

Lent 2
March 16, 2025

Gathering

Music calls us to worship

Welcome and announcements

Prelude *I Want Jesus To Walk With Me* arr. Waldrop
Adult Bells, Ray Raeburn, director

Invocation

*Opening Hymn *In Thy Holy Place We Bow* VT 40
Gerald Mast, hymn leader

*Responsive Reading – selections from Psalm 27

One: The Lord is our light and salvation.

Many: Should we fear anyone?

One: Lord, teach us your ways;

Many: Don't give us over to the desires of our enemies,

One: lead us on a good path.

All: Be strong! Let your heart take courage! Hope in the Lord!

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children

Hymn  *You're Not Alone*, refrain VT 779

Confession adapted from *Unburdened* by Carol Penner

One: Forgiving God, we come humbly before you.

Many: We have sinned.

One: Sometimes the burden of shame crushes us;

Many: Our regret and remorse can feel like too much to bear.

One: We wonder what kind of people we are.

Many: Thank you for showing us that we are your kind of people.

One: Thank you for caring enough to call us to repentance

All: And to set us on paths where we can make right the wrongs we've done. Amen.

Celebrating and Letting Go
Community Prayer
The Lord's Prayer VT 673

Scripture Philippians 3:17–4:1

Message *Addressing Sin*

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response *Here I am, Lord* VT 545

Offering Invitation
Offertory

Followers of the Lamb arr. Christopherson
Jubilate, Laura Hartzler, Director
Anne Marie Spelman, pianist

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending *What Can I Leave Behind* VT 154

*Benediction

*Postlude

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



Preaching

Phil Yoder

Children's Time

Louise Matthews
& Rachel Skilliter

Worship Leader

Melissa Friesen

Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

Pianist

Laura Hartzler

Scripture Reader

Carrie Phillips

*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: --
Worship: Victoria Woods-Yee

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: --
Worship: Jonathan Spelman

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



Last Sunday - 3/9/2025

This Sunday - 3/16/2025

Attendance last Sunday: 149	Video: Ray Raeburn
Reported Volunteer hours: 23	Sound: Chris Moser/Jonah Sheets
Online views: Live: 25 Recorded: 20	Chancel: Lois Wetherill
Total Viewing Hrs: 32	

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.



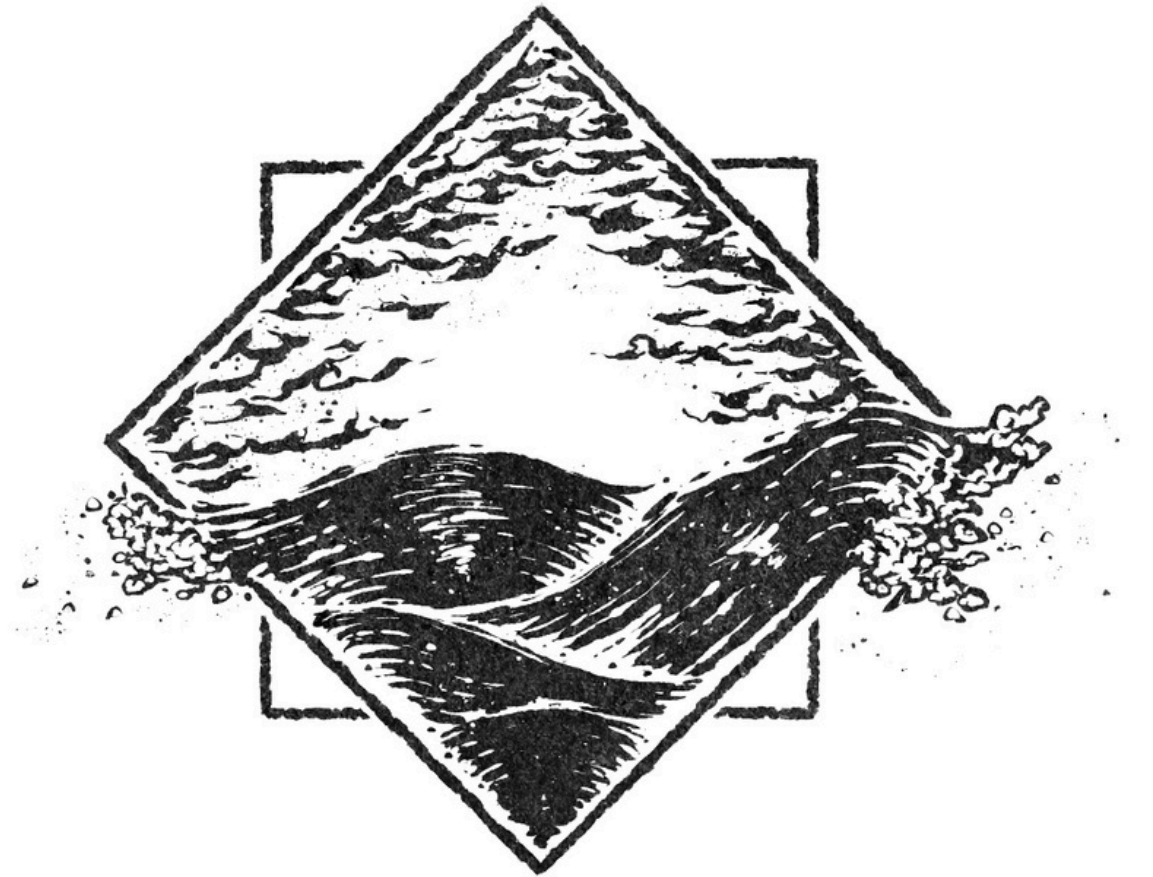
First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the 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 16, 2025

