

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

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen Worship Leader: Brett Esau
PPT: Debbie Goossen Children's Story: Sue Gerber
Pianist: Erin Vanderschaaf Greeters: Bill & Barb Thimm
Live Stream: Jane Esau Audio: Jim Ensz
Ushers: John Regier and Bill Thimm Hosts: John & Zella Penner

Last Sunday: Offerings: WDC \$1865; FMC \$1575; MMN \$ 300.

Attendance: 68

Offering today: First Mennonite Church **Next Sunday:** MMN

Happening this week:

Sunday, March 19 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday, March 21 1:30 p.m. WMS Quilting & Tying
Wednesday, March 22 6:30 pm Peace Club, JYF
Thursday, March 23 5 p.m. Church Cleaning
Friday, March 24 8:00 am Church Cleaning
Saturday, March 25 9-12, MCC Workday for young people
Sunday, March 26 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship with Dedication of
 Baker Esau

March Birthdays

4: Daryl Riesen, Karen Wiebe 8: Kyle Riesen, Darcy Esau
14: Pastor Josh 15: Bev Claassen
16: Rodney Ensz 17: Doug Penner, Stella Ensz
21: Hannah Tegtmeier 24: Roger Claassen
25: Parker Williamson 26: Callan Baade
28: Navy Esau 29: Baker Esau 30: Sue Gerber

- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry:** Please put items in the narthex box or give cash donations to Dolores Jantzen.
- **Shop at smile.amazon.com** to support Mother to Mother Ministries with your Amazon purchases!
- If you would like a **PDF of the church directory** for your phone, please contact the office.
- Please contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen if you have a task **Men's Brotherhood** can help with.

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

Pastor: Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org

Church Office: 402-251-7180

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

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



Welcome to First Mennonite Church

March 19, 2023

Welcome

Brett Esau

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 23)

L: The Lord is our shepherd.

P: We shall not want.

L: God makes us lie down in green pastures.

P: We shall not want.

L: God leads us beside quiet waters.

P: We shall not want.

**ALL: Restore us through your Holy Spirit, the love of Jesus Christ,
and the comfort of your presence.**

Prayer

Brett Esau

Hymn: "Longing for Light"

VT 715

Confession

L: Lord, we long for light, but all is darkness, and we walk in deep shadows. We have driven back justice. Truth has stumbled in the streets, and thick darkness is over the people. We confess our sinful deeds. We confess to the Lord...

(Silent Confession and Prayer)

L: As everything exposed to the light becomes visible, we walk from darkness into light.

**All: Open our eyes, Jesus, that our lives may radiate your glory.
Amen.**

Offering to First Mennonite Church and My Coins Count

Offering Hymn: "Blessed Be Your Name"

VT 637

Children's Story and Prayer

Sue Gerber

Scripture: John 9:1-12, 35-38; Ephesians 5:8-14

Sermon: "Called to the Light"

Testimony (Guiding questions)

1. You once lived in darkness, so to speak, and knew no direction in your life. Please share with us what that was like for you.
2. It is said that an encounter with Jesus brings light into the soul. Could you tell us some of the ways that Jesus opened your eyes to help you find your future?
3. How do you now seek God's guidance in everyday situations.

Hymn: "This Little Light of Mine"

VT 762

Sharing and Prayer

Sending

Welcome! We're glad you're here! The service is available at <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. To follow along in the bulletin, visit our website fmbeatrice.org; under the More tab select Documents, then Church docs, minutes and bulletins.

Today, Children's Sunday School will study Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44). *Jesus is the resurrection and the life.* March 26, they'll hear how *Jesus welcomes an extravagant love*, as in John 12:1-8, Mary anointing Jesus.

