

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

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**Serving Today:**

Pastor: Josh Janzen                      Worship Leader: Kyle Riesen  
PPT: Katie Jantzen                      Children's Story: Amanda Thimm  
Pianist: Vicki Hinz-Ensz  
Live Stream: Kathy Casey              Audio: Doug Casey  
Ushers: Brad Thimm & Bryan Heinz    Hosts: John & Zella Penner

**Last Sunday:** Offerings: FMC \$3,508; MCC (Syria/Turkey) \$350;  
Tech Fund: \$200

**Attendance:** 99

**Offering today:** SheepGate      **Next Sunday:** FMC

**Happening this week:**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Sunday, Feb 26     | 9:30 a.m. Sunday School<br>10:30 a.m. Worship |
| Tuesday, Feb 28    | 1:30 p.m. WMS Quilting & Tying                |
| Wednesday, March 1 | 6:30 pm Peace Club, JYF                       |
| Sunday, March 5    | 9:30 a.m. Sunday School<br>10:30 a.m. Worship |

**Late February Birthdays**

16: Samantha Tegtmeier              26: Elijah VanderSchaaf

**March Birthdays**

|                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4: Daryl Riesen, Karen Wiebe | 8: Kyle Riesen, Darcy Esau       |
| 14: Pastor Josh              | 15: Bev Claassen                 |
| 16: Rodney Ensz              | 17: Doug Penner, Stella Ensz     |
| 21: Hannah Tegtmeier         | 24: Roger Claassen               |
| 25: Parker Williamson        | 26: Callan Baade                 |
| 28: Navy Esau                | 29: Baker Esau    30: Sue Gerber |

- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
  - **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards/envelopes
  - **Food Pantry:** Please put items in the narthex box or give cash donations to Dolores Jantzen.
  - **Shop at smile.amazon.com** to support Mother to Mother Ministries with your Amazon purchases!
  - If you would like a **PDF of the church directory** for your phone, please contact the office.
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**First Mennonite Church; 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310**

**Pastor:** Josh Janzen; 402-228-2052; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org

**Church Office:** 402-251-7180

**Website:** fmcbeatrice.org    **Church email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

**Deacons:** Don Esau (402-223-9210), Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174),  
Sue Gerber (402-239-8857)



**Welcome to First Mennonite Church**

*February 26, 2023*

**Welcome**

Kyle Riesen

**Call to Worship**

L: Sing together! Celebrate God!

**P: God protects us from all our trouble.**

L: God forgives us and covers our sins.

**P: God surrounds us with songs of deliverance.**

**ALL: Therefore, let all God's people pray with thanksgiving and worship God.**

**Prayer**

Kyle Riesen

**Hymn: "God is Here Among Us"**

VT 62

**Confession**

L: Lord, our desire for control has separated us from you. In our stubborn independence, we have turned from your love. We hide our failure and guilt, yet we feel their weight both day and night. Here and now, we acknowledge our sins before you and reveal our transgressions. We confess to the Lord...

**(silent confession and prayer)**

L: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven. Our slate is wiped clean. We are free to follow Jesus in obedience and experience love in every test. Amen.

**Offering to SheepGate**

**Hymn during offering: "Blessed Be Your Name"    VT 637**

**Children's Story**

Amanda Thimm

**Scripture:** Genesis 2:15-17, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

**Sermon: "Shaped by Testing"**

### Testimony (Guiding questions)

1. Life is full of challenging experiences and testing. Tell us about an experience of testing in your life. How did you handle the testing?
2. What positive effect did this testing have in your life?
3. How does this test shape the way you see Jesus?

Hymn: "Lead me, Guide Me"

VT 601

### Sharing and Prayer

### Sending

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**Welcome!** We're glad you're here! The service is available at <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice> and on FM 107.5 in our parking lot. To follow along in the bulletin, visit our website [fmcbeatrice.org](http://fmcbeatrice.org); under the More tab select Documents, then Church docs, minutes and bulletins.

**Today, Children's Sunday School** will study Sheep and Goats, as found in Matthew 25:31-45, "*When we care for others, we care for Jesus.* Next Sunday we'll study the Wedding at Cana, John 2:1-11 as *Jesus shows the power of God.*

This week, the **Adult Sunday School** class will continue to discuss chapter 9 of "Reawakened" by Glen Guyton..

**New MCC Sale Quilt Update**—Online quilt registration is now available. Quilts must be registered and online by March 5, 2023 so they can be printed in the sale guide. Pictures are appreciated as they will be displayed on the website before the sale. Quilts submitted after this date will not be listed in the quilt guides or online, but will still be sold after all cataloged quilts or may be held over for next year's auction. MCC Sale is March 31-April 1! If you need help registering your quilt online, bring it to church March 5 at 9:30 and members of the committee will help you register it.

**MY COINS COUNT**-save your change and bring it starting Sunday, March 5! The kids will be collecting coins each Sunday in March to donate to MCC. If you would like to match the donation for a Sunday, please let a committee member know (Pat & Gene Penner, Dan & Pam Kunzman, Marv & Lisa Goossen).

**4-H Inc. Pancake Feed and Silent Auction** today 9 to 1, at 4-H Building Gage County Fairgrounds to support upkeep of the building. Free will donation.

**Church Cleaning** will be March 23 beginning at 5 p.m. and March 24 at 8 a.m. In addition to the usual tasks, the Building Committee plans to remove the trees on the south side of the cemetery.

