

Anabaptism at 500 & Reformation Sunday  
October 26, 2025

Preaching  
Gerald Mast

Worship Leader  
Walt Paquin

Pianist/Organist  
Anne Marie Spelman

Gathering

Music Calls Us to Worship      🌿 A Welcome Song      arr. Wendy Chappell-Dick  
Wendy Chappell-Dick

Welcome, Announcements, Centering

Candle Lighting      Alison & Madelyn King

Prelude      Fantasy on All Creatures of Our God and King      arr. Sandra Eithun  
Adult Bells

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn      Sing to the God of Harvest      VT 122

\*Responsive Reading – selections from Psalm 76  
One: In Judah God is known;  
**Many: his name is great in Israel.**  
One: His abode has been established in Salem,  
**Many: his dwelling place in Zion.**  
One: There he broke the flashing arrows,  
**Many: the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.**  
One: At your rebuke, O God of Jacob,  
**Many: both rider and horse lay stunned.**  
One: let all who are around him bring gifts  
**Many: to the one who is awesome,**  
One: who cuts off the spirit of princes,  
**All: who inspires fear in the kings of the earth.**

Telling God’s Story

\*Hymn      🎵🌿 The Word of God Is Solid Ground      VT 399

Conversation with Children      Greg Hartzler  
Lord Listen to Your Children      VT 682

Special Music      🌿The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound      A. Tice/M. Haugen  
Chancel Choir  
LuAnn Stuckey, director; Anne Marie Spelman, piano;  
Monica Harnish, violin; Jan Wiebe, flute

Community Prayer      Carrie Mast  
The Lord’s Prayer (Miller)      VT 673

Scripture      John 18:28-38      Gloria Bucher

Message      Why We Don’t Fight

Living God’s Story

\*Hymn of Response      🌿We Are People of God’s Peace      VT 797

Offering  
Invitation  
Offertory      Sonata in C minor, K. 457, Mvt. II: Adagio      Mozart  
Prayer of Dedication

Sending

\*Hymn of Sending      God of Grace and God of Glory      VT 716

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

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

Associate Pastor

Communication Coordinator

Technology/Interim Worship Coordinator

Pastoral Care Intern

Custodians

On sabbatical ~ Phil Yoder | phil@fmcbluffton.org

Carrie Mast | carrie@fmcbluffton.org

Trusty Schumacher | fmc@fmcbluffton.org

Ray Raeburn | ray@fmcbluffton.org

Louise Matthews | louisemattthews46@gmail.com

Zack Crawford, Ethan Blount, Ollie Combs, Calvin Derstine

Nursery Workers Today SS: NO NURSERY STAFFING

Worship: --

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: NO NURSERY STAFFING

Worship: --

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



Last Sunday - 10/19/2025

Attendance last Sunday: 124

Reported Volunteer hours: 37

Online views: Live: 27 Recorded: 20

Total Viewing Hrs: 32

This Sunday - 10/26/2025

Video: Adam Phillips

Sound: Jonah Sheets

Chancel: Linda Headings

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

## OCTOBER 26, 2025



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



On Monday, Oct. 20, **Evan, Rachel and Lena Skilliter** welcomed **baby Lily** into their family. One way to care for them during this time is by providing meals. Sign up to bring them a meal [HERE](#) or contact the church office to learn about available dates and details.

**Oct. 19, 2025 vote results** on Leadership Circle's proposal to install an electronic locking system and lock the church facility outside of regular work hours and when no church sponsored or sanctioned programming is taking place, as suggested by insurance underwriters: **Yes: 93** **No: 4** **Abstention: 1**

Our **Annual Congregational Meeting** to approve the 2026 slate of nominations and the 2026 spending plan is next Sunday, Nov. 2, immediately following worship. Report booklets are in church mailboxes. Extra copies will be available.

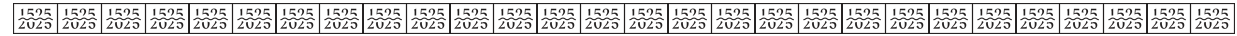
Next Sunday, is our annual **All Saints Service** when we remember and name family and friends who have died. We will remember all FMC members who passed in the last year by lighting a candle in their memory during the service. The invitation is extended to all who would like to participate to name and remember other loved ones who died at any time in the past by lighting a candle.

After a rain postponement last week, **Larry & Judy Diller** will host the **JHY & SHY TONIGHT**, Oct. 26, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for hide-n-seek in the dark and a hot dog roast & s'mores! Bring a snack to share. Long pants are recommended for this activity! Rain date #2 will be Nov. 2.

**Kitchen renovations begin!** The Fellowship Hall kitchen is slated for demolition the week of Nov. 10. Kitchen cupboards are beginning to empty thanks to **JP Schumacher & Sue Schaaf**. More thanks to **Mary Ann Suter, Julie Mackey, & Sue Schaaf** for sorting the Quilt Room supplies. Check out the full schedule posted on the kitchen door. And no worries...while renovations are underway, Noodle Night will continue. Plans to be announced soon!

**The Comforter Committee** is sorry, but we need to postpone the knotting that was scheduled for Nov. 10 & 11. The current plan is to demolish the Fellowship Hall kitchen on those days, and we can't be knotting with the dust flying. Our next knotting may not be until the spring, and by that time we hope to have so many tops that we need more days and more hands to get the job done. Thank you for your patience and for your continued sewing.

