Worship Series #8:  
Camp Friedenswald Sunday



**SAVE THE DATE**

Saturday, August 9, 2025



**WHAT:** Pool Party

**WHERE:** Bluffton Community Pool

**TIME:** 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the **FUN Committee.**

More details to come!



## Ministry Minute!

FMC works with Everence to receive Sharing Fund grants. These grants are based on financial support the church has provided to people in the community and in the church through the Mutual Aid Fund. To participate in the program, a church must have an Everence representative. For the last number of years, **Rich Bucher** was our appointed rep. His responsibilities included notifying our congregation of opportunities and information from Everence, as well as working with the Treasurer Team to submit applications for the grants. This spring, Rich stepped down from this role and showed **Rita Dietrich** the ropes of being the rep. If you have any related questions to Everence, Rita is a good resource and can help you get the info you need. **A big thank you to Rich for his years of service** and a big thank you to Rita for saying yes to this role!



*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, July 20, 2025

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.  
Drawing Near Elective Sunday School  
for youth & adults, 9:15 a.m. Assembly Room  
Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

### This Week

**Monday, July 21**  
Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

**Tuesday, July 22**  
Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

**Next Sunday, July 27**  
Worship: Carrie Mast preaching  
Freudige SS Class potluck, noon Fellowship Hall  
Lectionary: Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

### **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. Parents are invited to accompany children in the nursery located in the basement at any time during the service.