

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

Serving Today: Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Rodney Ensz Hosts: Brad & Amanda Thimm
Piano: Erin VanderSchaaf Power point: Deb Goossen
Audio: Jim Ensz Video: Henry Trantham
Kids Story: Pastor Sarah
Ushers: Lynn Gerber & Rick Brethouwer

Last Sunday: Attendance: 92 **Offering:** First Mennonite \$3,733
Tech Fund \$225

Today's Offering: Food Pantry **Next Sunday:** First Mennonite

Coming Up:

Sunday, April 26 9:30 am Sunday School for all
 10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, April 28 1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying
Wednesday, April 29 6:30 pm Peace Club, SYF, JYF
Sunday, May 3 9:30 am Sunday School for all
 10:30 am Worship
 11:30 am Youth Taco Fundraiser

Safe Church training will follow the taco lunch for VBS volunteers.

Late April Birthdays

16: Anita Reimer 17: Vicki Hinz-Ensz 20: Sloan Esau

Early May Birthdays

1: Mike Goossen 7: Ann Regier Scheer 9: Justin Schardt
9: Shelton Crawford 10: Elaine Penner 13: Brandon Esau

- 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.

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
April 26, 2026

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: We gather this morning as people who have passed through the waters,
P: buried with Christ, raised with Christ, alive in his name.

L: We were not merely spectators of the resurrection,

P: we were joined to it. It is ours.

L: The old has gone. The new has come.

P: We are not who we used to be.

L: So we come, not to earn what we do not have,

P: but to celebrate what has already been given.

All: Come, let us worship the God who raises the dead and who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Prayer

Hymn 355: "Thine is the Glory"

Confession and Assurance

L: Lord, we confess that we have forgotten who we are.

P: We have listened to the old voices more than your voice. We have defined ourselves by our failures, our fears, and our shame.

L: We have lived as though sin still has dominion over us

P: as though the tomb were still sealed, as though nothing had changed.

L: We have forgotten the ledger, Lord,

P: the one that reads: dead to sin, alive to God, in Christ Jesus.

L: Forgive us. Renew our minds. Remind us of who we are.

[Silence]

L: Hear the good news of the gospel. You are not defined by what you have just confessed. You are defined by what God has declared.

P: In Christ Jesus, we have died to sin, once and for all. In Christ Jesus, we have been raised to new life

All: Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are free.

Offering Hymn 163: "Amazing Grace"

(Offering for Community Food Pantry)

Children's Story

Children's Choir: "Happiness is the Lord"

"We were Made to Love the Lord"

Scripture Reading: Romans 6:1-11

Sermon: "Buried and Raised"

Pastor Josh

Hymn 444: "I Sing with Exultation"

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song 830: "Go My Children"

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.

Save the date of June 7th for the upcoming baptisms. The service will be at Baade's Pond. More details to come.

The Youth are hosting a **Taco Bar next Sunday!** The free will donation will help fund their activities!

Safe Sanctuary Training will be held following the Taco Bar on May 3 for those helping with Vacation Bible School.

As part of the Sesquicentennial celebration, an **updated version of the FMC cookbook** is in the making! Get your recipes to Paula Heinz or Debbie Goossen. Recipes that are FMC family favorites and possibly "unique to our Mennonite heritage" (with modern cooking method adaptations if needed) are what we're looking for!

VBS registration is open at fmcbeatrice.org! A consent form is available there for you to print off and get back to Linsey Schardt. Registration/consent

forms are also near the mailboxes. Kids are encouraged to invite a friend or a family to join the fun! Please register by May 6!

A reminder! Offerings taken on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month are for First Mennonite's General Operating Fund. Offerings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays are for other organizations. **If your offering is intended for FMC's general fund and but is given on the 2nd or 4th Sundays, please put FMC in the memo line.** If nothing is specified on your check, it will be designated for the other organization listed for that Sunday.

