

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 16, 2025

Gathering

Music calls us to worship

Welcome and announcements

Prelude *Rejoice, My Heart, I & IV* arr. J. Blersch

Invocation

*Opening Hymn *As a Deer in Want of Water* VT 552

*Responsive Reading – selections from Psalm 1

One: The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked advice,

Many: and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

One: Instead they are like a tree replanted by streams of water,

Many: which bears fruit at just the right time.

One: That's not true for the wicked!

Many: They are like dust that the wind blows away.


One: And that's why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice.

Many: The Lord is intimately acquainted with the way of the righteous,

All: but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

Telling God's Story

Special Music *O, Sing to the Lord a New Song* arr. John Leavitt
Chancel Choir, Camille Lively, director
LuAnn Stuckey, accompanist; Jan Wiebe, flute

Children's Time Hymn  *I Know God Loves Me* VT 158
English verses 1 & 2 coming forward
English verses 3 & 4 going back

Community Prayer *The Lord's Prayer* James W. Bixel
back cover of HWB

Recognition of Ministry

Scripture Jeremiah 17:5-10

Message *Roots by the Stream*

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response *I Saw a Tree by the Riverside* VT 514

Offering Invitation

Offertory *Andante* F. Liszt

*Dedication Hymn *Help Us to Help Each Other, v. 1* VT 722

*Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending *Lord, You Give the Great Commission* VT 774
v. 1 – 3

*Benediction

*Postlude *Alleluia! Let Praises Ring* arr. J. Blersch

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

 : Anabaptist Heritage Hymn

Preaching

Phil Yoder

Children's Time

Tim Byers

Worship Leader

Rachel Skilliter

Community Prayer

Isaac Schumacher

Pianist/Organist

LuAnn Stuckey

Scripture Reader

Susie Gratz

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, Calvin Derstine

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phil's day off - Friday Carrie's day off - Thursday Camille's day in - Monday

Nursery Workers Today SS: --
Worship: Sunita Hooley & Chaska Yoder

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Mary Ann Suter
Worship: Jonathan Spelman & Victoria Woods-Yee

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



Last Sunday - 2/9/2025

Attendance last Sunday: -
Reported Volunteer hours: 3
Online views: Live: 23 Recorded: 10
Total Viewing Hrs: 30

This Sunday - 2/16/2025

Video: Ray Raeburn
Sound: Melissa Friesen/Jonah Sheets
Chancel: Mary Ann Suter

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

FEBRUARY 16, 2025




ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Lehman returned home early this week. He is undergoing rehab for his fractured hip. The family invites prayers and visits while Jim recuperates.

DeMarcos, Hartzlers, Prothros, Steinmetzes, Schumachers, Shadbolts, and Masts are some of the families joining the wintery fun this weekend at **Camp Friedenswald's Family Winter Camp**. Prayers for safe travels!

If you plan to volunteer at **Our Daily Bread** this Tuesday, contact Carolyn Rich at 419.358.5405.

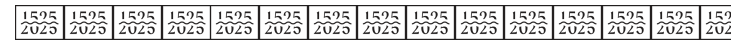
Pastor Carrie and family will be at Family Winter Camp at Friedenswald Friday-Sunday for a time of rest and relaxation. Following the weekend she will travel directly to Elkhart for Pastors & Leaders Week at AMBS.

 For **Music Sunday**, we would like to **include hymns that are special to members of the congregation**. We are collecting a list and asking folks to share stories about why these hymns are special to them. Scan the QR code to access the form. Alternatively, you may also email camille@fmcbluffton.org. You are also invited to read your story and lead the hymn yourself on Music Sunday, but it is not required.

The office is working on developing a new in-house **pictorial directory**. This is your opportunity to provide us with your favorite family photo. Please email your photos in high resolution. If you would like to use the photo from the last directory, let us know.

Capital Campaign Update: As of Thursday, Feb. 12, we received pledges and contributions totaling \$477,534.64 or 98% of our total "Pipe Dreams & A Dish Machine" goal. If you have not yet pledged you can still do so by placing your pledge card in the offering plate, stopping by the office, or contacting Monica Harnish or Rita Dietrich.