FMC is offering **camp scholarships** to Mennonite affiliated Church Camps to youth of First Mennonite to cover the registration fee. Online registration for Camp Mennoscah summer camps is open. **Please contact the church office to let us know you've registered.**

Dave and I were so overwhelmed with all the help we received with our move. Saying "**Thank you**" doesn't seem enough. The heavy lifting and all of the wonderful food that several of you brought to our new home was such a blessing to us. I've always felt love and belonging at FMC, but this was a true example of "community" to me and I can't thank you enough.- Dave and Christina Lyons

**Thank you for helping to make meat canning** another successful year and for all the support! It was good being back in Milford again after 3 of the last 4 years being in Newton, KS. The final total of 15,954 pounds of chicken thigh meat resulted in 10,259 cans. The price of chicken meat dropped a little this year from \$1.86 to \$1.53 per pound, but we canned about 2000# less than the 18,000 we have normally done in Milford. The canning committee wanted to make sure that we had enough donations to be able to can more meat in Milford and we did! Thank you!!! The canning committee also agreed to send an extra donation to MCC meat canning of \$6647.96 since our ending balance has remained high. Thank you for your loving support of those in need of canned meat around the world! A detailed report is on the bulletin board.- Dave & Deb Welsch and Kim & Sheila Eberspacher, Coordinators

**Sunmart** is ending their receipts rewards program as of March 1. Mother to Mother thanks you for your support of them through this program. It was a greatly appreciated and successful effort!

**Men's Brotherhood** is available when needed to help with church member and organization. Please contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen if you have a task they can help with.

**Delegate Volunteers needed!** The **MC USA 2023 Delegate Assembly** is July 7-8 at the Kansas City (Missouri) Convention Center. FMC can send three delegates and one youth delegate. FMC will pay your registration fee. Meet Mennonites from all over the United States and learn how they are living in our Renewed Commitments to follow Jesus, witness to God's peace and experience the transformation of the Holy Spirit. Please talk with Church Chair Jerry Reimer if you're interested.

**An FMC Newcomer Ministry Update** was in last week's bulletin. A copy is on the bulletin board for those who didn't see it.

**Camp Mennoscah** ([campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org); 620-297-3290)

- Spring **Scrapbook and Craft Retreat** March 10-12 and March 17-19. Registration now! \$175 per person.
- **Summer Youth Camp Registration** is open.
- **Youth Volunteer Weekend is March 24-25!** Youth Grades 6-12 are invited. Focus: worship and service. Register online or call.

**MCC is supporting people affected by the Feb. 6 earthquake in Turkey and Syria.** You may donate by calling (888) 563-4676 or send a check earmarked for "Syria and Turkey earthquake" to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501, or online at [mcc.org/earthquake](http://mcc.org/earthquake),

### **TODAY!! Building Community, the upcoming Youth Worker**

**Appreciation and Resourcing event.** This event is for adult volunteers who work with youth (sponsors, Sunday School teachers) as a way to say "Thanks!" and as an opportunity to help resource them and connect them with others who also work with youth.

#### **Building Community**

**What:** A Youth Worker Appreciation and Resourcing event, sponsored by South Central and Western District Conference Youth Ministry.

**When:** Sunday, February 26, from 4:00-6:30pm

**Where:** Online and In-person at Whitestone Mennonite Church, Hesston KS

**Why:** Because building community matters, and how we do it matters.

**For those meeting online:** We'll be exploring the topic from 4:00 to about 5:45. During that time, you are invited to have available whatever kind of munchies you enjoy! We will reimburse you \$10/person to encourage you to bring something for you to enjoy while we meet. We plan to conclude the online meeting at 5:45.

**For those meeting in-person:** In addition to meeting from 4:00-5:45, at 5:45 we plan to have a supper catered by El Cerrito. Please let us know any food sensitivities we should be aware of.

**Please contact Sue Gerber** if you are interested in attending the appreciation and resourcing event at Whitestone or online.

## **Lent 2023**

With our Ash Wednesday service this past week, we as the church have now entered the season of Lent. In the Lenten Season we begin to focus more on the life, teachings, and passion of Jesus as we journey alongside him to the cross on Good Friday, and celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Our sermon theme for Lent is three-fold. Created in the image of God, Shaped by Jesus, Called by the Spirit. Each Sunday of Lent, we will explore different ways in which we have been created, shaped, and called.

As a part of this, you may notice that the cross is draped with different colors of cloth. The colors were chosen to reflect the theme for each Sunday: red for testing/temptation, orange for new birth (sunrise), blue for water, yellow for light, green for life, purple for worship and Palm Sunday, black for Good Friday. As we progress through Lent, each Sunday a layer of cloth will be removed to reveal more of what is underneath. This serves as a visual reminder of what we are moving towards through each week of Lent.

### **FMC Lenten art exhibit**

Each and every person of FMC is hereby invited (maybe even challenged) to create a piece of art (painting, craft, sculpture, etc.) connected to one of the Lenten or Easter worship themes for this year. Over the season participants can let pastor Josh know what they would like to contribute. Art should be brought to the church before Maundy Thursday, April 6, so the exhibit can be prepared. The plan is to have the art gallery in place and open April 6 through Easter Sunday April 9. I want to also give special encouragement to children and youth to contribute your artwork. The hope is to have all ages of our church community represented. Contact Pastor Josh if you have any questions, or if you have artwork to contribute!