

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

**Serving Today:**

Pastor: Josh Janzen  
Worship Leader: Kyle Riesen  
Live Stream: Henry Trantham  
Ushers: Daryl Riesen & Justin Schardt  
Children's Story: Rodney Ensz

Pianists: Vicki Hinz-Ensz  
Hosts: John & Zella Penner  
Audio: Jim Ensz  
Power Point: Katie Jantzen

**Last Sunday** Offering: FMC, \$ 4,935; Tuition Fund, \$ 300.

**Attendance:**

**Offering this morning:** SheepGate **Next Sunday:** FMC

**Happening this week:**

Sunday, February 25 9:30 a.m. Sunday School – all ages  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Tuesday, February 27 1:30 p.m. WMS Quilting & Tying  
Wednesday, Feb 28 6:30 pm Peace Club, JYF/SYF  
Sunday, March 3 9:30 a.m. WDC Listening Session at FMC

**Late February Birthdays**

26: Elijah Vanderschaaf

**Early March Birthdays**

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

- **Need a hearing device?** Ask an usher for assistance.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry:** There's a box in the narthex or give cash to Dolores Jantzen.
- **Men's Brotherhood** project? Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen
- **Watch our service** on youtube.com, search for fmcbeatrice, or listen from our parking lot on FM 107.5 Weekly bulletins are at [fmcbeatrice.org](http://fmcbeatrice.org); click the More tab to select Documents, Church docs, bulletins.
- If you have **food for Scott Jantzen**, please call Lori Thimm:402-239-3611

**First Mennonite Church; 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310**

**Pastors:** Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; [pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org](mailto:pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org)  
Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; [sarah@fmcbeatrice.org](mailto:sarah@fmcbeatrice.org)

**Church office:** 402-251-7180

**Website:** [fmcbeatrice.org](http://fmcbeatrice.org) **Church email:** [office@fmcbeatrice.org](mailto: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**

February 25, 2024

**Welcome**

**Call To Worship – (based on Psalm 22:23–31)**

L: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory!

**P: All you descendants of Jacob and Rachel,**

L: come.

**P: All who are isolated and feel alone,**

L: come.

**P: All who are hungry,**

L: come.

**P: All who wander,**

L: come.

**P: Come, from all ends of the earth.**

**All: Come, you who seek God, proclaim God's glory, and walk in faith.**

**Prayer**

**Hymn: "Longing for Light"**

VT 715

**Confession and Assurance**

L: Trustworthy God, we want to live with faith,

yet we worry there will not be enough.

We want to believe in your promises, yet we lose hope.

We want to follow you, but sometimes the road is too hard.

**P: We confess before you our unbelief, our worry,  
our hopelessness.**

L: Shape us into a people who will live in faith.

Strengthen us so we can deny ourselves, take up your cross,  
and follow you.

**P: In your grace, Lord, give us faith to believe that you will call  
into existence the things that do not exist. Amen.**

**Children's Time**

Hymn: *“How Firm a Foundation”* VT 592

Scripture Readings: **Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17; Mark 8:27-33**

Sermon: *“Faithfully”* Pastor Josh

Hymn: *“Faith Begins by Letting Go”* VT 585

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song: *“Lead Me, Guide Me”* VT 601

Offering to SheepGate

**Welcome!** We are glad you are here! We hope to see you again soon! If you can't make it in person, the service is available to watch on our YouTube channel and the bulletin is available at [fmcbeatrice.org](http://fmcbeatrice.org).

The theme for **Peace Club and Children's SS** during the month of February is **Gear Up - An Adventure in Kindness**, (Colossians 3:12). **Childrens Sunday School** groups today heard of the Good Samaritan and to be kind to people who are different than you. Next Sunday they will learn to live in Peace with everyone (Romans 12:18).

On March 1st, the **Education Council will open a survey** to gather information about the congregation's values, the faith topics to prioritize, and the activities that support faith development. The survey will be available electronically and in hard copy. The results will be used to help develop Faith Formation programming across generations. The survey will be followed with opportunities for conversations in April. Stay tuned for more information!

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

**Tuition Fund pledges/donations:** Thank you for your tuition fund donations for Clairra Janssen at Bethel College. Almost half of the second semester pledge of \$4500 has been donated. Donations may be put in the offering plate, marked “tuition pledge”.

**2024 VBS at FMC: “Start the Party... Celebrate the Good News!”**  
Tuesday - Friday, May 28-31. The Sunday morning celebration will be June 2. Details will be coming soon. --VBS Committee, Jane, Erin, Linsey

**Next Sunday! FMC will host Western District Conference Listening Tour on March 3:** Three representatives from Western District Conference, Kathy Neufeld Dunn, Ron Flaming, and Vicki Penner, will be visiting our congregation as part of WDC's conference-wide Listening Tour this year. The purpose of the Listening Tour is to empower the vitality of WDC congregations by hearing their stories, offering ongoing relationship, and supporting their witness and mission. All adults and youth are invited to participate in listening sessions from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This will include worship and times of conversation in response to these questions from WDC about our ministries and hopes for the future:

1. *Can you tell about a time when you've felt most alive and vibrant as a congregation, or as a participant of the congregation?*
2. *What is foundational and reassuring about this congregation that has helped in difficult times?*
3. *What activities or ministries are most important for your congregation now in fully carrying out God's work?*
4. *What do you hope for the future for your church and what resources from WDC would be helpful for that?*

Responses from our discussion will be shared back with the congregation, and at the conclusion of the year-long listening process a summary of themes will be compiled by WDC to share with WDC constituency and used to guide ongoing resourcing for congregations in WDC.