In spring of 2024 we collected a list of **favorite hymns** from the congregation as a farewell gift for Mark & Elaine Suderman. We have begun using that list as a resource in selecting hymns for our worship services. If you did not add your **favorite hymn** to that list, or weren't here at that time, you can submit your favorite NOW! Email [ray@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:ray@fmcbluffton.org) or use the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



## Anabaptism at 500: Upcoming Activities

*\* This year, 2025, marks 500 years of Anabaptism.\**

## Reformation Sunday, Oct. 26

**- at 10:30 a.m.**

*Anabaptism at 500* Worship Series #8.

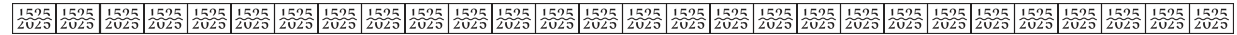
Worship with Gerald Mast at FMC.

**- 2:30 p.m.**

*"Grace to You and Peace: Voices of the Dutch Anabaptists"*

Wendy Chappell-Dick and the Anabaptist Singers will present this free musical in Yoder Recital Hall. See *insert*.

*This event was made possible with the generous support of  
Lowell and Marty Hostetler.*



Adam Shanaman '22, campus ministries intern at Bluffton University, will speak on "A Time for Everything" during **Bluffton's Spiritual Life Week Forum** at 11 a.m. on Oct. 28 in Yoder Recital Hall. Drawing from Ecclesiastes 3, Shanaman will explore the rhythms of life through a spiritual lens, encouraging listeners to reflect on timing, purpose and faith. Forum is free and open to the public.

**You are invited** to be part of a rich weekend at Camp Friedenswald **Oct. 31-Nov. 2.**



 Restoration Retreat will be a time of connecting with God, nature, and others around the theme, "Heavy and Light: A weekend of grief, imagination, and climate resilience" with climate educators Meghan Reha and Josh Richardson. The theme could not be more relevant for our times, and time at Camp in the peaceful woods may be just what you are needing. Scholarships are available.

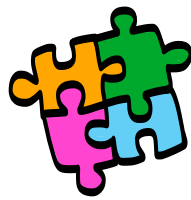
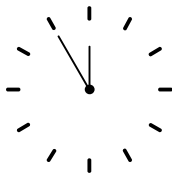


FMC is providing the **Community Meal on Thursday, Nov. 6** at the **Senior Citizens Center**. JP Schumacher is coordinating the meal and is looking for **volunteers to bring in pies for dessert**. If you are able to bake or help, contact JP at 567.712.1891 or gridleygal@gmail.com.

All are welcome **Thursday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m.** at the Bluffton Public Library for a presentation by David Fierst, an attorney and author from Dayton, OH. He will discuss his book, *Hidden Disgrace: Revealing the Distress Signals Covered by North American Indian Myths*. During the event, David will share his experiences from visiting the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and how those living conditions inspired him to conduct thorough and meticulous research of historical documents. Books signed by the author will be available for purchase for \$25. Please note, cash only.

**NURSERY  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

# Ministry Minute!



The nursery continues to be a place where young children, their parents, and other adults play and connect. The space is not only utilized on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week, whether during Noodle Night or during wintry Tuesday mornings when young stay-at-home parents would gather with their kids for a change of scenery. Mary Edmiston provided leadership to sanitizing, stocking, and organizing sign-ups in the nursery until Chaska Yoder took on the role at the start of the summer. The nursery continues to be well-stocked with toys, art supplies, and snacks.



A challenge for the nursery has been in the dwindling number of volunteers signing up for nursery care. Due to the under-utilization of the nursery during Sunday school, the decision has been made to forego nursery volunteers during Sunday School with the hope that some of those volunteers would be willing to volunteer during the service. Whether volunteering for one Sunday or for many Sundays, nursery workers continue to be a really valuable part of helping our young families feel welcome and valued in our church community.

If you are willing to help care for our 0-preschool age FMCers during part of each Sunday service. Interested in helping for one or more Sundays? Sign up at Nursery sign-up here: [fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers](https://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers) or contact Chaska Yoder at 717-621-7282.



**October 26 - Wendy Chappell-Dick**  
**28 - Mark Novak**  
**29 - Lynda Nyce**  
**November 1 - Keagan Schumacher**



*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, October 26, 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.  
Worship: Gerald Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
Advent planning meeting, 12-12:30 p.m. Parlor  
Catechism @ the Freudige SS Class potluck, noon Fellowship Hall  
*Grace & Peace to You*, 2:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall  
Joint JHY & SHY Hot Dog Roast & Hide-n-Seek in the Dark, Larry & Judy Diller's  
11575 Bentley Rd, Bluffton, OH 45817

## This Week

### Tuesday, October 28

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

### Wednesday, October 29

Staff meeting, 10 a.m. Parlor

Jubilate, 3:15-4 p.m., Cherub Choir, 4-4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Room

Ukulele Choir, 4:30-5 p.m. Children's Choir Room

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

Adult Bells, 6 p.m., Youth Bells, 7 p.m. Bell Choir Room

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Choir Room

## All Saints Sunday, November 2, 2025

Worship: Carrie Mast preaching

Annual Congregational Business Meeting, immediately following worship

Lectionary: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Psalm 119:137-144,

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12, Luke 19:1-10

### 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.