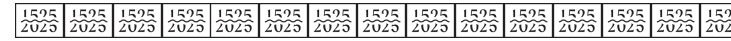
<p>WHAT: JHY gathering at the Benroths'</p> <p>WHEN: Sunday, Feb. 23 from 4-6 p.m.</p> <p>WHAT ARE WE DOING: Meet in the barn for corn hole, ping pong tournament, basketball, & board games</p>	<p>WHAT ARE WE EATING: Pizza, snacks, & drinks</p> <p>*Vegan options will be available.</p> <p>RSVP by email or text: carrie@fmcbluffton.org or 419.230.1568</p>
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Sunday, Feb. 16
— at 2:30 p.m.

Reader's Theatre:
I Have Not Forsaken the Word of God - based on testimony of Jacques d'Auchy from the Martyrs Mirror. The event is directed by **Dr. Melissa Friesen** and will be performed in Ramseyer Auditorium in College Hall.

*All Bluffton University Anabaptism at 500 events are free and open to the public.
These events are made possible with the generous support of
Lowell and Marty Hostetler.*




 To celebrate 500 years of Anabaptism, the Intergenerational Trip Ministry is going to the **Behalt-Amish Mennonite Heritage Center** in Millersburg on **Apr. 26** from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Transportation provided. Stops include Heini's Cheese Chalet, Behalt, and lunch at an Amish home. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall by Feb. 23. Contact Shelby Cluts 419.234.2580 with qs.

 There will be a 2024 **financial review meeting** on **Feb. 25** at **7 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.

Meeting this week:

- Thur: Maple Crest Bible Study @ 11 a.m.
Leadership Circle @ 7: p.m.


Red Cross Blood Drive
Thursday, Feb. 20.
Check out the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

 ten thousand villages.

Order Wholesale Coffee from Ten Thousand Villages: a case of six bags of Regular is \$50 and Decaf is \$55. Give orders to the church office by Feb. 20. Coffee can be picked up and paid for at TTV after Monday, Mar. 3.

Attend "Coffee College" Feb. 20 and explore your preferences through a blind taste test of different roasts. The event is \$20 and includes a bag of your favorite coffee. Get tickets at <https://events.humanitix.com/ttvcoffee>.


Haitian artist **Jean François Frisnel** will have his paintings on display at the Bluffton store during the month of February. The public is invited to come to a reception to **meet the artist at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22.**



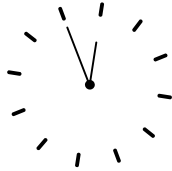
BLUFFTON

On **Tuesday, Feb. 18**, Bluffton University presents the Student Senate presidential debate at 11 a.m. in Yoder Recital Hall in **Forum**.

On **Friday, Feb. 21** at 4 p.m. **Faculty Colloquium** features Dr. Sarah Lehman, assistant professor of biology, presenting "*Shrinking the Other National Deficit (Critical Thinking) in the Undergraduate Classroom with Case Study Pedagogy*," in Stutzman Lecture Hall, Centennial Hall.



Immigration UPDATE

Ministry
Minute! 

This past Tuesday, Mennonite Church USA sent the following urgent news by email: ...the current administration recently rescinded the “sensitive locations” policy that directed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) to avoid conducting enforcement actions at houses of worship. Many people within and beyond Mennonite Church USA have expressed concern for the detrimental impact this will have on our ability to gather for worship, prayer, and fellowship, as well as to reach out to our communities through tangible acts of service such as food pantries or legal aid clinics.

In response to these concerns, Mennonite Church USA has joined with 26 other faith traditions to take legal action that seeks to restore the rights of people of faith to gather, worship, and serve without government interference. By taking this action as a denomination, we can help local congregations bear witness to the challenges they face while allowing them to remain anonymous, thereby minimizing the threat of reprisal. The Executive Board strongly endorsed taking this action.

—Jon Carlson. Moderator, Mennonite Church USA

Copies of the full press release and a list of Q&A are available on the table outside the office.



Today, Sunday, February 16, 2025

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

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

This Week

Monday, February 17

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, February 18

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, depart 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, February 19

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

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

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Thursday, February 20

Maple Crest Bible Study, 11 a.m.

Leadership Circle, 7:15 p.m. Parlor

Music Sunday, February 23

Worship: Anne Marie Spelman preaching

JHY games in the Benroths’ Barn, 8740 Hillville Rd, 4–6 p.m.

Lectionary: Genesis 45:3–11, 15; Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40

1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50; Luke 6:27–38

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.