

Lent 1 & Anabaptism at 500

March 9, 2025

Gathering

Music calls us to worship *A Welcome Song* arr. Wendy Chappell-Dick
Wendy Chappell-Dick, song leader

Welcome and announcements

Prelude *A Mighty Fortress* J. Walther

Invocation

*Opening Hymn 🌿 *O God, We Read the Holy Law* VT 571

Prayer of Confession - from an early Anabaptist prayer book

Leader: Gracious God, show us your mercy throughout the whole of our lives, and especially in these last and dangerous times.

People: We ask your forgiveness for all of our sins and transgressions, committed with or without our awareness,

Leader: With words or with actions, secretly or openly,

People: Against our better judgment, against your law, and against your holy gospel.

Leader: We ask for your mercy with humility and from the bottom of our hearts,

All: For the sake of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Telling God's Story

Special Music *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* VT 421
Chancel Choir, Camille Lively, director, LuAnn Stuckey, accompanist
***The congregation is invited to stand and join in for verse 4**

Conversation with Children

Hymn 🌿 *You're Not Alone*, refrain VT 779
Evan Skilliter, guitar

Celebrating and Letting Go
Community Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

James W. Bixel
back cover of HWB

Scripture Mark 1:14-15 & Psalm 51:1-3 10-12

Message *Repentance as Good News*

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response 🌿 *Out of the Depths I Cry to You* VT 140

Offering Invitation

Offertory *In Thee Alone, O Christ* J. Pachelbel

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending 🌿 *I Sing With Exultation* VT 444

*Benediction

*Postlude *A Mighty Fortress* C. Callahan

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

🌿: Anabaptist Heritage Hymn

Preaching

John Roth

Children's Time

Louise Matthews &
Rachel Skilliter

Worship Leader

Gerald Mast

Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

Pianist/Organist

LuAnn Stuckey

Scripture Reader

Alice Lora



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 Camille's day in - Monday

Nursery Workers Today SS: *Judy Diller*
Worship: *Chaska Yoder & Sunita Hooley*

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: --
Worship: *Victoria Woods-Yee*

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



Last Sunday - 3/2/2025

Attendance last Sunday: 142
Reported Volunteer hours: 34
Online views: Live: 23 Recorded: 19
Total Viewing Hrs: 18

This Sunday - 3/9/2025

Video: Ray Raeburn
Sound: Melissa Friesen/Jonah Sheets
Chancel: Lois Wetherill

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

MARCH 9, 2025

UNBURDENED



Art from Unburdened: A Lenten Journey toward Forgiveness.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

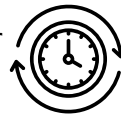
Mike Shelly passed away on Jan. 23, 2025 in Wichita, KS. Mike grew up in this congregation and was the son of Ralph & Helen Shelly. His Memorial service is scheduled for a later date. Prayers for his family as they grieve his loss.

John Roth is our guest speaker for this first Sunday of Lent and second Sunday of the Anabaptism at 500 Worship Series: *Renewal Through Repentance*. He retired from teaching history at Goshen College in 2022 to serve as the project director of Anabaptism at 500 with MennoMedia. John is married to Ruth, and they live in Goshen, IN. They have 4 adult children and many grandchildren.


Our opening hymn is a new translation of an early Anabaptist song written by Michael Schneider—one of the spiritual leaders of a group of nearly sixty men and women imprisoned as Anabaptists in the castle dungeon of Passau, Germany, from 1535–37. While in prison, the members of this remarkable Anabaptist community composed and sang a repertoire of 53 songs—including *O God We Read the Holy Law*—which formed the core of the larger Swiss Anabaptist hymnal—the *Ausbund*. The tune associated with this hymn in the *Ausbund* is the one composed by Martin Luther for his well-known Reformation hymn *Ein feste Burg (A Mighty Fortress)*, here in a setting that reflects the distinct rhythmic patterns of the Renaissance era. **Our worship service today acknowledges the close relationship of our Anabaptist heritage with the spiritual and musical gifts of the Lutheran Reformation through renditions of *A Mighty Fortress* by Chancel Choir and in the Prelude and Postlude.** The English translation of *O God We Read the Holy Law* is by 2013 Bluffton University alumnus Scott Troyer.

Children's time hymn leaders are Rachel, Evan, and Lena Skilliter.

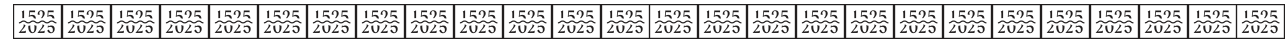
 **TIME CHANGE!!** This Sunday, Mar.9, we spring ahead. Set your clocks an hour forward.



On **Mar. 19**, some guests from **Marimor** and the **Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities** will be joining us for **Noodle Night**. Community Connections staff Trois Parker and Tammy DeLong will be connecting people served by the County Board of DD to FMC! Come meet some new people and find out about ways to volunteer with the ACBDD.

 The Youth Auction is scheduled for **Saturday, Apr. 5 from 3-5 p.m.** Donations are welcome. Limited items will be offered to keep the auction flow moving and the event contained to 2 hours. Kids' items will be available and priced for kids' budgets!

