

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

Serving Today: Pastor: Roger Neufeld Smith

Worship Leader: Katie Jantzen

Piano: Kathy Casey & Karen Wiebe

Children's Story: Amanda Thimm

Hosts: John & Zella Penner

Ushers: Brad Thimm & Lynn Gerber

Greeters: Dan & Pam Kunzman

April 24 Offerings: Food Pantry: \$2,462; Tech Fund \$200; FMC \$100

April 24 Attendance: 78

Happening this week:

Sunday, May 1 10:00 a.m. Worship; 10:45 Children's Project

Tuesday, May 3 1:30 P.M. WMS Quilting & Tying

Sunday, May 8 10:00 a.m. Worship; 10:45 Children's Project

May Birthdays

1: Mike Goossen

7: Ann Regier

9: Shelton Crawford, Justin Schardt

10: Elaine Penner

13: Brandon Esau

14: Laura Williamson

15: Jude Vanderschaaf

19: Dolores Jantzen, Erin Vanderschaaf, Scott Janssen

23: Alma Reimer

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- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
 - **We collect** Sun Mart receipts, Best Choice labels & used cards/envelopes
 - **Food Pantry donations:** Please put them 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!
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First Mennonite Church; 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310

Church office: 402-228-2231; Website: fmcbearice.org

Church email: fmcbearice@hotmail.com

Please contact the following with concerns or questions:

- **Special Needs: Deacons** Vern Jantzen (402-230-0011), Don Esau (402-223-9210), Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174)
 - **Church related concerns:** Chair Dorothy Zimmerman (402-239-9437)
 - **Bulletin items:** Vicki Frerking (402-239-5312 or the church phone/ email)
 - **Prayer Requests:** Pastor Roger, 785-220-1968 or rogerneufeldsmith@gmail.com
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Welcome to First Mennonite Church

May 1, 2022

Vital Witness on the Rural Frontier

WELCOME

Katie Jantzen

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God of the prophets, call to us today.

P: Call us into Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

L: God of the poets, remind us again how much You love us.

P: Sing to us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

L: God of the disciples, teach us how to follow You.

P: Teach us Your ways of love, justice and righteousness.

L: God of all creation, help us to know Your ways.

ALL: We gather to hear Your call,

to sing Your praise,

to teach each other,

to pray and worship as the Body of Christ.

— written by Rev. Mindi, on her [Rev-o-lution](#) blog.

PRAYER

Katie Jantzen

HYMN: "Sing a New World Into Being"

VT 809, vs. 1,3

SHARING AND PRAYER

-with Teacher Appreciation

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

OT page 823

CHILDREN'S STORY

Amanda Thimm

HYMN: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

VT 177, vs. 1,3

(Children are dismissed during the hymn to make May Day baskets.)

PRESENTATION: "Vital Witness on the Rural Frontier"

-Introduction and Biblical Reflection on "Vital Witness..." – Pastor Roger

-Our Vision Statement – Dorothy Zimmerman

-Vital Witness: Retirement Alternatives – Vicki Hinz-Ensz

HYMN: "FMC Purpose"

on handout

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

- Our Vision Statement: currently fulfilled? Future possibilities?
- Vital Witness on the Rural Frontier: Unique Opportunities?

POSSIBILITIES, PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

OFFERING for First Mennonite Church

Welcome! We're happy to have you here with us! The service will be posted later today to **You Tube** at <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice>. The link is also posted on our face book page. The service is available on FM 107.5 in our parking lot.

Repair work has begun on the sanctuary. Until that is finished in a few weeks, we'll be meeting in the basement.

Beginning May 1, we will **meet at 10:00 a.m.** in the basement and have a slightly different format for worship. The basement will be arranged as it is for Round Table discussions to facilitate conversation as we talk with each other about God's call and our spiritual gifts. We will have prayers, hymns, scripture readings, sharing and prayer, and a topic each Sunday related to the question, "What is God calling us to do as individuals and as a congregation in the coming days?". The children will be dismissed to meet in the upstairs music room at 10:45 a.m. to work on service projects, etc. each Sunday:

5/1 May Day baskets (teacher appreciation during worship service)

5/8 Mother's Day event w/mom (sing during worship service)

5/15 service project (TBD)

5/22 Summer kick-off celebration (final SS)

The nursery will continue to be available. Live stream will also be available.

We plan to be **back in the sanctuary May 29**.

Children's Sunday School has finished for the school year. May 1 – May 22 children will meet at 10:45 a.m. to work on various projects while the adults continue the service downstairs.

If you will have a graduate in your family this spring, high school, college, or grad school, please let the church office know so we can acknowledge and congratulate the graduates!

Vacation Bible School registrations need to be in by May 14! Register online at fmcbeatrice.org or with the forms in the narthex. VBS is May 31 – June 3, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Evening activities include a Kick Off event with a hay rack ride, pond swim, and campfire supper on Monday, May 30. Meet at Rodney & Shana's at 5:30 prompt! Wednesday evening is pizza & roller skating from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Rolla Rena! Families are invited too!

