

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

Serving Today: Pastor: Josh Janzen
Worship Leader: Rodney Ensz Piano: Vicki Hinz-Ensz
PowerPoint: Christina Lyons Audio: Larry Thimm
Hosts: Gayland & Marci Regier Video: Kathy Casey
Ushers: Justin & Brandon Children's Story: Grace Tegtmeier

Last Sunday's Attendance: 73 **Offerings:** FMC \$ 3,179; Tech Fund \$225
Today's Offering: SheepGate **Next Sunday:** FMC

Coming Up:

Sunday, Feb 23 9:30 am Children, Youth & Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
Tuesday, Feb 25 1:30 pm WMS Quilting and Tying
Wednesday, Feb 26 6:30 pm Peace Club, Prayer Partners meet, Youth Group game night, Young Adult Bible Study
Thursday, Feb 27 7:00 pm Church Board meeting
Sunday, March 2 9:30 am Children, Youth, Young Adult, & Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship

Late February Birthdays

16: Samantha Tegtmeier 26: Eli Vanderschaaf

Early March Birthdays

4: Daryl Riesen, Karen Wiebe 8: Kyle Riesen, Darcy Esau
14: Josh Janzen 15: Bev Claassen
16: Rodney Ensz 17: Stella Ensz, Doug Penner

- 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 in the offering.
- **Men's Brotherhood Project?** 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.
- Please **turn off all lights** if you are the **last to leave** the building. Thanks!

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

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:** Jerry Reimer (402-239-2716)



Welcome to First Mennonite Church
February 23, 2025

Welcome

Call to Worship

L: Come, all who long for freedom, all who yearn for wholeness.

P: We come, seeking the One who casts out fear and breaks every chain.

L: In the presence of Christ, no power of darkness can endure, no force of oppression can remain.

P: Jesus comes with authority and compassion, restoring dignity and calling us to new life.

L: The kingdom of God is near! Let us open our hearts to the One who liberates and redeems.

P: With gratitude and hope, we worship the God who sets captives free!

Prayer

Hymn: *"Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing"*

VT 7

Confession & Assurance

L: Merciful God, we confess that we are too often like the townspeople—afraid of the freedom You bring, unwilling to confront the forces that oppress.

P: Forgive us, O God, when we turn away from suffering and ignore the cries of those in need.

L: We grow comfortable with systems that dehumanize, hesitant to challenge the powers that bind.

P: Forgive us when we choose comfort over courage, silence over justice, and fear over faith.

L: Yet You, O Christ, step into places of chaos and suffering. You see what we would rather not see.

P: Open our eyes to Your liberating work in the world.

L: You call us to name the forces that enslave and to trust in Your power to set us free.

P: Clothe us in Your mercy, restore us by Your grace, and lead us in the way of love.

L: In the name of Jesus Christ, who brings freedom and new life, we pray.

P: Amen.

Words of Assurance

L: Hear the good news: The One who calmed the storm and cast out Legion is still at work today. Christ does not abandon us to our fears or leave us in our brokenness. By God's grace, we are forgiven, restored, and made whole.

P: Thanks be to God! We are set free to live and love as God's people. Amen.

Offering Hymn: "Wonderful Grace of Jesus" VT 170
Offering to SheepGate

Children's Story

Scripture Reading: Luke 8:26-33

Sermon: "Taming Legions" Pastor Josh

Hymn: "Healer of Our Every Ill" VT 644

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: "Go Ye Now in Peace" VT 839 (version A)

Passing the Peace

Welcome! We're glad you're here and hope to see you again! Our services are on YouTube. Search for FMC Beatrice. The bulletin is on our website: fmcbeatrice.org under the documents tab.

FMC Ladies Aid QUILTING BLITZ! Thursday, March 13, 5 pm – 8 pm at FMC. Pizza will be served at 6 p.m. Come for the fun! No special skills needed.

The next Community Event on Wednesday, March 5 will begin with a meal at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Our **Ash Wednesday** service will follow at 7:00 pm

You're Invited! Pastor Josh and Stephanie invite you to a Come & Go Celebration at our home on Saturday, March 15, from 2:00 to 6:00 PM! We're **celebrating Josh's 30th birthday** and **our 5th wedding anniversary**, and we'd love for you to stop by for fellowship, refreshments, and fun. Come as you are and stay as long as you'd like! We're grateful for our church family and would love to celebrate with you!



Church Cleaning Dates are March 20, 5 pm & March 21, 8 am with Semmel!

The new phone number for Mag Boyce is 402-228-1434.

2025 VBS Dates are May 27 – May 30. Make plans now to attend!

The Middle School Youth and Pastor Sarah are attending the "Know Jesus" Conference this weekend.

The MCC Central States Annual Meeting is Saturday, March 1, 2-3:30 pm at MCC Central States, North Newton, KS. Guest speaker is Ken Rodgers. All are welcome! Email tinaschrag@mcc.org to join via Zoom.

Camp Mennoscah online registration is open for Summer Youth Camps!

Please pray for MCC Appalachia Build Staff as they partner with churches for temporary sheltering in Elkhorn, Kentucky and Kimball, West Virginia following catastrophic flooding. Learn more and support MCC's efforts at mcc.org/donate-appalachia and mcc.org/appalachia-build

Official Meeting Notice of the MC USA Delegate Assembly, July 11, 2025 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina.. FMC can send 2 delegates plus 1 youth delegate.

Homestead Harmonizers will present the 2025 Spring Show, *The Crooners- Songs of Sinatra and Crosby* on Saturday, March 22 at 7 pm and Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m. Special guest performers are the Storm Front. The show is at the Hevelone Center at Beatrice High School. Advance adult tickets are \$10; at the door \$12. 18 and under are free.

The 2025 NE MCC Sale is coming up! **March 28-29 at a new location: The Holthus Convention Center, York, NE!** It's time to start crafting, building, sewing, baking, and all those things this congregation is so good at!

- **Register** all sale items online. All instructions and forms are at www.nebraskamccsale.org. (Under 2025 Relief Sale, click on register items.) ***Quilts must be registered by March 1; all other items by March 23.*** (Contact Wendy Kyser with questions about quilt registrations.) If you'd like help registering other items, fill out the paper registration forms on the display tables beginning March 16. Becky Riesen will then register information from the paper forms online. All items must be at FMC by Thursday, March 27 at 4 p.m. so the committee can load them for transport to the sale.
- **My Coins Count** collections will be March 2, 9, 16, and 23. A "***My Coins Count 30 Days of Giving Calendar***" is in your mailbox. Follow the calendar and save your coins (and \$ bills!). Let the Committee know if you want to **match any Sunday's collection.**
- **MCC Kit Collection:** Next Sunday, we'll begin collecting baby sleepers and onesies, sizes 6-12 months, in the narthex for MCC kits.



Nebraska
Mennonite Relief Sale