The Adult Sunday School is beginning discussion on the book *Rethinking Life: Embracing the Sacredness of Every Person* by Shane Claiborne. Please pick up a copy in the Sunday School room downstairs and join us. We'll talk about the introduction this week and begin discussing chapter 1 next week. This recently released book addresses a number of social justice issues around life and death: war, gun ownership, the death penalty, racial injustice, abortion, poverty, and the environment. Come willing to express, discuss, and learn from differing viewpoints. (Pastor Josh's sermon "Dialogue, Discern, & Dwell" from January 29 could be a good refresher!)

Kids & Young Adults! We're holding a workday for ages 2-20 on Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m. to noon. We'll enjoy donuts and assemble items for the MCC Sale. We'll work at the workshop just south of Rodney and Shana Ensz's place. Contact Jim Ensz with questions (402-239-0062).

Church Cleaning is this week, March 23 (5 pm) and March 24 (8 am). Come join the (fun?) when you can! The Building Committee plans to remove the trees on the south side of the cemetery during church cleaning.

Please return the **VBS volunteer forms** from your mailbox to Darcy Esau by April 2. Thank you!

FMC is offering **camp scholarships** to Mennonite affiliated Church Camps to youth of First Mennonite to cover the registration fee. Online registration for Camp Mennoscah summer camps is open. **Please contact the church office to let us know you've registered.**

WANTED! Baseball Gear! If you have any baseball gear taking up space at home, donations are being taken for the new arrivals to play this spring and summer. You can put in on the floor under the mailboxes. Thanks! (Questions? Contact Dan Kunzman.)

Delegate Volunteers needed! The **MC USA 2023 Delegate Assembly** is July 7-8 at the Kansas City (Missouri) Convention Center. Three adults and 1 youth can represent FMC. FMC will pay your registration fee. Info is at mennoniteusa.org. Talk with Church Chair Jerry Reimer if interested.

Climate Summit for Youth and Young Adults on July 7 will address how climate change has created a spiritual and human crisis. Experts in climate change, spiritual activism and social justice will explore ways that youth and young adults ages 14-25 can put their faith to work to address this crisis. It will be a day of worship, learning and collaboration in the Kansas City Convention Center from 9-5. Register at mennonitetusa.org. (\$45, includes lunch) Youth sponsors are welcome to attend.

NE MCC T-Shirts can be ordered online at www.nebraskamccsale.org. Shirts **purchased before March 21 will be available for pick up at the Sale March 31- April 1.** Shirts ordered after March 21 will have to pay a shipping fee and/or be delivered to the church at a later date. .

Homestead Harmonizers 2023 Spring Show, Folk Songs & Sea Shanties is March 25, 7 pm, and March 26 at 2 pm at the Hevelone Center, Beatrice High School. Tickets: \$10 in Advance; \$12 at the Door. 18 & under free.

CAMP MENNOSCAH NEWS (campmennoscah.org; 620-297-3290)

- **Youth Volunteer Weekend**, March 24-25
- **Kitchen staff and nurses** needed for camps June 4 -July 28.
- **Youth Summer Camp Registration** is open!

**Nebraska Mennonite Relief Sale
March 31-April 1, 2023**

Friday Evening meal, serving Sloppy Joes, hotdogs, beans, chips & cookies. Gluten-free items will be available.

Saturday breakfast Pancakes eggs and sausage. Serving 7-9
Verenika Meal, BBQ Chicken, Windsor Loin meals Serving 11-1:00

The Kids Corner will be open on Saturday only,
with various activities for the younger salegoers.

Market Place will have Cheese, dried fruits, nuts, Frozen pork products & Baked goods., Please make your favorite baked goods to donate.

Go to www.nebraskamccsale.org to Register items by March 26,
Did you know we raised over \$6.000,000 in 43 years!

Golf Tournament will be held at the York Country Club, on August 12, 2023.

Make a Hygiene Kit We will be collecting Hygiene Kits for MCC
Contents: 1 adult -size toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
1 Large Bar Bath Soap (in wrapper)
1 Nail Clipper (good quality)
1 Hand Towel (medium weight, dark or bright color size approx, 16 x 26 in 1 Wide-toothed comb (6-8 in) Place items in a plastic bag.

