

Lent 4 - Responding to Brokenness

March 30, 2025

Gathering

Music calls us to worship

Welcome and announcements

Prelude *Prelude No. 6 in D minor, BWV 851* J.S. Bach

Invocation

*Opening Hymn *Come Now, O Prince of Peace (오소서 Ososo)* VT 391

*Confession - selections from Psalm 32

One: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Many: While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

One: **my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Many: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity. I said,

One: **"I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"**

Many: and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

One: ***The steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.***

**All: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

Telling God's Story

Special Music *Drop, Drop Slow Tears* Taylor Davis
Chancel Choir, Camille Lively, director
LuAnn Stuckey, accompanist

Conversation with Children
Hymn *You're Not Alone, refrain* VT 779

Confession
One: God, we are not all the like the wise man who built his house on the rock;

Many: We are too often like the foolish man who built on sand.

One: We live with crumbling foundations.

Many: When things fall apart, be our architect.

One: You come with a brand-new site plan, custom designed just for us.

Many: Your plan has a very detailed building code:

All: Our cornerstone is Jesus. Amen

Celebrating and Letting Go
Community Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

VT 673

Scripture Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Message *We Are Not Whole*

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response *Nothing Is Lost on the Breath of God* VT 653

Offering Invitation

Offertory *Sleepless* Ola Gjeilo

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending *Heart with Loving Heart United* VT 813

*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

Gerald Mast

Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

Pianist

Anne Marie Spelman

Scripture Reader

Jori Mast

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 Rev. 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

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

MARCH 30, 2025



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: Chaska Yoder

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: --
Worship: Mary Edmiston



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

Last Sunday - 3/23/2025

Attendance last Sunday: 219
Reported Volunteer hours: 32
Online views: Live: 20 Recorded: 30
Total Viewing Hrs: 52

