

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

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**Serving Today:**

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

**Last Sunday:** Offerings: SheepGate \$1,810; FMC \$300; MDS \$1000

**Attendance:** 90

**Offering today: FMC**      **Next Sunday:** Western District Conference

**Happening this week:**

Sunday, March 5	9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday, March 7	1:30 p.m. WMS Quilting & Tying
Wednesday, March 8	6:30 pm Peace Club, JYF
Sunday, March 12	9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship

**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.

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**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 5, 2023*

**Welcome**

Brett Esau

**Call to Worship** (*based on Psalm 121*)

L: Lift your eyes to the hills – where does your help come from?

**P: Our help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

**ALL: Let us worship our God,  
who watches over us now and always.**

**Prayer**

Brett Esau

**Hymn: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"**

VT 737

**Confession**

L: Lord, we need new birth. Paralyzed by doubts, dead in our stubbornness and guilt, walking in blindness, our hearts are hardened to your love. We confess to the Lord....

**(Silent Confession and Prayer)**

L: Jesus, you have come to put the world right, to give life to the dead, and to call into existence a people born from above.

**ALL: Break in by your creating Spirit. Send forth your fresh wind.  
And open the way to real life, eternal life, Amen.**

**Offering to First Mennonite Church and My Coins Count for MCC**

**Offering Hymn: "Blessed Be Your Name"**

VT 637

**Children's Story and Prayer**

Rodney Ensz

**Scripture:** John 3:1-17

**Sermon: "Shaped by New Birth"**

### Testimony (Guiding questions)

1. When someone encounters Jesus, they will not be the same person. Briefly share with the congregation how this transformation happened to you. Why did your encounter with Jesus make such a dramatic difference in your life?
2. Have you ever doubted whether your new birth in Christ is real? Why or why not?
3. As a reborn person, in what way has your worldview been transformed in relation to such things as wealth, success, family, and so forth?

Hymn: "Amazing Grace!"

VT 163

### 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 [fmcbearice.org](http://fmcbearice.org); under the More tab select Documents, then Church docs, minutes and bulletins.

**Today, Children's Sunday School** will study the Wedding at Cana, John 2:1-11 as *Jesus shows the power of God*. No Sunday School March 12 due to Spring Break.

This week, the **Adult Sunday School** class will discuss Chapter 10 of "Reawakened" by Glen Guyton. Please join us!

**New MCC Sale Quilt Update**—Online quilt registration is now available. Quilts must be registered and online **by March 5, 2023**, so they can be printed in the sale guide. Pictures are appreciated as they will be displayed on the website before the sale. Quilts submitted after this date will not be listed in the quilt guides or online, but will still be sold after all cataloged quilts or may be held over for next year's auction. MCC Sale is March 31-April 1! **Need help registering your quilt online? Bring it to church March 5 at 9:30 and a committee member will help you register it.**

**MY COINS COUNT!** The kids will collect coins each Sunday in March to donate to NE MCC. If you would like to match the donation for a Sunday, please let a committee member know (Pat & Gene Penner, Dan & Pam Kunzman, Marv & Lisa Goossen).

**Kids & Young Adults!** Plan now to come to a **work day for ages 2-20** on Saturday, **March 25**, 9 a.m. to noon to 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** March 23 (5 pm) and March 24 (8 am) The Building Committee plans to remove the trees on the south side of the cemetery.

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.**

Congratulations and God's Blessings to **Daryl Riesen and Becky Billesbach** who will be married March 11.

**Thank you for helping to make meat canning** successful. We canned 10,259 cans and sent an extra donation of \$6647.96 to MCC meat canning since our ending balance has remained high. A detailed report is on the bulletin board.- Canning Coordinators Welsch's & Eberspacher's,

Please contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen if you have a task **Men's Brotherhood** can help with.

**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](http://mennoniteusa.org). Talk with Church Chair Jerry Reimer if you're interested.

**MCC is supporting people affected by the Feb. 6 earthquake in Turkey and Syria.** You may donate by calling (888) 563-4676 or send a check earmarked for "Syria and Turkey earthquake" to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501, or online at [mcc.org/earthquake](http://mcc.org/earthquake),

**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.

**Gage County Early Head Start** has free programs for prenatal moms through preschool age children. For more information see the bulletin board or call 402-223-6035.

**Remember to change FMC's email in your contacts to [office@fmcbearice.org](mailto:office@fmcbearice.org).**

## 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!

## CAMP MENNOSCAH NEWS ([campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org); 620-297-3290)

**Youth Needed for Fun Times and Service!** Youth in Grades 6-12 are invited to the Youth Volunteer Weekend on March 24-25 for a focused time of worship and service. The retreat begins on Friday at 7pm with registration followed by snacks, games, and campfire. Rachel and Isaac, the Senior High Camp program directors, will lead activities. Ben Woodward-Breckbill will lead worship times. Register in the Summer Youth Camp section by adding a person or session, if you have already registered for camp.

- **The dam will be put back in on March 12 at approx. 2:30pm.**  
Everyone is welcome to join in or to watch. Gather at the shelter. (The actual putting in of the boards is not for young ages.) The event will go forward, whatever the weather, unless deemed unsafe. Call Camp Mennoscah at 620-297-3290, if uncertain.
- **Welcome Summer Staff 2023!** While we may be adding to the number of summer staff, here is the crew as of March 1: Peter Buller, Schyler Entz, Daniel Miller, Edel Miller, and Jacob Schrag. Additional staff are needed for lifeguarding and grounds. We are excited to have them at camp this summer!
- **Kitchen staff and nurses** needed for summer youth camps from June 4 through July 28. Most people come out for a camp week, but we will also schedule partial weeks, as needed. Kitchen staff receive a camper discount for up to full camp fees and need to be able to follow directions with a willing spirit. Nurses must be an RN and can receive either a stipend or a camper discount. Contact us at 620-297-3290 or [olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org](mailto:olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org)!
- **Summer youth camp registration** is open and Camp Mennoscah is receiving registrations. The summer theme is FruitFULL Faith. Get ready to learn and sing about the Fruit of the Spirit this summer--it's not a coconut!

## Listening through Drawings and Doodles

Drawing or doodling can help you listen and learn. Here are some ideas for using this page:

- **Draw** a picture about the Bible passage that was read or about something you hear in the sermon.
- **Find** a word or words in the Bible passage or from what you are hearing that seem particularly important. Write these words down and doodle around them, making patterns or drawings that the words bring to mind.
- **Create** a mind map. Start by writing the Bible passage or a part of it in the middle of the page. Then add key words and ideas in circles placed around the page. Draw lines to show how these ideas are connected to each other and to the passage.

## Listening and Reflecting Notes

I heard..... 1

I wonder..... 2

The Most Important Thing I learned is... 3

I'd like to remember.... 4

I'm going to respond to God's word with/by.... 5

**PRAISE:** God, you are.....

**CONFESSION:** God, I am sorry for what I've done.....

And sorry I didn't.....

**THANKSGIVING:** I'm grateful to God because.....

**SERVICE:** I am being called to serve God and others by.....

**PRAYER:** I need to pray for...

**WITNESS:** I want to share the good news of Jesus with....

I'm sensing that God is calling and equipping me to....

### During the week:

Review these pages and spend time reflecting using one of these ideas or your own:

Try doodling as you pray. You could draw or name the people, places and things you are praying about.

Read what came before and after the passages. Any new thoughts after that?

Invite the Holy Spirit to show you ways to use what you learned.

Read the passage or story out loud with others. Talk about it.