

# Palm/Passion Sunday: Building Forgiveness

April 13, 2025

## Gathering

Music calls us to worship

*Zacchaeus*  
Cherub Choir  
Laura Hartzler, Director

traditional

Welcome and announcements

Prelude

*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna*

arr. D. Busarow

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn

*Mountain of God*  
Jan Wiebe, vocals; Adam Philips, guitar

VT 11

\*Responsive Reading – adapted from Psalm 118

One: Give thanks to the Lord because the Lord is good.

**Many: Let Israel say it: "God's faithful love lasts forever!"**

One: The stone rejected by the builders

**Many: is now the main foundation stone!**

One: You are our God—

**Many: we will give thanks to you!**

One: You are our God—we will lift you up high!

**Many: Give thanks to the Lord because the Lord is good,**

**All: because God's faithful love lasts forever.**

## Telling God's Story

Special Music

*Set Me As a Seal*  
Chancel Choir, Camille Lively, director

René Clausen

Conversation with Children

 *You're Not Alone*

VT 779

Palm Processional

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*



VT 315

Confession – adapted from **Unburdened** by Carol Penner

One: God, we confess your church is riddled with divisions.

**Many: We have judged each other harshly, said bad things, and missed the golden opportunity to listen.**

One: We've read your holy book with eyes open only for words that support our own position.

**Many: Help us respond to hurt with humility; keep pride far from us.**

**All: You will give us ears to hear and tongues to speak wise words in times of conflict. Amen.**

Celebrating and Letting Go

Community Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer*

James W. Bixel  
back cover of HWB

Scripture

Luke 23:1-49

Message

*Messy, Irrational, Maybe Liberating*

## Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response

*Let Us Break Bread Together*  
Jan Wiebe, vocals; Adam Philips, guitar

VT 482

Offering Invitation

Offertory

*Lamb of God, Pure and Holy*

arr. K.T. Kosche

Dedication Prayer

## Sending

\*Hymn of Sending

*What Wondrous Love Is This v. 1-3*

VT 564

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

*O Jesus, King of Glory*

arr. D.N. Johnson

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

: Anabaptist Heritage Music

### Preaching

Phil Yoder

### Children's Time

Louise Matthews  
& Rachel Skilliter

### Worship Leader

Melissa Friesen

### Community Prayer

Carrie Mast

### Pianist/Organist

LuAnn Stuckey

### Scripture Reader

Chaska Yoder

*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."*

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Director of Music Camille Lively | [camille@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:camille@fmcbluffton.org)  
Technology Coordinator Ray Raeburn | 419.230.2769 | [ray@fmcbluffton.org](mailto: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: *Sunita Hooley & Jonathan Spelman*

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

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



Last Sunday - 4/6/2025

Attendance last Sunday: 157  
Reported Volunteer hours: 52.5  
Online views: Live: 25 Recorded: 15  
Total Viewing Hrs: 30

This Sunday - 4/13/2025

Video: Ray Raeburn  
Sound: Kevin Cluts/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

## APRIL 13, 2025



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

A memorial service for **Maurice Kaufmann** will be on Saturday, May 24 at 11 a.m. here at First Mennonite Church. Visitation will be from 10-11 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**Doug and Paula Luginbill** are grateful for your support for our daughter, Carissa, throughout her breast cancer chemotherapy treatments. Her last chemo treatment was on March 17. She will begin radiation treatments on April 16. These will be five days a week for a total of 28-33 treatments. We welcome your prayers. Thank you.

A **Membership Class** will start this Spring on April 27 and run for 4 Sundays. In the class, we will explore our church's history, theology, governance, ministries, and share our own stories. If you are interested in exploring joining the church, let Pastor Phil know.

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

### Church Directory Updates:

- Carlin & Sharon Carpenter are living with their granddaughter Alexa and her family at 630 S. Main St., Bluffton, OH. Their phone remains 419.358.1507 or they can be reached by texting or calling Alexa at 419.672.9202.
- Elda Unruh's phone number is 419.358.0156.

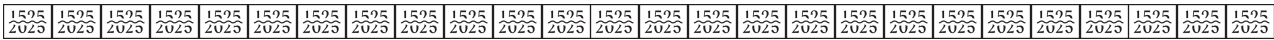
**Holy Week** activities begin today, Apr. 13 with **Palm/Passion Sunday worship**. The morning opens with Elective SS Classes studying the *Unburdened* devotional & *Drawing Near* devotional & concludes with worship.

- **Maundy Thursday Service**, Apr. 17, at 6:30 p.m. Grace Mennonite is invited to join us.
- **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. A potluck lunch will follow after worship. During the Easter worship service all are invited to sing Handel's "*Hallelujah*" from Messiah. 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.

No plans for **Easter Lunch**? Join us for a potluck (30 minutes after the service). Bring your "favorite" Easter/Spring dish to share and enjoy good food and company. No RSVP needed. There is a food sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Contact/Questions **Walt Paquin 419.889.1516**.

**The MCC Hygiene and Relief Kit** collection has begun and will run through May 11. Kit lists are on the bulletin board by the library, or find the lists at [MCC.org/kits](http://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.

**We're exercising our Mennonite Disaster Service** muscles. We have been asked by a local homeowner to help remove a lot of brush and to take down a dilapidated garage. We can use volunteers on a day-at-a-time basis. So if you can offer your muscles, money (\$500 needed) or support (say, lunch or refreshments), there is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall with dates you can indicate. (April 23, 24, 25 & 26) Contact Mitch Kingsley at 419.236.7106, [kingsleymitch@gmail.com](mailto:kingsleymitch@gmail.com). or Lynn Miller at 419.464.8060.



