

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

Serving Today: Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Katie Jantzen Organist: Vicki Hinz-Ensz
Hosts: Gayland & Marci Regier PowerPoint: Symantha Janzen
Audio: Daryl Riesen Video: Kathy Casey
Ushers: Brandon Esau & Jake Janzen Kid's Time: Grace Tegtmeier
Last Sunday: Attendance: 78 **Offering:** FMC \$ 2,290; Tech \$225
Today's Offering: SheepGate **Next Week's Offering: FMC**
Ash Wednesday Attendance: 43

Coming Up this Week:

Sunday, Feb 22 9:30 am Adult, Kids, Youth Sunday
School, Baptism Class
10:30 am Worship
Noon: 150th Ann. Comm meeting
1:30 pm WMS
Tuesday, February 24 6:30 pm Peace Club, JYF, SYF
Wednesday, Feb 25 9:30 am Adult, Kids, Youth Sunday
School, Baptism Class
Sunday, March 1 10:30 am Worship

Late February Birthdays

16: Samantha Tegtmeier 26: Elijah VanderSchaaf

Early March Birthdays

4: Daryl Riesen, Karen Wiebe 8: Kyle Riesen, Darcy Esau
14: Josh Janzen 15: Bev Claassen

- You can find our services on YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice
- The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org under documents.
- 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 go in the offering plate.
- If you would like a copy of the 2026 directory emailed to you, please send an email request to office@fmcbeatrice.org.
- **Men's Brotherhood Project?** Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
- Last to leave the church? Please **turn off all lights!**
- Visit mennowdc.org to see what's new at Western District Conference.

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: Don Esau (402-223-9210), Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), Sue Gerber (402-239-8857). **Church Chair:** Brett Esau (402-520-9100)



Welcome to First Mennonite Church
February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Come, all who are weary with waiting.

P: **Welcome, dissonance. Welcome grief.**

L: Come, all who carry grief and hope together.

P: **Welcome, glory and uncertainty. Welcome doubt. Welcome belief.**

L: Come, all who long to see God's glory in the tension of life.

P: **Welcome, questions without answers. Welcome fullness from above.**

L: Here, we dwell in dissonance: the ache of loss, the depth of love, the not-yet of resurrection, the yes of God's presence.

P: **Welcome, death and resurrection. Welcome Jesus' fiercest love.**

L: Come, and bring your questions, your sorrow, your longing.

Come, and worship the One who lingers with us in the tomb and calls us to hope.

Prayer

Hymn 30: "Jesus Calls Us"

Confession & Assurance

L: God of life and love, we confess that we often want answers before we grieve.

P: **We rush past sorrow, avoiding the hard places.**

L: We long for certainty and control, forgetting that love often comes with risk, and grief often accompanies care.

P: **We question why pain persists, why loss endures, why your presence feels delayed.**

All: Forgive us, God, for our impatience, our avoidance, and our doubt

L: Friends, hear the promise of the One who weeps with us.

P: **Even in grief, God is present. Even in waiting, God is faithful.**

L: Even in dissonance, God's glory is at work, and hope rises with the dawn.

All: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

Offering Hymn 644: "Healer of Our Every Ill"

Offering for SheepGate

Children's Story

Reader's Theater

Scripture: John 11:28-37

Sermon: "Love, Loss, and Lazarus"

Pastor Josh

Hymn 670: "In The Bulb There Is a Flower"

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song 840: "God Be with You till We Meet Again"

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.

Interested in Exploring Church Membership? Are you curious about what it means to become a member of our church community? Whether you're new here or have been worshiping with us for some time, you're warmly invited to explore the next step. I've recently updated our membership class, and I would be glad to talk with you about participating. The class is a space to learn more about our shared life, values, and mission — and to ask questions along the way. There is no pressure or obligation — just an open invitation to explore. If you're interested, please reach out to me directly so we can connect. --Pastor Josh

Our first meeting to begin planning FMC's 150th Celebration in 2027 is today, Sunday, Feb 22 following the church service in the basement over lunch. This is open to anyone wishing to help plan this celebration. Please contact Debbie Goossen or Vern Jantzen if you will attend today.

Church Cleaning is Thursday, March 5, 5:00 p.m. & Friday, March 6, 8:00 a.m. (with semmel). Please bring a covered dish for Thursday's evening meal. Outdoor cleanup projects will take place if we have enough help.

See the NEMCC Sale **signup sheet** on the bulletin board for items needed.

The Menn. Disaster Service Nebraska Unit project in rural Gretna February 20-21 was postponed due to the weather. It's now scheduled for Feb 27 & 28. Volunteers will put insulation into a new home of someone who lost their home in the 2024 Arbor Day Tornado. The more volunteers, the quicker it gets done! If can help, **please call Vern Jantzen at 402-230-0011.**

Lent at Home 2026 is available for download at www.mennoniteusa.org under the resources tab. The materials offer daily and weekly reflections and practices for individuals, families, and households of all ages to deepen the experience of Lent. It is free for all congregations and families of MC USA.

We're updating names and numbers on the Prayer Chain. If you would like to be on the Prayer Chain, please text or call Sue Gerber, 402-239-8857.

Lent 2026. Many of the Lenten readings this season echo the intensity of Holy Week, and the theme is ***Dwelling in Dissonance***, where we are called to spend time reflecting on John's Holy Week passages. Each Sunday, one more of the six candles on the communion table will be extinguished, representing the discordance with present life and with Holy Week in Jesus' time. This season, may we be able to see the tension between how things are and how we want them to be. Additionally, there is a small table and candles in the window by the cross at the front of the sanctuary; please feel free to turn on a candle before each service to represent specific prayers and laments as we move through this Lenten season.

Week 1: Love and grief

Easter Lilies: If you'd like to order a lily for Easter Sunday, they are available for order for \$21 without a bow, and \$24 with a bow. Forms and envelopes are by the mailboxes and can be put in Paula Heinz' mailbox. Please have orders completed by Sunday afternoon, March 8.

St. Joseph's Friday Fish Fries: Feb. 27, March 6, 13, & 20, at 5:30-7:00pm, in the Parish Center at 6th & High Street. Enter at the northeast school doors. Fried and baked fish, coleslaw, sides, and deserts. \$12 per adult, \$6 kids 4-10 (under 4 eat free), \$40 max price per family. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 1723.

"Bridges Out of Poverty" workshop will be April 8, 8:30-11:30 am at the Beatrice Public Library. Registration is required (so a required book is available for you) by emailing pastordorismartin@gmail.com. The Bridges training is a community framework that helps people better understand how economic status shapes experiences, decision-making, and access to resources and how communities can respond more effectively and compassionately. Facilitated by Georgann Roth of Food Bank of Lincoln and presented by CASA of Gage County and the Beatrice Ministerial Association.