Congratulations to Ann Regier and Daniel Scheer who were married at FMC Saturday, April 25. May God Bless your marriage!

FMC has 5 youth registered to attend Camp Mennoscah and one to attend Rocky Mountain Camp. FMC will pay for kids' registration and a T-shirt. When registering, put FMC Beatrice as your sponsor, then let the church office know you've signed up. **If you'd like to contribute to the Camp Fund, please put Camp Scholarship Fund on the memo line.**

MCC Golf Signup: Signup for the MCC Golf Tournament held at the Centura Hills Golf Club in Cairo, NE on May 16th. It's a 2 Person Scramble with Cart, Lunch, Awards, and Flag Prizes included. Visit facebook.com/NebraskaMCCGolf for details. Email NebraskaMCCGolf@gmail.com or contact Glen at 402-560-7818 via voice or text to sign your team up. Signup prior to May 8 is preferred.

Beatrice Farmers Market Kids POP (Power of Produce) Club

The Farmers Market is starting a new free program to get kids ages 4-12 involved at the Farmers Market. The POP Club is a free program that helps kids explore fresh foods, learn where their food comes from, and have fun at the Farmers Market. Each week, children participate in hands-on activities focused on nutrition, cooking, and agriculture. They can earn \$3 of POP dollars to buy their own fresh produce from market vendors. The Farmer's Market is every Thursday, May 14-October 8, 4:00-6:30 pm, 6th & High St.

FMC General Fund Summary for March 2026

Balance 2/28/2026	\$ (5,701.22)
March revenue	28, 850.32
March expenses	<u>(19,483.37)</u>
Net Income for March	9,366.95
General Fund Balance 3/31/2026	\$ 3,665.73

On the bulletin board:

- Hope Crisis Center Annual Put Your Foot Down Run/Walk
- Whispering Acres Horse Camp, May 30
- Blue Valley Community Action Partnership 60th Anniversary



VBS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Please register by May 6th!

**Invite a friend or
family! We will have a
gift for every child
that invites someone
and their friend.**



All children need a completed parental and transportation consent form. Find them online or printed by the mailboxes. Return completed forms to Linsey Schart's mailbox.



**Vacation Bible School is May 26-29, 8:30 am – 11:30 am
for children kindergarten eligible through 5th grade.**

The Parable of the Dandelions

WDC Stories

Our lawn just might be a parable. It reminds me of Mark 4.30-32. *What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it?*³¹ Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it's the smallest of all the seeds on the earth;³² but when it's planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade.

I have learned that most of Jesus' early listeners probably chuckled when they first heard this parable. Unless we grow mustard seeds, though, most of us don't get the joke. But Jesus was making a serious point with humor about the Kingdom of God.

If you don't get it, I don't blame you. Let my lawn help you get the joke. What's a good image for God's kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a dandelion puff. When it floats through the air, it's barely noticeable. But when it's planted, it grows vibrant yellow flowers that the rabbits and the birds love to eat. We can even use the leaves to make a nice salad.

What did Jesus *not* say? And what obvious part of this picture of my own lawn did I leave out? Both mustard seed plants and dandelions are weeds!

Why would Jesus highlight weeds as an image of the Kingdom of God?! Most weeds are kind of scruffy looking. They show up in unexpected, unplanned places. And they're hard to get rid of. The Kingdom of God is like a weed! Ha!

In this time and place where the church is no longer in the center of society in North America, it is kind of weedy. The growing, vibrant parts of the church in our country aren't full of wealthy folks who seemingly have it all together. They are full of young families with children wondering how to get by. They are full of immigrants. People who trust Jesus, even as they worry about issues of safety and security. They are full of people who are searching for belonging, because society says there is no place for them. Vibrant churches are like weeds—hardy, tenacious, maybe not always pretty, but full of love and life that pops up in unexpected places. The Kingdom of God is like a weed—and that's good news.

-Kathy Neufeld Dunn, WDC Associate Conference Minister (KS-based)