

What Then Shall We Do? Animal Rights

4th Sunday of the Social Justice Series

April 23, 2023

Gathering

Welcome and announcements

Victoria Woods-Yee

Prelude

Praise Be to Christ
LuAnn Stuckey

arr. J. Blersch

Invocation

*Opening Hymn

VT 791 *Let Justice Flow Down*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 116

One: I love the Lord because God has heard my voice and my supplications.

Many: Because God inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on the Lord as long as I live.

One: What shall I return to the Lord for all God's bounty to me?

Many: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

One: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people,

Many: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

All: Praise the Lord!

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children

Anne Marie Spelman

Hymn

VT 359 *Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing*
(v. 1 coming forward & v. 3 going back to seats)

Community Prayer

Kathy Dickson

Scripture

Genesis 1:24-31 and Isaiah 11:1-9

Fran Core

Special Music

Singer
Jeff Gundy

by Jeff Gundy

Message

Justice for Animals

Jonathan Spelman

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response

VT 209 *We Dream of a Turning*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

All Things Bright and Beautiful

arr. E. Butler

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending

VT 145 *Touch the Earth Lightly*

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

First Mennonite Church
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org

Lead Pastor Phil Yoder, 717-869-7624
phil@fmcbluffton.org

Interim Pastor of Christian Education & Administration Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568
carrie@fmcbluffton.org

Communication Coordinator Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766
fmc@fmcbluffton.org

Director of Music Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368
sudermanme@bluffton.edu

Technology & Media Coordinator Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769
ray@fmcbluffton.org

First Mennonite Church Office Hours

- Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- Carrie's day off - Thursday
- Mark - Monday-Friday 9-11:50 a.m.

Video: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Chris Gott

Chancel: Ruth Graber

4/9/23 - 4/16/23

Reported Volunteer hours:18

Attendance: 136

Online views: 25 Live; 35 Recorded

Nursery Workers Today SS: Greg & Laura Hartzler

Worship: Mary Ina Hooley & Ray Person

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Jan Wiebe & Victoria Woods-Yee

Worship: Sunita Hooley & _____

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 23, 2023



The Peaceable Kingdom

Edward Hicks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Jonathan Spelman is preaching this morning about animal rights in our Social Justice sermon and discussion series, *What Then Shall We Do?*. Jonathan is an assistant professor of philosophy at Ohio Northern University and has published on issues related to climate change, eating meat, and Covid-19. Jonathan is married to Anne Marie and is father to Junia, Quin, and Avila. Recently, he has been enjoying watching Junia and Quin play their first season of organized soccer.

NOON TODAY: All are invited to the **Social Justice potluck** lunch to continue the conversation around animal rights and the church, introduced during the sermon. Bring your own table service. Paper products will be available.

TONIGHT: If you're interested in learning more about the **Refugee Welcoming Group**, join us for a potluck at **Grace Mennonite Church at 5 p.m.** tonight (Sunday, April 23). The group is applying through the new government program Welcome Corps (welcomecorps.org) to welcome a group of **7 refugees** to the Bluffton area in August. A minimum of **\$16,625** needs to be raised. **Volunteers are needed** to secure housing, employment, education, budgeting, orientation to the community, transportation, and childcare. Grace Mennonite has a fund for **tax-deductible donations**. Contact Amy Norris at amywnorris@gmail.com or 802-999-8993 or David Voth at VothDavid@aol.com or 419-302-2863 with questions.

THIS AFTERNOON: Spring Fling Concert at Bluffton University. Bluffton University's music groups will come together for a spring concert featuring fun and familiar tunes at **2:30 p.m.** this afternoon in **Yoder Recital Hall**. Dr. Roy Couch, music department chair, notes that "University Chorale, Camerata Singers, Concert Band and Brass Ensemble will all perform a varied program of classical music, arrangements and some pieces that are just for fun. Chorale selections include pieces by Handel and Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. The music from the instrumental ensembles includes hymn tunes, spirituals, pop transcriptions, a salute to movie music and some exciting pieces that will welcome the start of spring." This event is free and open to the public.