This Sunday - 3/30/2025

Video: Ray Raeburn
Sound: Kevin Cluts/Jonah Sheets
Chancel: Lois Wetherill

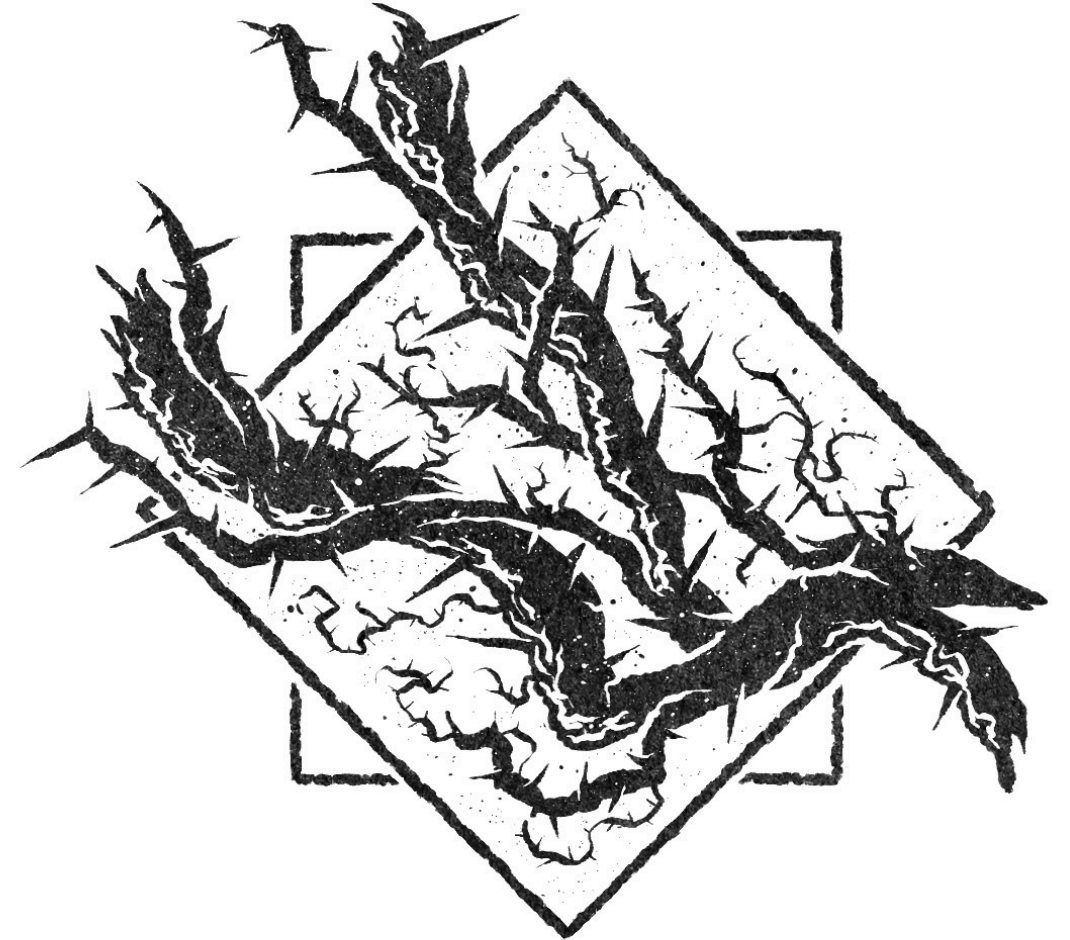
Leadership Circle

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
Ken Shenk
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.



Art from Unburdened: A Lenten Journey toward Forgiveness.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

James Burry died at his home in Cleveland Heights on Saturday, Mar. 22, with his wife Eileen at his side. James grew up in this church and was the brother of **Mary Ramseyer**. The family asks for your prayers as they mourn his loss. A celebration of life will be held in July. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to Hospice of the Western Reserve.


Maurice Kaufmann was hospitalized with pneumonia this week at St. Rita's. The family welcomes prayers.

Children's time hymn leaders are the **Skilliter family**.

Especially for Kids: In the spirit of the 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."

Comforter Knotting: We'll be knotting comforters **today during the Sunday School hour, on Mar. 30 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.

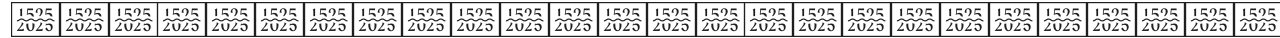
A Lenten Taizé service is scheduled for **Thursday, Apr. 3, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This time of prayer, singing, and candle lighting also includes Legos and other activities to connect with people of every age.

 **donations WELCOME**
The Youth Auction will be this **Saturday, Apr. 5 from 3-5 p.m.** Drop off donations in the church office. A "Buy It Now" table where you can skip the bidding and just pay for items is a new option. Check out the table of items in the Fellowship Hall including a Kick Croquet set, meals, and youth services. The auction will be live-streamed and you will be able to bid from home with proxy bidders. Kids' items are priced for kids' budgets, too!

Holy Week activities begin Apr. 13 with **Palm Sunday**. The morning opens with Elective SS Classes studying the *Unburdened* devotional & *Drawing Near* devotional & concludes with worship.

- **Maundy Thursday** Service, Apr. 17, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Annual Cross Walk** on Good Friday, Apr. 18. The walk will begin at the English Lutheran Church at 11:30 a.m. and end at St. Mary's Catholic Church. FMC is the 4th stop on the route.
- **Easter Sunday**, Apr. 20: We will be celebrating with a **brunch** during the Sunday School hour beginning at 9:15 a.m. All are invited to bring a breakfast item to share. Beverages will be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own table service though paper products will be available. During the Easter worship service all are invited to sing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." You can rehearse with the Chancel Choir on Wednesday, Apr. 16 at 7:30 p.m. or Easter Sunday morning at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The **MCC Hygiene and Relief Kit** collections begin today and run through May 11. Kit lists are on the bulletin board by the library, or find the lists at MCC.org/kits. (There are boxes of combs on the collection carts that you can use, or buy your own. The website shows which combs are needed.)



Anabaptism at 500: Upcoming Activities
This year, 2025, marks 500 years of Anabaptism.



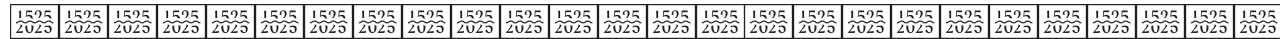
Spring Anabaptist Choral Concert Opportunity:

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 **Apr. 1, 8, 15 & 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



Bluffton University presents 2 options for Forum on Tuesday, Apr. 1 at 11 a.m. **Option 1:** Marathana Prothro, director of general education, will offer "*Gaslit Generation: The Myth of 'For You'*" in Yoder Recital Hall. **Option 2:** Student Bishop T. Florence '25 will explain the importance of advanced stats/analytics for sports as investigated in "*Basketball By the Numbers: Understanding the Impact of Stats*" in the Musselman Library Reading Room.