T-Shirts can be ordered online at www.nebraskamccsale.org . Shirts **purchased before March 21 will be available for pick up at the Sale March 31- April 1.** Shirts ordered after March 21 will have to pay a shipping fee and/or be delivered to the church at a later date. .

Check out our **Facebook page, Nebraska Mennonite Relief Sale**
Like posts to spread the message about the upcoming Sale.

COFFEE BOOTH Try our Coffee booth for your morning boost.
regular coffee, flavored coffee, Iced coffee, and hot cocoa.

How can you help... Thursday, morning March 30, 8:30 to set up for the sale.

Help to distribute items to the booths Thursday and Friday.

Help is needed to catch bids during the auction. .

Sale starts March 31, 4:00 PM Meal served 4-7 PM
Saturday April 1, Breakfast 7-9 AM Auction begins 8:30 AM
Noon meals 11:00-1:00. **See you all at the sale!**

Nebraska MCC Sale: March 31-April 1

MCC My Coins Count: Thank you to all who donated to my coins count last week! The total amount collected was \$189.97. Thank you to Duane & Doris Claassen and Ross & Alma Reimer for matching the March 12 offering! If you would like to match the collection for one of the Sundays in March, please let Gene & Pat Penner or Marv & Lisa Goossen know.

MCC Auction Items: You may register your auction items at <https://www.nebraskamccsale.org/register> and bring them to the church. If you prefer, you may register your item by filling out and attaching the paper registration form found in your church mailbox. The deadline to bring your items to the church is Noon on Thursday, March 30.

MCC Auction Sign-up Sheets: There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for making Bread (8), Jam/Jelly (3), and Pies -no cream pies (16) for the auction, and sign-up for helping with the Windsor Loin Dinner.

If you have a quilt that was not registered, you may still register it, but it will not be part of the booklet.

MCC HYGIENE KITS: if you would like to contribute towards the hygiene kits, please bring the ingredients listed below and put them in the black bin by the auction items.

Contents are:

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 Large Bar Bath Soap (in wrapper)
- 1 Nail Clipper (good quality)
- 1 Hand Towel (medium weight, dark or bright color, size approx. 16" x 26"
- 1 Wide-toothed comb (6-8")

Place items in a plastic bag and leave the bags with the other auction items at the church.

Lent 2023

With our Ash Wednesday service this past week, we as the church have now entered the season of Lent. In the Lenten Season we begin to focus more on the life, teachings, and passion of Jesus as we journey alongside him to the cross on Good Friday and celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Our sermon theme for Lent is three-fold. Created in the image of God, Shaped by Jesus, Called by the Spirit. Each Sunday of Lent, we will explore different ways in which we have been created, shaped, and called.

As a part of this, you may notice that the cross is draped with different colors of cloth. The colors were chosen to reflect the theme for each Sunday: red for testing/temptation, orange for new birth (sunrise), blue for water, yellow for light, green for life, purple for worship and Palm Sunday, black for Good Friday. As we progress through Lent, each Sunday a layer of cloth will be removed to reveal more of what is underneath. This serves as a visual reminder of what we are moving towards through each week of Lent.

FMC Lenten art exhibit

Each and every person of FMC is hereby invited (maybe even challenged) to create a piece of art (painting, craft, sculpture, etc.) connected to one of the Lenten or Easter worship themes for this year. Over the season participants can let pastor Josh know what they would like to contribute. Art should be brought to the church before Maundy Thursday, April 6, so the exhibit can be prepared. The plan is to have the art gallery in place and open April 6 through Easter Sunday April 9. I want to also give special encouragement to children and youth to contribute your artwork. The hope is to have all ages of our church community represented. Contact Pastor Josh if you have any questions, or if you have artwork to contribute!