UNBURDENED



Art from Unburdened: A Lenten Journey toward Forgiveness.
© 2024 by Herald Press. Used with permission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Melinda Estell returned home on Tuesday after spending several days in the hospital. To support the Estells, a Meal Train runs through Sunday. To provide a meal, sign up at <https://mealtrain.com/5381dz/>. If you know someone who can do some light housekeeping, contact Melinda at 419.235.4614.



Today's children's time hymn leaders are the **Skilliter family**.

Especially for Kids: In the spirit of one Lenten theme, "letting go," children are invited to find Olaf the snowman in the bulletin each week. Olaf is from Disney's movie *Frozen* featuring the hit song "Let It Go."



A reminder to fill out your Easter flower forms. The deadline to submit your form is tomorrow, Monday, **Mar. 17 at 4 p.m.** Extra forms are available on the literature table outside the church office in the Fellowship Hall.



Monday: Capital Campaign Committee - 7p.m.

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

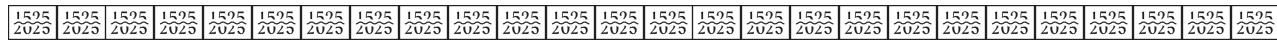
This Wednesday, Mar. 19, some guests from **Marimor** and the **Allen County Board of Developmental Disabilities** will be joining us for **Noodle Night**. Community Connections staff Trois Parker and Tammy DeLong will be connecting people served by the County Board of DD to FMC! Come meet some new people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

This Thursday, Mar. 20, Pastor Phil's monthly Maple Crest Bible Study will meet in the Maple Crest living room. Anyone is invited to join.

donations The Youth Auction will be **Saturday, Apr. 5 from 3-5 p.m.**

WELCOME Drop off donations in the church office. If more items are donated than we can auction in 2 hours, we'll have a "Buy It Now" table where you can just pay for items. Featured items include a Zimbabwean meal and yard work! Kids' items will be available and priced for kids' budgets, too!

The **Bluffton Community VBS** is hosting *Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace* with set-up similar to last year's *Hometown Nazareth*. There are several ways to help: bake 2 dozen cookies, be a shopkeeper, be an Assistant Leader, or help prepare the items the shopkeepers will sell in the marketplace. Join the team with Pastor Carrie from **July 13-17 at the Bluffton YMCA**.



Anabaptism at 500: Upcoming Activities

This year, 2025, marks 500 years of Anabaptism.



Tuesday, Mar. 18

– at 11 a.m.