Time to order **Easter Lillies!** Forms & envelopes are below the mailboxes. The price is \$18 and orders are due by March 8.

**CORRECTION: Church Cleaning** will be Thursday, March 21 at 5 p.m. and Friday, March 22 at 8:00 a.m.

**The MCC Sale** is April 5 and 6. The **deadline for registering your auction items for display on the website are March 1 for quilts and March 17 for all other items.** Go to <https://www.nebraskamccsale.org/register> to register your quilt or auction items – the site is now open. (When registering quilts, all you need is the name of the quilt and the writer or company name of the quilt. If you have questions, text or email Wendy Kyser.) After those dates, we will continue to register auction items until March 31, but they will not appear on the website.



**4-H Inc Annual Pancake Feed, February 25, 9:00 – 1:00** at their building at the fairgrounds. Freewill donation.

Pastor Sarah will be unavailable March 1st through March 4th.

**Thank you for supporting Chris and Grace Tegtmeier during Chris's recovery from transplant Feb 9.** He is away from home for six weeks of recovery with his mother Beth. Prayers are invited for Chris and his donor Zach. There's a box in the narthex for cards. If you would like to contribute to care packages, gift cards for Chris & his mother, or meals for Grace and family, see the **sign-up sheet** on the bulletin board. Questions? Contact Shana Ens, 402-806-1946. -Friends of Grace & Chris & Shepherd Group 4. Chris & Grace's address: 72245 574th Ave, Plymouth, NE 68424

**THANK YOU**, First Mennonite Church & the Education Council, for your generous financial support of our weekend retreat! Last weekend 25 guests spent the weekend in Lincoln learning how to "Grow Slow & Grow Deep" in our faith with author Jennifer Dukes Lee referencing her book "*Growing Slow*." A bible study written to focus on the comparison of the natural growing seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall, & Winter) as they relate to our own personal faith journey and planting seeds to minister to those around us in our daily lives. Jennifer and her husband, Scott, are ordinary people, living on their 5<sup>th</sup> generation family farm in Iowa, raising pigs, and spreading God's love through day-to-day living. Their connection to our group was instantly natural. It was truly a weekend enjoyed by all in attendance, even keeping the men engaged through the frequent farming analogies. Jennifer is the successful author of several other books. If you are interested in her work or learning more about her, you can find her at [www.JenniferDukesLee.com](http://www.JenniferDukesLee.com) .

**Mother To Mother's** newest outreach, the **Youth-To-Youth Center**, a free rec center focused on middle school aged youth, opens March 20th. Spring semester hours are Wednesdays from 2-5p.m. and Sundays from 4-7p.m. in the basement of the city auditorium across from the middle school. The entrance is on the south side of the city building, down the steps. There will be a variety of video games, tabletop games, board games, & concessions - all supervised by caring adults. An **Open House** for the public (with a free will donation dessert bar) is on Sunday, March 10th, from 2-4 p.m.

MCC partner **Team Brownsville welcomes your gently used winter coats and jackets!** Team Brownsville seeks to share God's love by welcoming asylum seekers, including providing them with warm coats. It's as easy as collecting your gently used coats and jackets, boxing them up and shipping (up to) 70 lb./box to Team Brownsville – just follow the instructions on the poster on the bulletin board. Spring clean your closets and help Team Brownsville prepare for next winter! Have questions? Please email the MCC Central States Immigration Team at [centralstates@mcc.org](mailto:centralstates@mcc.org) and either Abraham Diaz Alonso or Becky Teiwes, will respond.

**The Homestead Harmonizers** presents it's 2024 Spring Show, "**Luck of the Irish**" Saturday, March 16, 7 p.m. and Sunday, March 17, 2 p.m. Special guest is the group "The Newfangled Tour". Tickets are \$10 for adults in advance, \$12 at the door. 18 and under are free. Performance is at the Hevelone Center for Performing Arts, Beatrice High School.

**Youth!** First Mennonite will again pay your registration to attend a Mennonite Church Camp (think **Camp Mennoscah!**) and pay for a souvenir T-shirt! Register online and then let the FMC office know you've registered.

**"A Goodly Heritage:** A Musical Drama Sharing a History of the Swiss Volhynian Mennonites" will be performed on March 23 at 7 pm and March 24 at 2 p.m. at Eden Mennonite Church as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration of Swiss Volhynian Mennonites and many other groups came to the US in 1874 from Volhynia, Russia. Written and directed by Jenny Schrag.