

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

Serving Today:

Pastor: Josh Janzen	Organ: Karen Wiebe
Worship Leader: Kyle Riesen	Audio: Larry Thimm
Hosts: Don & Judy Jantzen	PowerPoint: Katie Jantzen
Ushers: Bill Thimm & Jim Ensz	Video: Lisa Goossen
Children's Story: Kathy Casey	

Last Sunday: Offerings: Mother to Mother \$1,585; FMC \$650
Attendance: 73

Offering today: FMC **Next Sunday:** Community Food Pantry

Happening this week:

Sunday, April 21	9:30 am Adult & Kids Sunday School 9:30 am Faith Formation Conversations 10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, April 23	1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying
Sunday, April 28	9:30 am Adult & Kids Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm Faith Formation Conversations

April Birthdays:

2: Ella Crawford	5: Sylvia Cross
7: Henry Trantham	9: Elsie Riesen
13: Blake Thimm	16: Anita Reimer
17: Vicki Hinz-Ensz	20: Sloan Esau

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- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
 - **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
 - **Food Pantry** items may go in box in the narthex. Cash donations may be given to Dolores Jantzen.
 - Have a project for Men's Brotherhood? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
 - Our service is on <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and heard on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org, under the More tab; select documents; church docs, minutes & bulletins.
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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

April 21, 2024

Prelude

-Karen Wiebe & Michelle Shirma

Welcome

-Worship Leader Kyle Riesen

Call to Worship

L: Come, walk with the Lord this day.

P: We seek places of peace and rest from the stresses of our lives.

L: The Shepherd will lead you to places where your soul may be restored.

P: We come, sometimes fearful of the hostilities of the world.

L: In the midst of all the turmoil,
the Shepherd will provide for your needs abundantly.

P: Surely these wonders will heal and restore our spirits. AMEN.

Prayer

Hymn: "God of the Bible"

VT 420

Prayer of Confession

L: God of many pastures,
we never tire of hearing the voice of our shepherd;

**P: we never tire of hearing the call to lay our burdens down;
we never tire of hearing the invitation to dwell in your house
forever.**

L: Forgive us, loving shepherd, when we try to keep you as our own,

**P: thinking that we alone have your love, thinking that others
wander alone without your care and guidance.**

L: Open our eyes, that we may recognize the sheep of your fold

All: wherever they may be and whatever they may look like. Amen.

Words of Assurance (Psalm 23)

L: The one who lays his life down for the sheep will surely rescue us
and lead us to safe pastures. Through the love and grace of our
shepherd, goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our
lives, and we shall dwell securely forever.

Children's story

Special Music: "You Lift me up" -Zach, Kaity, Michelle Shirma

Scripture readings- Psalm 22:1-11, Psalm 23

Sermon: *The Good Shepherd's Assurance*

Hymn- "Gentle Shepherd, Come and Lead Us" VT 718 (2x)

Sharing & Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

-Tyler, Zach, Emma, Kaity, & Michelle Shirma

Postlude

-Karen Wiebe & Michelle Shirma

Offering to First Mennonite Church

Welcome! We are glad you are here! We hope to see you again soon!
Our service is live streamed on YouTube. Search Fmcbeatrice.

Children in Sunday School today will learn "when you think you *can't* wait, think twice!" (Genesis 25:24-34) Next Sunday's lesson: The Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1-35) -*When you have to wait, remember what's true.*

The adult Sunday School uses Salt & Light stand-alone lessons. Join us at 9:30 a.m. in the room at the bottom of the stairs when you can!

Thank you to Karen Wiebe and her family, Michelle, Zach, Tyler, Emma and Kaity for their beautiful musical contributions to our service today!

Start the Party! Celebrate the Good News! We're excited for **Vacation Bible School** at FMC, Tuesday - Friday, May 28-31, with a Sunday morning celebration on June 2. Registration at www.fmcbeatrice.org will be available soon. **Volunteer helper forms are in your mailbox with extras on the table below the mailboxes. Please return them to Jane's mailbox by April 21. Sign-up to help** with this fun week of Celebrating God's Good News with the kids! --VBS Committee, Jane, Erin, Linsey

The **VBS Decorating Committee** asks you to donate any leftover party supplies you may have at home. You may put them in a box in the kitchen. (streamers, balloons, favors, plastic table cloths, etc.)

Faith Formation Conversations

In a continued effort to gather information about the congregations' values and needs regarding faith formation there will be four opportunities to gather for conversation. We will discuss hopes for your growing faith, how the congregation can support your hopes, how the community plays a role, and your current faith practice. The Education Council will also share some preliminary findings from the survey. These conversations are for congregants of all ages and life stages and are kid friendly.

Remaining Conversation Dates:

Sunday, April 21, 12:00 (light lunch provided)

Sunday, April 28, 12:00 (light lunch provided)

Please email (sarah@fmcbeatrice.org) or text (507.993.6820) Pastor Sarah to sign up for a slot. You can also sign up on her office door.

