

Follow Jesus; Mature in Faith; Carry the Good News
At First Mennonite Church

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Brett Esau
Live Stream: Pam Kunzman
Ushers: Daryl Riesen & Justin Schardt
Children's Story: Christina Lyons

Pianists: Kathy Casey & Vicki Ensz
Hosts: Don & Judy Jantzen
Audio: Jim Ensz
Power Point: Katie Jantzen

Last Sunday Offering: MTM \$3,410; SheepGate \$500; FMC, \$1,100;
WDC \$300; MDS \$300; Tuition Fund, \$100.

Attendance: 78

Offering this morning: FMC **Next Sunday:** SheepGate

Happening this week:

Sunday, February 18	9:30 a.m. Sunday School – all ages 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday, February 21	1:30 p.m. WMS Quilting & Tying
Wednesday, Feb 22	6:30 pm Peace Club, JYF/SYF
Sunday, Feb 25	9:30 a.m. Sunday School – all ages 10:30 a.m. Worship

February Birthdays

2: Doug Casey	4: Jim Ensz
7: Bryan Heinz	9: Ross Reimer
15: Gerald Jantzen	16: Samantha Tegmeier
26: Elijah Vanderschaaf	



- **Need a hearing device?** Ask an usher for assistance.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry:** There's a box in the narthex or give cash to Dolores Jantzen.
- **Men's Brotherhood** project? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen
- **Watch our service on** youtube.com, search for fmcbeatrice, or listen from our parking lot on FM 107.5 Weekly bulletins are at fmcbeatrice.org; click the More tab to select Documents, Church docs, bulletins.
- If you have **food for Scott Jantzen**, please call Lori Thimm:402-239-3611

First Mennonite Church; 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310

Pastors: Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org
Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; sarah@fmcbeatrice.org

Church office: 402-251-7180

Website: fmcbeatrice.org **Church email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

Deacons: Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), Sue Gerber (402-239-8857)
Don Esau (402-223-9210)

Church Chair: Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)



Welcome to First Mennonite Church

Installation of Sarah Neher
Associate Pastor of Faith Formation
February 18, 2024

Welcome

Call To Worship (*based on Psalm 25:1–10*)

L: Teach us your pathways, O God—
our eyes and our souls are trained on you.

P: For you are the greatest guide, and your map is always good.

L: Other paths have left us lost; other ways have left us confused.

**P: You guide us along the trail of your mercy,
drawing sinner and saint down this well-worn way.**

**All: All your paths are love,
made smooth by your faithful walking.**

We are led into your truth by following the tread of your feet.

Prayer

Hymn: "To God Be the Glory"

VT 84

Confession and Assurance

L: God, on Ash Wednesday, we remembered our humanity, our fragility, our limits, our sinfulness, our need for repentance. Today, we come to you with this fresh on our minds as we continue our Lenten journey.

P: Be with us in this wilderness.

L: We so often focus on the difficulty of our walk with Christ.

P: Forgive our self-focused minds.

L: Forgive us, Lord, when on our journey, we forget your extensive, covenantal love for the world.

P: May we partner with you and your church to remember.

All (looking at one another): You are beloved.

Children's Time

Hymn: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

VT 156

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15

Sermon: "It Begins with Belovedness" Pastor Josh

Hymn: "What Can I leave Behind?" VT 154

Installation of Sarah Neher as Associate Pastor of Faith Formation

-Kathy Neufeld Dunn, WDC Associate Pastor

Hymn: "Seek Ye First" VT 417

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: "Guide My Feet" VT 816

Offering to First Mennonite Church

Welcome! We are glad you are here! We hope to see you again soon! If you can't make it in person, the service is available to watch on our YouTube channel and the bulletin is available at fmcbeatrice.org.