Arylis Goertzen passed away early Friday morning, April 29. Arrangements are pending. Please continue to keep Arylis' husband Dick, daughters Candice, Robbyn, and Holly and their families in your prayers.

Beatrice High School Plant Sale! Science Club will be hosting a plant sale fundraiser May 3 and 4, from 3:45 to 5:00pm each day. Geraniums, annuals, and baskets available. Plants can be ordered ahead of time, or purchased in person at the high school. See Paula Heinz for details.

MCC Ukrainian response. MCC is requesting financial donations for Ukrainian aid to go to the places of greatest need. Donate at mcc.org or put checks for MCC (memo line: Ukraine) in the offering plate.

Milbert Penner will hold a **book signing** at Burwood Bookstore on Thursday, May 5 at 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. J. Daniel Hess and Milbert Penner co-authored a children's book entitled: **Raul and Rudy: Special School Friends**. A cross-cultural friendship develops in a classroom because a teacher values culture, language and diversity. The book is intended for elementary school teachers and school social workers counselors to help English language learners experience acceptance, inclusion and affirmation of their cultural heritage. Copies will be available to buy at the book store.

2022 NE Mennonite Relief Sale Golf Tournament is Saturday, July 30, 9 a.m. at the Kearney Country Club. Call 402-560-7818 with questions or to register by July 15.

2022 WDC Annual Assembly - What's God doing through WDC churches?

Dianne Garcia, Pastor of Family Ministry, San Antonio Mennonite Church, will speak of stories of their congregation's ministry with immigrants. Heidi Regier Kreider, WDC Conference Minister, will speak on how we are "United in Purpose, Together in Love" at Assembly, July 29-31, Camp Copass, Denton, TX. Assembly registration opens soon. Join us!

Register at bethelks.edu/summer-camps for **Bethel College's summer camps** in athletics, science, history, and outdoor exploration. Ages 4-adult.

Hesston College's **summer music theatre camp**, June 13-18, for aspiring actors and tech crew members ages 11 -18, culminates with a Saturday 2 p.m. production of "The Addams Family." Cost is \$295. Register at rachelj@hesston.edu.

**Vision, Calling and Witness:
Round Table Discussions Regarding God’s Call to Future Ministries
May 1- 29**

Though repairs to our sanctuary during the month of May forces us to meet for worship in Fellowship Hall for a time, this situation also gives our congregation the opportunity to worship in a more informal way. The Worship Council and Church Board agreed that this would be a good time to **revisit our Round Table discussion format** and consider **what ministries God might be calling us as a congregation to pursue in the coming days and years.** This will be valuable discernment to **guide our ministry together with our new settled pastor** as we share the good news of Jesus with our community and our world.

When **Dave Boshart** visited our congregation last January, Dave challenged us to think of **Vision, Values and Vocation** in calling both lay and ordained leadership for our congregation. Dave also led a stimulating meeting over lunch with a number of our church leaders. After that meeting, Dave shared with us a paper he wrote several years ago, outlining **six unique opportunities that rural congregations have to share God’s good news.**

Our Round Table Discussions will highlight some of these opportunities and include several other that relevant to our future. We have called on **various leaders in our congregation, as well as Pastor Roger, to present these opportunities,** linking them with ways God called people in the Bible to ministries in their time and place. (see the schedule on the other side of this sheet.) Our children’s stories will help both young and old to consider the topic of the day, with **our children sometimes presenting their own ideas of things our church could do.**

We will plan for the **first part of our service to last about 45 minutes.** We will then end the recording of our service with a hymn and **dismiss the children to some age-appropriate activities (see the schedule below).** The adults and youth will continue with **5-15 minutes of round table discussions, then 5-15 minutes of discussion as a whole group.** We will end our worship with the Lord’s Prayer and a benediction.

**Vision, Calling and Witness:
Round Table Discussions Regarding God’s Call to Future Ministries
May 1- 29, 10:00 a.m.**

Here is the current schedule of topics and presentations during May. **There may changes in topics, service times and location, depending on when the sanctuary is available for worship once more. Watch for announcements in the bulletin and by email.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Presenters (with Pastor Roger)</u>
May 1	“A Vision for Rural Churches”	Vicki Hinz-Ensz, Dorothy Zimmerman
May 8	“Envisioning a Church That Nurtures Children and Families”	Amanda Thimm, Shana and other young adults
May 15	“Biblical Discernment Beyond Secular Political Rhetoric”	To be announced
May 22	“Host to the Nations”	Vern Jantzen and Jim Ensz
May 29	“Let’s Talk”: An Exercise in Conflict Styles and Transformation	Erin VanderSchaaf, Katie Jantzen, Brett Esau

Schedule for Children’s Activities

10:00 a.m.	Children attend worship with family
10:45 a.m.	Children dismissed to upstairs music room (all ages combined)
May 1	May Day basket making
May 8	Mother’s Day events with moms
May 15	A service project (to be announced)
May 22	Summer kick-off celebration (final Sunday School)
May 29	Memorial Day weekend – no SS activities