Sam & Joan Diller have made the move to Maple Crest. They have new contact info: Sam: 419-234-4189; Joan: 419-236-8549; their address: Apt. E007, 700 Maple Crest Ct, Bluffton, OH 45817.

Youth Auction Next Sunday, April 30 from 4-6 p.m.! Check out the items for sale in the Fellowship Hall. Donated items are still welcome! The auction will be streamed over Zoom, and you can request a youth to serve as your proxy bidder. The Zoom link for the event: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88392240484>

The **Friends of the Library** invite you to a **Spring Tea & Silent Auction**. The guest speaker will be Writer and Poet **Jeff Gundy**. The event will be **Thursday, April 27 at 6 p.m.** in the Richland Room at the **Bluffton Public Library**. Seating is limited. Tickets are **\$15** and are available at the library.

As part of Mennonite Church USA's "**Learn, Pray, Join: Welcoming EveryBODY**" initiative, Jon-Erik (J. E.) Misz, secretary of the Anabaptist Disability Network board of directors, shares about his awareness of the **mental health crisis** that continues to grow among youth and young adults. Read more of his thoughts here: mennoniteusa.org/telling-whole-story.

Volunteers needed! **Ten Thousand Villages** is looking for some additional volunteers to fill a variety of roles. Friendly faces needed to serve as clerks/Fair Trade ambassadors, greet shoppers, answer questions about the store, and process purchases. Frequency of shifts can vary - from weekly, seasonally, or serving as a substitute when other volunteers are out of town. Volunteers are also needed to help in the back room to assist with processing merchandise for off-site sales, and help with small groups who come to the store for presentations, classes, or other events as scheduled. Other skills are also welcome - writing articles for a newsletter, social media marketing, or helping with store maintenance projects. For more information, contact Marcie Allen, Manager of Ten Thousand Villages (manager.bluffton@tenthousandvillages.com; (419) 358-7233), FMC board representatives Karen McCullough (karenmccullough1@gmail.com, 419-234-5915) or Lori Nester (nesterl@bluffton.edu, 419-358-9650).

FMC at **Findlay Pride Event:** A small group of individuals are exploring having a resource booth at the Findlay Pride Event on **Saturday, June 3rd, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** Please let us know if you are interested in helping with this project by contacting Carrie Mast (419.230.1568) or Ray Person (419.358.0481). Even if you cannot be present on June 3rd, there will be ways you can help before the event.

Ministry Minute!

Did you know that each Sunday morning our church helps transport people from Maple Crest to FMC? Right now, there are **3 people who need a ride** around 10 a.m. and a ride home after worship, AND THEY CAN ALL RIDE IN A CAR. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry by taking a Sunday drive to Maple Crest and back, contact Rich Bucher: 419.230.0646 or Melissa Friesen: friesenm@bluffton.edu.

A longer term transportation need is for people who would be willing to train to drive the Mennonite Home bus and/or to coordinate Sunday morning transportation for some of our members.

Happy Birthday!
April 24 - Ryan Niekamp
April 27 - John Estell
Justin Phillips
Bill Suter
JD Yoder
April 29 - Kari Diller

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.

follow us



Today, Sunday, April 23, 2023

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages, 9:15 a.m.

Worship: Jonathan Spelman preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Social Justice Potluck & Discussion, noon Fellowship Hall

Bluffton University Spring Fling Concert, 2:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall

Refugee Welcoming Group Potluck, 5 p.m. Grace Mennonite Church

This Week

Tuesday, April 25

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Wednesday, April 26

Jubilate 3:15-4 p.m., Cherub Choir 4:45-5:30 p.m.

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

Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Youth Bells, 7 p.m. Assembly Room


Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Next Sunday, Sunday, April 30

Worship: Mark Suderman preaching / Music Sunday

Music Sunday Scripture: Psalms 146-150

Lectionary: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

SOLD Youth Auction, 4-6 p.m. Sanctuary 

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

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.