Faith Formation Survey

The Education Council is still accepting survey responses. We have only received 28 and would like a bigger sample size. You can take the survey as an individual rather than representing your whole family. If you have questions you can reach out to Pastor Josh or Pastor Sarah. Hard copies are available by the mailboxes and can be returned to Pastor Sarah's mailbox. You can also fill it out online at: <https://tinyurl.com/39fzvtha>

The MCC 2024 Nebraska Relief Sale is over and we will not have final numbers for amount raised for at least another month. However, as a church, we are pleased to report that we contributed:

\$18,341 from our mini auction we held last October

\$3,418.31 from My Coins Count

\$4,170+ from selling 278 Windsor Loin/BBQ Chicken meals, plus the extra leftovers that were sold at the auction

This \$25,929.31 along with all the bidding you did at the auction makes this event a success. The preliminary amount reported is \$188,000 raised, and the final numbers will be reported when available at a later date.

Thank you to Dick and Marlene Penner for providing the Windsor Loin dinner **and to Rodney and Shana Ensz** for their work coordinating the serving of the meal and clean up afterwards! **Thank you** to all who worked at the auction, provided items to sell, and for all the bidding and buying you did. **Thank you** to our committee members, Marv and Lisa Goossen (next year's chairs), and Larry and Kathy Thimm, for your help and support; it was great working with you! There are so many people in need and as we join together for this event, we help to provide care for God's people everywhere.

Thank you! -Dan and Pam Kunzman

Safe Sanctuary Save the Date

Safe Sanctuary training will be held May 19th at 9:30. All VBS volunteers, prayer partners, Sunday school teachers, and youth sponsors are required to be trained annually. We encourage all congregants to attend to keep our church safe. There will be an online option for those who cannot attend.

Summer Sunday School: An intergenerational Sunday School option will be offered twice a month this summer. Save the dates of June 9th & 23rd, July 14 & 28, and August 11. More details to come.

August 2-4, WDC Annual Assembly at First Mennonite Church. Pastors Josh and Sarah are on the WDC Planning Committee for this.

School Plant Sales!

Beatrice High School is hosting its annual Science Club Plant Sale, Wednesday April 24-27, after school until 5pm, and 9 am to 12 noon on Saturday. Stop by to shop or pick up a paper order sheet by the mailboxes; please return to Paula Heinz as soon as possible. Proceeds go to pay for science equipment and graduating senior scholarships. Thank you!

Tri County Horticulture's Annual Horticulture Spring Plant Sales will be held Monday, April 22nd from 4-7pm in the cafeteria (before the Honors Convocation). Come check out our selection of annuals, succulents, house plants and vegetables!

Southeast Community's Horticulture Program will have their annual plant sale April 29, 4-7, and April 30 & May 1, 10-6 on the campus, west entrance.

Area churches are working together to assist newcomers who've recently arrived in our community. These families often have very few possessions and **need assistance in setting up their home**. We seek donations of clean furniture in good condition, especially kitchen (dining) table and chairs; dressers or chest of drawers; nightstands; end tables; occasional chairs, double and queen mattresses, headboards and frames, small sofas in good condition. If you have furniture to donate or questions, please call or text Connie Harmon 402-239-2215 or Vicki Hinz-Ensz 402-239-4174. **Housewares** such as dinnerware, silverware, pots and pans, cooking utensils, (no towels) and small appliances are also needed. Please contact Brenda Carnes if you have these items. 402-223-9423.

The **AMBS Spring 2024 issue of Vision** is free online at ambbs.edu/vision. It looks at 500 years of Anabaptism's past and future possibilities.

FMC Youth: Register online for Camp Mennoscah, order a T-shirt, then let FMC office know you're registered so we can pay your camp fees.

Beatrice Regional Orchestra Concert Sunday, April 28, 2 pm at the Hevelone Center, Beatrice High School. Admission \$10; students free.

Earth Day Soft Plastic Recycling at MCC! April 22 is Earth Day and we invite you to start a new habit of recycling all soft plastics (plastic bags, bread bags, any plastic packaging that you can stretch) at MCC Central States in North Newton! This is a NEW and ONGOING recycling project that we are highlighting for Earth Day. You can bring your soft plastic recycling to MCC any time, placing them in the marked bin outside the warehouse. Questions, please contact duaneunruh@mcc.org. See the poster on the bulletin board.



For the months of April and May, Mennonite Church USA will focus on addressing climate justice concerns, through the **“Learn, Pray, Join: Climate Justice: Seeking Shalom”** initiative. This campaign seeks to bring awareness to intertwining climate and social concerns, such as extreme weather events, agricultural challenges, species extinction and human suffering, while offering hope and ways to join in the efforts to bring about climate justice. For more information on **“Learn, Pray, Join: Climate Justice: Seeking Shalom”**, visit the online resource page throughout the campaign. Subscribe to **PeaceMail**, MC USA's weekly email newsletter, and follow MC USA on social media — **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **X** (formerly known as Twitter) and **YouTube** — to view resources, blogs and more throughout April and May. MC USA's “Learn, Pray, Join” initiatives seek to create opportunities across the church to deepen understanding around a common topic and to come together in prayer and support.

*MC USA's climate justice ministry is sponsored by **Everence**.