The theme for **Peace Club and Children's SS** during the month of February is **Gear Up - An Adventure in Kindness**, (Colossians 3:12). **Childrens Sunday School** groups today learned to go the extra mile and "be kinder than you have to be" (Matthew 5:41). Next Sunday they will hear of the Good Samaritan and learn to be kind to people who are different than you.

Lent-At-Home- If you missed the presentations, Pastor Sarah has prepared bags with "Lent-at-Home" materials for your use. They are available in the narthex. (The resource link is <http://tinyurl.com/8deyhrc>)

The adult Sunday School uses Salt & Light stand-alone lessons. Join us in the room at the bottom of the stairs when you can!

Tuition Fund pledges/donations: Thank you for your tuition fund donations for Clairra Janssen at Bethel College. Almost half of the second semester pledge of \$4500 has been donated. Donations may be put in the offering plate, marked "tuition pledge".

Start the Party... Celebrate the Good News! We're excited to announce the dates for the **2024 Vacation Bible School** at FMC, Tuesday - Friday, May 28-31. The Sunday morning celebration will be June 2. Details will be coming soon. --VBS Committee, Jane, Erin, Linsey

Thank you for supporting Chris and Grace Tegtmeier during Chris's recovery from transplant on February 9. He's 1 ½ weeks post surgery and will be away from home another 4 ½ weeks with his mother Beth as caregiver. Prayers are invited for Chris and his donor Zach. There's a box in the narthex for cards. If you would like to contribute to care packages, Walmart gift cards for Chris and his mother, or meals for Grace and family, see the **sign-up sheet** on the bulletin board. Questions? Contact Shana Ensz, 402-806-1946. Thank you! -Friends of Grace & Chris & Shepherd Group 4. Their address: Chris & Grace Tegtmeier, 72245 574th Ave, Plymouth, NE 68424

THANK YOU, First Mennonite Church & the Education Council, for your generous financial support of our weekend retreat! Last weekend 25 guests spent the weekend in Lincoln learning how to "Grow Slow & Grow Deep" in our faith with author Jennifer Dukes Lee referencing her book "*Growing Slow*." A bible study written to focus on the comparison of the natural growing seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall, & Winter) as they relate to our own personal faith journey and planting seeds to minister to those around us in our daily lives. Jennifer and her husband, Scott, are ordinary people, living on their 5th generation family farm in Iowa, raising pigs, and spreading God's love through day-to-day living. Their connection to our group was instantly natural. It was truly a weekend enjoyed by all in attendance, even keeping the men engaged through the frequent farming analogies. Jennifer is the successful author of several other books. If you are interested in her work or learning more about her, you can find her at www.JenniferDukesLee.com.

Church Cleaning will begin at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, March 14 and at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, March 15.



The MCC Sale is April 5 and 6. The **deadline for registering your auction items for display on the website are March 1 for quilts and March 17 for all other items.** Go to <https://www.nebraskamccsale.org/register> to register your quilt or auction items – the site is now open. (When registering quilts, all you need is the name of the quilt and the writer or company name of the quilt. If you have questions, text or email Wendy Kyser.) After those dates, we will continue to register auction items until March 31, but they will not appear on the website.

"Fifty-Three Years in the Russian Empire" by Dr. Mark Jantzen, is presented today, Feb 18 at 3 p.m. at Alexanderwohl Mennonite Church, Goessel, Ks. Join us in person or by zoom. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86167911311?pwd=VUZWBHIRMVILa0Y3TIR1VWhlZEhiUT09> Meeting ID 861 6791 1311 Passcode 473902



New Children's books donated to church library:
Chandra's Magic Light, A Story in Nepal, by Theresa Heine & Judith Gueyfier: and *Nour's Secret Library* by Wafa Tarnowska.