Bluffton University Theatre presents *Popcorn Falls* Apr. 3-5 at 7:30 p.m. & Apr. 6 at 2:30 p.m. in Ramseyer Auditorium in College Hall. Tickets are \$8 - adults and \$6 - senior citizens. Reserve tickets at www.bluffton.edu/tickets.

The MMH Service Group's annual BBQ Fundraiser is Apr. 12, 4:30-6 pm, with Bubba C BBQ. Gloria Bucher will have tickets available for \$10 in the church office today and next Sunday after worship, or by calling 419.429.2621. Tickets are also available at Maple Crest and Mennonite Memorial Home through Apr. 2.

Basic **garden tools** are being collected by the Newcomer Coalition in Lima for distribution to immigrant families. Gently used round-headed shovels, garden rakes, and hand trowels are needed. Tools can be dropped off in the downstairs kitchen at FMC by Apr. 13.

ReStore Volunteers Needed (Individual or Group Opportunities Available) Habitat for Humanity Lima is seeking volunteers to support the Habitat ReStore, which plays a vital role in funding their mission to build and repair homes in our community. With warmer weather here, the ReStore is busier than ever. Even a few hours of your time can make a meaningful impact! You can volunteer individually or come as a group from your church. It's a great opportunity for fellowship and service. To learn more or to sign up, contact Caleb Farmer at caleb@habitatlima.org.

CELEBRATING!

"The global refugee situation remains an urgent problem that has reached dramatic proportions. As long as international conflict, mass starvation, and open warfare remain dominant themes on our planet, there will continue to be refugees," Interfaith Refugee Services of Ohio, "Sponsoring Refugees," 1999.

It was remarkable finding this statement among the papers and files in basement storage at FMC because it could well have been written yesterday. Additionally, it was among the pages of documents in folders labeled "Kosovo Refugee" and "MPS - Refugee" resource

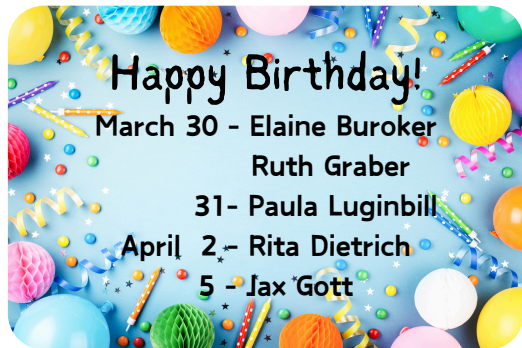


Letting Go...

material, and began painting a picture of the history of FMC's work with immigrants and refugees.

The Clock

In the early 90s, the Shekochikhin family connected with FMC through a refugee program when fleeing Russia in pursuit of religious freedom. As a gesture of thanks, the family presented FMC with the clock that could be found hanging above the drinking fountain. Numerous trips to clock repair shops and the delicate touch needed to maintain accurate time relegated the clock to temporary storage. Future plans for the clock include a new home on the 3rd floor landing among the pastors' portrait gallery as part of a proposed historical archive with a more detailed history of the efforts in sponsoring the Shekochikhin family and a number of other refugees over the years. This clock serves as a tangible symbol of the immigrant and refugee work of this FMC congregation and perhaps will stir us to dream of more ways to support the immigrant in these days.



April 2 - Lynn & Linda Miller
60 years

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 30, 2025

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

Drawing Near Elective SS Class, Assembly Room, 9:15 a.m.

Unburdened SS Class, Prayer Room, 9:15 a.m.

Comforter Knotting, 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall

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

Freudige Potluck, noon Fellowship Hall

This Week

Monday, March 31

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Comforter Knotting, 6-9 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 1

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Comforter Knotting, 9 a.m. - noon Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, April 2

CDC Pastor Peer, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Salem Mennonite Church

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, April 3

Bluffton Area Ministerial Association, 9:30 a.m.

Taizé Service, 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 5

Youth Auction, 3-5 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, April 6

Worship: Carrie Mast preaching

Lectionary: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12

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.