The annual Mennonite Youth Choir Festival took place last Sunday in Berne, IN. **Madelyn King, Anna Hartzler, Ellery Byers, and Junia Spelman** participated. To watch the performance, contact the church office for the link and password.



Anabaptism at 500: Upcoming Activities

This year, 2025, marks 500 years of Anabaptism.

Sunday, Mar. 9

– at 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Renewal Through Repentance: Anabaptism at 500 Worship Series #2. Elective Sunday School and Worship with John Roth at FMC.

– at 3 p.m.

Exhibit: *Early Anabaptist Bibles in the Musselman Library Historical Collections.*

Curated by Carrie Phillips. Runs from Mar. 9–23.

– at 4 p.m.

Book Celebration at Musselman Library for the *Anabaptist Community Bible* w/ featured speaker John Roth w/ Gerald Mast, Ray Person, & local participants in Anabaptist Bible study groups.

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.***

A full list of Activities can be found at www.bluffton.edu/anabaptism500

Tuesday, Mar. 11

– at 11 a.m.

Forum: *Seeking Peace in Challenging Times: Lessons for Today from Mennonite Central Committee* by Eric Kurtz in Yoder Recital Hall at Bluffton University.

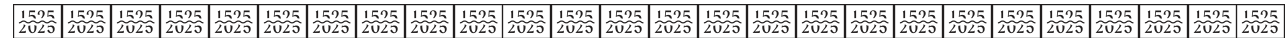
Friday, Mar. 14

– at 4 p.m.

Colloquium: *Early Anabaptist Bibles in Musselman Library Historical Collections* by Carrie Phillips in Musselman Library at Bluffton U.

Spring Anabaptist Choral Concert Opportunity:

Director of Music Camille Lively will conduct the choral concert "*Five Centuries of Anabaptist Singing- a Musical Odyssey*" on Sunday, Apr. 27, in Yoder Recital Hall. FMC singers are invited to participate in the choir. Rehearsals will be from 7-8:30 p.m. on **Mar. 15, Apr. 1, Apr. 8, Apr. 15** and **Apr. 22** in the Gilliom Room of Mosiman Hall. Contact Camille at camille@fmcbluffton.org with questions and to participate.



Mar. 15 @ 3 p.m., The FUN Committee is back with another FUN event. We will host a Cake Picnic with afternoon tea and coffee here at FMC in the Fellowship Hall. What is a "CAKE PICNIC" you may ask? A CAKE PICNIC is a gathering for the love of cake. It celebrates cake in all of its forms—chiffon cakes, upside down cakes, Princess cakes, cake loaves, cupcakes, Russian honey cakes, meringue cakes, jello cakes, trifles, multi-tiered cakes, sponge cakes, butter cakes, and more. CAKE PICNICS bring communities and friends together for the sole purpose of breaking cake and enjoying the following butter and sugar highs. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall or call the office to enter your cake. See you on CAKE Day!!

Bake your BEST cake and bring it to share for a chance to win a prize.

MHCO Service Group Barbeque Fundraiser Saturday, Apr. 12, 4:30-6 p.m. Your \$10 ticket includes 1/2 chicken OR pulled pork, plus au gratin potatoes, baked beans and a roll prepared by Bubba C BBQ. Tickets are available from **Gloria Bucher**, any Service Group member, Mennonite Home, or Maple Crest. See the poster at each church entrance for more details. The Service Group will also host a Bake Sale at MMH lobby from 9 a.m. until sold out. Homemade items from the congregation are welcome. Look for a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

CELEBRATING!

Following our Lenten theme, "Unburdened," we will enter into a practice throughout Lent of celebrating sacred items that were retired and sacred ministries that ended, yet were important in or integral to the life of the FMC faith community. We will take a moment to remember, reflect, and release the item or ministry in a de-commissioning moment during the worship service.



Letting Go.

As we practice letting go, we will bear in mind that seasons change, energy fades and resurges. Letting go sometimes means pausing or putting aside for now, and sometimes it requires a bittersweet farewell.



The Pulpit

This week we name the pulpit that graced the front of the sanctuary. Memories include the many pastors who stood behind this pulpit, some clutching the sides while driving home a point, some diminished behind its broad width and towering structure. Visit the pulpit in the Fellowship Hall. Stand behind it. Examine its details. Share a story about it with someone. Note that it was a good pulpit for FMC.



MARCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 9 - Shelby Cluts
- 14 - Jonathan Andreas
- Anna Hartzler
- Louise Matthews
- 13 - Tom Basinger
- 15 - Noah DeMarco



In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we 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, March 9, 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 w/ John Roth, 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary
 "The Anabaptist Community Bible:
 500 Years of Reading the Bible in the Anabaptist Tradition"
 Worship: John Roth preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary
 Exhibit & Book Celebration, 3 & 4 p.m. Musselman Library at Bluffton University

This Week

Monday, March 10

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, March 11

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 12

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
 SHY, 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 13

Bluffton Community VBS Meeting, 7 p.m. Emmanuel UCC

Saturday, March 15

Cake Picnic, 3 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, March 16

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching
 Lectionary: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1
 "Luke 13:31-35; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)"

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.