

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

Serving Today:

Worship Leader: Vern Jantzen

Piano: Vicki Hinz-Ensz

Audio: Daryl Riesen

Ushers: Rick Brethouwer & Bill Thimm

Pastor: Josh Janzen

Hosts: Brad & Amanda Thimm

Power point: Katie Jantzen

Video: Henry Trantham

Last Sunday: Attendance: 57 **Offering:** WDC \$1,602; FMC \$1,000;
Backpack \$300

Today's Offering: FMC **Next Sunday:** Mother to Mother

Coming Up:

Sunday, July 19

9:30 am Adult Bible Class

10:30 am Worship with New Members
received

Tuesday, July 21

1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying

Sunday, July 26

9:30 am Adult Bible Class

10:30 am Worship

July Birthdays:

1: Grace Tegtmeier

6: Leona Jantzen

7: Tracy Crawford

11: Dan Kunzman

13: Marv Goossen, Larry Thimm

14: Maria DeBloc, Mary Jane Zimmerman

18: Amanda Thimm

22: Zella Penner

25: Marjorie Epp

28: Lisa Goossen

- Our services are on **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice
- The **bulletin** is at fmcbeatrice.org under documents.
- If you would like to be on the **Prayer Chain**, see Sue Gerber
- If you use the **nursery**, please clean up after using it. Thanks!
- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry items** go in the box in the narthex. Checks for the food pantry may be put in the offering plate.
- **Men's Brotherhood Project?** Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
- **Farmer's Market**, Thursday's 4-6:30 pm, 6th & High Streets

Address: 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310 **Website:** fmcbeatrice.org

Pastors: Josh Janzen; 402-631-3481; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org

Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; sarah@fmcbeatrice.org. Her office hours are
generally Sundays & Tuesdays, 9-12; Wednesdays, 1-8; Fridays 9-2

Church Office: 402-251-7180 **Email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

Deacons: Sue Gerber (402-239-8857), Don Esau (402-223-9210),

Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), **Church Chair:** Brett Esau (402-520-9100)

Welcome to First Mennonite Church
July 19, 2026



Welcome and Call to Worship

L: We gather this morning as a people who have been loved, loved before we knew to ask for it, loved before we knew how to return it.

P: We come to worship the God who is love.

L: Jesus was once asked: of all the commands God has ever spoken, which is the greatest? And he answered without hesitation.

P: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

L: This is not a small command. It reaches into every corner of who we are, our desires, our thoughts, our energy, our very breath.

P: Lord, we bring all of who we are into your presence today.

L: And he did not stop there. He said a second command is inseparable from the first: love your neighbor as yourself.

P: We come not only to receive from God, but to be sent back out to one another.

L: So let us worship the God who first loved us, with the whole of who we are, and let our worship spill out beyond these walls.

All: We worship you, Lord, with heart, soul, mind, and strength. Come, let us worship together.

Prayer

Hymn 131: "Praise, I will Praise You Lord"

Confession and Assurance

L: Lord, you have called us to love you with all our heart, but we confess that our hearts are divided. We have given our deepest loyalties to lesser things: comfort, approval, ambition, security.

P: Lord, have mercy. Unite our hearts to fear your name.

L: You have called us to love you with all our mind, but we confess that we have sometimes been lazy in our thinking, avoiding hard questions and settling for easy answers.

P: Lord, have mercy. Renew our minds and sharpen our love for truth.

L: You have called us to love you with all our strength, but we confess that we have spent ourselves on things that do not last and come to you with what is left over.

P: Lord, have mercy. Teach us to offer you our first and best.

L: You have called us to love our neighbor as ourselves, but we confess that we have drawn the circle of our care too small. We have walked past needs we could have met. We have withheld love from those who were difficult to love.

P: Lord, have mercy. Make us people who cross the road.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear now the word of the Lord to all who confess: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness". The same God who commands perfect love has, in Christ, perfectly loved us in our imperfection.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Welcoming New Members:

Tim and Judy Lichti
Susan Penner
Rick and Terri Brethouwer
Jacob and Symantha Janzen
Stephanie Janzen

Congregational Covenant:

As we now receive you into the fellowship of the church, we make this covenant with you: We renew our covenant with God: to bear each other's burdens, to assist in times of need, to share our gifts and possessions, to forgive as Christ has forgiven us, to support each other in joy and sorrow, and in all things to work for the common good, thus making known Christ's presence among us to the glory of God. As we unite with each other now, may we all be joined with Christ our Lord.

Offering Hymn 387: "We are One in the Spirit"

(Offering for First Mennonite Church)

Scripture: Mark 12:30-31

Sermon: "Not Far...."

Pastor Josh

Hymn 540: "Will You Come and Follow Me"

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song 759: "Take My Life and Let it Be"

Passing the Peace

Welcome to all worshiping with us here and on YouTube. For easy access, bookmark this link: www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice and "Like" it and subscribe. The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org under the documents tab.

Thank you for your contributions to the Camp Fund, enabling 11 FMC youth to go to Mennonite camps this summer! Just getting back and soon to leave: July 12- Eli & Rikki, Junior High Camp @ Camp Mennoscah and July 26- Clara & Henry, Senior High Camp @ Camp Mennoscah

Want to represent FMC at the WDC Annual Assembly? – Registration is open until July 26! Agenda for the delegate session (in-person and on zoom) will include an introduction to a new church plant and a recommendation to receive a new congregation into membership in WDC, reports from WDC commissions, greetings from MC USA ministry partners, discernment on the 2026-2027 budget, electing new leaders, and more. Come join in the work of our conference at WDC Annual Assembly, August 7-9, at Iglesia Luz del Evangelio, Dallas, TX. **Talk to Chair Brett Esau if you are interested in representing FMC.** Currently Debbie Goossen is our only delegate. We can have seven. FMC will pay your registration fee.

Beatrice Public Schools is holding a **"Back to School" event for immigrant families on July 23**, and will be providing the children with backpacks and school supplies at the event. There is a need for some funding for this (about \$1000). If you would like to make a contribution, please indicate so in the memo of your check and put it in the offering, or if you want to give cash, you can leave it in the treasure's box (Lori Thimm) at church.

MCC's School Kit Challenge is back! MCC has a goal of providing 30,000 school kits for 30,000 kids this summer. School kits provide essential supplies to children and families navigating war, displacement or financial struggles. MCC collects school kits from June - August. To learn more visit mcc.org/school-kit-challenge and download a free activity guide,

The annual **Mennonite Women in Mission** Women's & Girls (age 8 + up) Retreat at Camp Mennoscah is on September 12-13. Schedule and registration is at www.mennonitewomeninmission.org.

Soil & Soul, a two-part series featuring Thomas Eisenbarth, founder of GROUNDED, a rural resilience initiative focused on practical conservations surrounding stress, mental well-being, and community support in agriculture, will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, Hutchinson, KS Friday, July 31. This first part of the series is designed for agriculture's Front-Line professionals: lenders, farm dealers, vets, agronomists, insurance, healthcare providers, Coop's and employees, etc. A larger producer-focused second event will be November 14, 2026. Brochures are available below the bulletin board.

Art, Improv, and Lego are Worship, Too! Kids Meet Christ event!

Talashia Keim Yoder, pastor at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN will guide all ages in exploring worship that engages everyone. Sept 12, 9:30-2:30 at First Mennonite Church, Hutchinson, KS.

Register at mennowdc.org under the Kids Meet Christ tab.

Ellis Methodist Church Ice Cream Social August 9, 4-6 pm. Free Will Donation for BBQ Sandwiches, chips, ice cream, desserts.