Mother To Mother's newest outreach, the **Youth-To-Youth Center**, a free rec center focused on middle school aged youth, opens March 20th. Spring semester hours will be Wednesdays from 2-5p.m. and Sundays from 4-7p.m. in the basement of the city auditorium across from the middle school. There will be a variety of video games, tabletop games, board games, & concessions - all supervised by caring adults. There will also be an open house (with a free will donation for a dessert bar) on Sunday, March 10th, from 2-4 p.m., so we hope to see you all there! The entrance is on the south side of the city building, down the steps.

FMC to host Western District Conference Listening Tour on March 3:

On March 3, three representatives from Western District Conference, Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Ron Flaming, and Vicki Penner, will be visiting our congregation as part of WDC's conference-wide Listening Tour this year. The purpose of the Listening Tour is to empower the vitality of WDC congregations by hearing their stories, offering ongoing relationship, and supporting their witness and mission. All adults and youth are invited to participate in listening sessions from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This will include worship and times of conversation in response to these questions from WDC about our ministries and hopes for the future:

1. *Can you tell about a time when you've felt most alive and vibrant as a congregation, or as a participant of the congregation?*
2. *What is foundational and reassuring about this congregation that has helped in difficult times?*
3. *What activities or ministries are most important for your congregation now in fully carrying out God's work?*
4. *What do you hope for the future for your church and what resources from WDC would be helpful for that?*

Responses from our discussion will be shared back with the congregation, and at the conclusion of the listening process a summary of themes will be compiled by WDC to share with WDC constituency and used to guide ongoing resourcing for congregations in WDC.

MCC partner **Team Brownsville welcomes your gently used winter coats and jackets!** Team Brownsville seeks to share God's love by welcoming asylum seekers, including providing them with warm coats. It's as easy as collecting your gently used coats and jackets, boxing them up and shipping (up to) 70 lb./box to Team Brownsville – just follow the instructions on the poster on the bulletin board. Spring clean your closets and help Team Brownsville prepare for next winter! Have questions? Please email the MCC Central States Immigration Team at centralstates@mcc.org and either Abraham Diaz Alonso or Becky Teiwes, will respond.

4-H Inc Annual Pancake Feed, February 25, 9:00 – 1:00 at their building at the fairgrounds. Freewill donation.

**First Mennonite Church
General Fund Summary**

General fund balance 12/31/23	\$ (7,222.00)
General fund offerings	11,105.00
* Other general fund revenue	10,000.00
Church maintenance expense	(16,365.05)
General Fund Balance 1/31/24	\$ (2,482.05)

* \$10,000 of the \$20,000 that was approved at the annual meeting to support the increase in salaries has been withdrawn from our Everence account.

A conversation about housing in our community will be held Tuesday, Feb 20 from 10 a.m. to noon

at the Beatrice Public Library. Discussions will center on homeless youth, immigrant housing, and challenges faced. John Penner is one of the panelists speaking on immigrant housing. More information is on the bulletin board.



Ulrich Zwingli Film to be Shown February 18

"The Reformer" movie will be shown at the First Mennonite Church of Christian in Moundridge, KS, at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 18, 2024. There is no charge and all are welcome. No reservations are necessary.

The film is about Ulrich Zwingli, a priest in the Reformed Grossmunster Church in Switzerland, who opened scripture to the common man. The movie opened in Switzerland and topped the box office there in 2019. It has been released in cinemas around the world and Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association has permission to show it here. Now translated into English and brought to the U.S., the film is seen through the eyes of his wife, Anna. Zwingli is shown demanding that what is in the Bible should be taken seriously. This 90 minute movie with English sub-titles doesn't flinch from the harsher circumstances including the split between Zwingli and the Anabaptists including Felix Mantz and Konrad Grebel. Zwingli's said: "To be a Christian does not mean chattering about Christ, but rather to lead a life as Christ lived." Anna is caught between the doctrines of Catholic Church and what she reads in Scripture.

Swiss Volhynian Mennonites and related groups are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the coming in 1874 of their ancestors to the U.S., through many events leading up to the August 23-25, 2024 celebration.

--Kathy Goering for the 150th committee