Anabaptism at 500: Upcoming Activities

*\* This year, 2025, marks 500 years of Anabaptism.\**

**Sunday, Apr. 13**  
- at 2:30 p.m.

### Reader's Theatre

Bluffton University will host, "***I Have Not Forsaken the Word of God***" in College Hall's Ramseyer Auditorium. The production is directed by Dr. Melissa Friesen, Mary Nord Ignat and Joseph Ignat professor of theatre and communication, and is based on testimony of Jacques d'Auchy from *Martyrs Mirror*.



### Spring Anabaptist Choral Concert "Five Centuries of Anabaptist Singing a Musical Odyssey"

**Tuesday Rehearsals, Apr. 15 & 22**  
- from 7-9 p.m.

Meet in the Gilliom Room of Mosiman Hall.

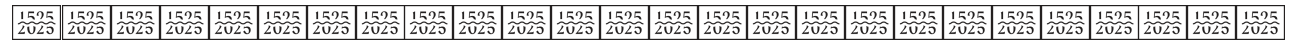
**Sunday Concert, Apr. 27**  
- 2:30 p.m.

FMC Director of Music Camille Lively will conduct the choral concert in Yoder Recital Hall. Contact Camille at [camille@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:camille@fmcbluffton.org) with questions.

*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](http://www.bluffton.edu/anabaptism500)*



**Bluffton University** presents the **Athletic Awards Forum** on Tuesday, Apr. 15 at 11 a.m. Michele Durand '88, head women's basketball coach at University of Findlay will present, "*Life Lessons from Athletics*." This event is free and open to the public.

**FMC Little Food Pantry:** Based on our Mutual Aid Fund distributions, our community's primary concerns continue to be access to groceries and housing. The FMC pantry partners with the Bluffton Food Pantry to offer a convenient spot for individuals to pick up items between the scheduled distribution times at St. John's UCC. We are always grateful for grocery donations, particularly Chef Boyardee products, pull-tab cans, easy-prep meals, and microwavable options. Other requests include Pop Tarts and granola bars.

**MMH Service Group** thanks to all who purchased bbq tickets or made items for the bake sale. We appreciate your support.

**The April Connector Issue** is available on the Fellowship Hall literature table.

**FMC Pictorial Directory.** The deadline to submit your photos is May 4.

**Our Daily Bread Volunteers,** please contact Carolyn & John Rich at 419-969-4965 if you can work Tuesday, Apr.15.



# CELEBRATING!

FIRST Night originated at FMC in 2004. This intergenerational Wednesday evening event promised food, fun, and fellowship around the table for all ages. From Oct. 6 - Nov. 17, the church was abuzz with activity. In the January 2005 Annual Report, then Church Moderator Mitch Kingsley wrote, "FIRST Night proved simply delightful. Large chunks of the congregation gathered...to eat and share and have fun across generational lines. Let's do this some more."

Indeed, just months later, the 2<sup>nd</sup> series of FIRST Night ran from Jan. 26 - Mar. 16. The event was something the whole

church got behind. Trustee Commission Minutes from Nov. 2, 2004 included notes that their commission had "purchased a new freezer and provided funds for various items to help with this Wednesday night program."

At its height, attendance at the event ranged from 170-200 and included a waiting list. Mary Amstutz and Barb Stettler organized the meal portion including Cooks, Table setters, and Clean-up crews, which was no small task. In its first run, 49 people offered hospitality through these meals. More people were involved in collecting sign-ups and money on Sunday mornings, offering their faith stories before the meal, and emceeding the after dinner activities. Over the years, FIRST Night went through various changes including price increases (\$4 for an individual and \$12 for a family) and a shift toward a more adult-focused after-dinner presentation. Cooking teams and clean-up crews became difficult to secure. After 9 ½ years, Mary & Barb invited new leadership, ideas, and energy as they stepped back. FIRST Night concluded with the Fall 2014 season.

Letting Go...

## The FIRST Night Schedule

**5:30 p.m.** Joyful Noise, Jubilate, Bells, and Adult Discussion, often faith stories  
**6:20 p.m.** Family style meal  
**7 p.m.** Intergenerational Activity  
**7:15 p.m.** Youth Bells  
**7:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir, LOGOS, Childcare provided, & Clean-up teams

\$3 per person or \$10 per family

April

8- Amy Byers

13 - George Lehman

Kendra Nickel

14 Sarah Basinger

Jori Mast

Flora Yoder

16 - Jen Benroth

Carla Richard

19 -Julie Mackey



*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, April 13, 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.  
*Drawing Near* Elective SS Class, Assembly Room, 9:15 a.m.  
*Unburdened* SS Class, Prayer Room, 9:15 a.m.

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary  
 Reader's Theatre "I Have Not Forsaken the Word of God", 2:30 p.m. Ramseyer Auditorium in College Hall at Bluffton University

### This Week

#### Monday, April 14

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

#### Tuesday, April 15

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary  
 Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, over lunch

#### Wednesday, April 16

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  
 Handel's "Hallelujah" rehearsal, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary  
 SHY, 7:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

#### Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday service w/ Grace Mennonite, 6:30 p.m. Sanctuary

#### Good Friday, April 18

BAMA Annual Cross Walk, 11:30 a.m. begins at the English Lutheran Church

#### Easter Sunday, April 20

Easter Brunch, 9:15 a.m. Fellowship Hall  
 Handel's "Hallelujah" rehearsal, 10 a.m. Sanctuary  
 Worship: Phil Yoder preaching  
 Lectionary: Acts 10:34-43 Isaiah 65:17-25; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Acts 10:34-43; John 20:1-18; Luke 24:1-12

### 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.