Forum: *What Is the Good Life? Insights from 500 Years of Anabaptism* by John D. Roth in Yoder Recital Hall at Bluffton University.

Monday-Friday thru Mar. 23

– **Mon-Thur: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. & Fri 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

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

Curated by Carrie Phillips.

Sunday, Mar. 23

– at 4 p.m.

Book Celebration at Musselman Library for *Drawing Near* w/ editor John D. Roth, poets Jeff Gundy, Ruth Naylor, Shannon McKeenan, Sheri Hostetler & others

Spring Anabaptist Choral Concert Opportunity:

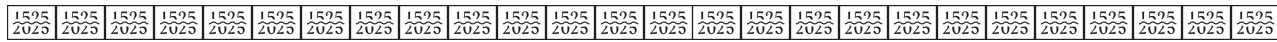
Director of Music Camille Lively will conduct the choral concert "Five Centuries of Anabaptist Singing- a Musical Odyssey" on **Sunday, Apr. 27**, in Yoder Recital Hall. FMC singers are invited to participate in the choir. Rehearsals will be from 7-9 p.m. on **Mar. 25, Apr. 1, Apr. 8, Apr. 15 & Apr. 22** in the Gilliom Room of Mosiman Hall. Contact Camille at camille@fmcbluffton.org with questions and to participate.

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



Comforter Knotting: We'll be knotting comforters on **Mar. 30** during the Sunday School hour, on **Mar. 31 from 6-9 p.m.**, and on **Apr. 1 from 9 a.m. to noon**. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. We have lots of comforters and need many hands to knot. Please join us.

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.

Listen! Wisdom is calling through creativity: Join us Saturday, Apr. 5, 9 a.m.-noon for an online retreat including guided creation through words, song, and visual art. No experience required, just come with an open mind and a readiness to play as we listen for Wisdom's voice. Alison Casella Brookins will be your guide for the morning. Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82386771810?pwd=MFFzTTVTbUFXSU5SnJSUnNmSkdVUT09> Meeting ID: 823 8677 1810 | Passcode: 786440

The March issue of the **CDC Connector** is available in the Fellowship Hall literature table.

CELEBRATING!

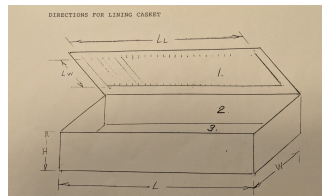
Since 1985, members of the Casket Ministry built and lined more than 200 caskets and constructed more than 50 cremains boxes for FMC members and family members. The ministry began in 1985 as a congregational response of care to the Neil & Eileen Kehler family when their entire family was traveling home on New Year's Eve in 2 cars and an accident claimed the life of their daughter Bonnie and hospitalized 2 other family members. Then FMC

Pastor Mel Schmidt asked woodworker and FMC member Harvey Bauman to make a casket to support the Kehlers. His idea was carried to Ohio from a congregation in Kansas who had a casket ministry.

Letting Go...



The Casket Ministry members called it around 2019 with the support of Pastor Theda Good. The ending of this ministry was disappointing for many, but new energy and new members were not emerging within the congregation to carry on the work. John Rich continues to make cremains boxes for those interested. So many materials were donated to the work that the ministry carried a balance of over \$11,000. This year, members decided to put that money toward the Capital Campaign to support other building projects for FMC.



Happy Anniversary

Ron & Alice Lora
March 22 - 50 Years



March

- 17 - Carter Steinmetz
- 19 - Xavier Diller
- Elizabeth Kelly
- Mitch Kingsley
- 21- David Edmiston

Happy Birthday!

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

This Week

Monday, March 17

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor
Capital Campaign meeting, 7 p.m. Parlor

Tuesday, March 18

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary
Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, over lunch
Transitions Retreat, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Prayer Room

Wednesday, March 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. Bell Choir Room
Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary
SHY, 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 20

Maple Crest Bible Study, 11 a.m.

Saturday, March 22

Yoder Gathering, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Ordination Sunday, March 23

Worship: Stan Shantz preaching
Drawing Near Book Celebration, 4 p.m. Musselman Library
Lectionary: Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8;1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

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.