

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

Serving Today: Pastor: Roger Neufeld Smith

Worship Leader: Brandon Esau Piano: Jan Reimer
Children's Story: Amanda Thimm PPT: Katie Jantzen
Hosts: John & Zella Penner Audio: Doug Casey
Ushers: Brad Thimm & Lynn Gerber Video: Kathy Casey
Greeters: John & Lori Thimm

Last Sunday Offerings: WDC \$50; Cemetery Fund \$1000;
FMC Sanctuary Painting Project \$10,000.

Last Sunday Attendance: 85

Happening this week:

Sunday, May 22 9:45 a.m. Children's Time, 10:30 a.m. Worship
Tuesday, May 24 11:00 Memorial Service for Arylis Goertzen
May 27-30 MC USA Special Session – Pray for participants
Sunday, May 29 10:30 a.m. Worship with VBS Kick Off
May 31-June 3 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Vacation Bible School

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: fmcbeatrice.org

Church email: fmcbeatrice@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 22, 2022

WELCOME

Brandon Esau

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 146

L: Praise the Lord.

P: Praise the LORD, my soul.

L: I will praise the LORD all my life;

P: I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

L: The LORD upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

P: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down, the LORD loves the righteous.

L: The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

P: but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

L: The LORD reigns forever,

P: Our God reigns for all generations.

ALL: Praise the LORD!

PRAYER

HYMN: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

VT 306

OLD TESTAMENT READING: selected verses about immigrants and aliens

CHILDREN'S STORY

HYMN: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:31-40

NT page 35

PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS

L: Dear Jesus, our journey through life is long and hard. We cannot make this trip alone; we must walk together on the journey.

P: You promised to send us a helper, your Spirit.

L: Help us to see your Spirit in those you send to journey with us.

In the refugee family, seeking safety from violence,

P: Let us see your Spirit.

L: In the migrant worker, bringing food to our tables,

P: Let us see your Spirit.

L: In the asylum-seeker, seeking justice for himself and his family,

P: Let us see your Spirit.

L: in the unaccompanied child, traveling in a dangerous world,

P: Let us see your Spirit.

L: Teach us to recognize that as we walk with each other,
You are present.

**P: Teach us to welcome not only the strangers in our midst but also
the gifts they bring.**

L: This is the help you have sent: we are not alone.

P: We are together on the journey, and for this we give you thanks.

ALL: Amen.

-- from MCC "Safe Home, Safe Refuge: Worship resources.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Hebrews 13:1-3

NT page 276

"HOST TO THE NATIONS" (see the last page of the bulletin)

-Introduction by Jim Ensz

-Conversation with Charity Stowell,

MCC U.S. Newcomer Connections Coordinator (via Zoom)

-Opportunities in Our Community

RESPONSE HYMN: "For We are Strangers No More"

VT 409

SHARING AND PRAYER

BENEDICTION

OFFERING in the narthex to Mennonite Mission Network

Welcome! We're happy to have you here with us! The service is being live streamed on **You Tube** at <https://www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice>. The service is available on FM 107.5 in our parking lot.

Our current worship series **Vision, Calling and Witness: Discussions Regarding God's Call to Future Ministries** concludes this Sunday with the topic **"Host to the Nations"** Charity Stowell will be our guest speaker via Zoom. Charity is the MCC US Newcomer Connections Coordinator. Jim and Vicki Hinz-Ensz will introduce our topic, host our discussion with Charity, then tell us about ways we can be "Hosts to the Nations" in our Beatrice community.

Please take an **old hymnal** from the cart by the coats if you'd like one.

For Today's Service- "Host to the Nations":

Our worship service today enables us to learn more about the situation of newcomers to our communities and helps us understand ways we can support refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. Below are some simple definitions that may assist us in our learning.

Who is a refugee?

A refugee is a person who has fled their own country because they are at risk of serious human rights violations and persecution there. The risks to their safety and life were so great that they felt they had no choice but to leave and seek safety outside their country because their own government cannot or will not protect them from those dangers. Refugees have a right to international protection and U.S. refugee status was granted before they arrive in U.S.

Who is an asylum-seeker?

An asylum-seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn't yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim. Seeking asylum is a human right. This means everyone should be allowed to enter another country to seek asylum.

Asylum seekers must apply for protection in the country of destination—meaning they must arrive at or cross a border in order to apply.

Then, they must be able to prove to authorities there that they meet the criteria to be covered by refugee protections. Not every asylum seeker will be recognized as a refugee.

Who is a migrant?

An immigrant is someone who makes a conscious decision to leave his or her home and move to a foreign country with the intention of settling there. Immigrants often go through a lengthy vetting process to immigrate to a new country. Many become lawful permanent residents and eventually citizens.

Migrants choose to move not because of a direct threat or persecution but mainly to improve their lives:

- Finding work
- Seeking better education
- Reuniting with family

Unlike refugees who cannot safely return home, migrants can return home if they wish. This distinction is important for governments, since countries handle migrants under their own immigration laws and processes.

Our **children's activities** for May 22 will **begin at 9:45**. This will be the last Sunday School session for this spring term. Intergenerational **summer Sunday School** will begin June 19.



Congratulations to Asha Jantzen on her graduation from Tri County High School on May 14. God's Blessings on your future plans!

Jim Ensz is our delegate to the MC USA Special Session May 27 – 30. If you have questions or concerns about the items being addressed at the special session, please talk with Jim prior to the meetings. Thank you, Jim.

A Celebration of Life for Arylis Goertzen will be held at 11:00 AM Tuesday, May 24 at First Mennonite Church with Pastors Roger Neufeld-Smith and Tim Amor officiating. The service will also be live streamed on the church You Tube page "FMC Beatrice". Public inurnment is at 10:00 a.m. May 24 at the Mennonite Cemetery. Visitation is from 9:00 AM-8:00 PM Monday, May 23, 2022 at the Griffiths-Hovendick Chapel with the family greeting friends from 6-7:30 PM. A memorial has been established to the Beatrice Community Hospital Foundation and the Beatrice Community Hospital Hospice Program with Jim and Vicki Ensz in charge.

Vacation Bible School is approaching quickly! May 31 – June 3, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

- **TREATS are needed!** If you can bake cookies or would like to donate money for donuts, please contact Doris Claassen, Pat Penner, or Elsie Riesen.
- **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! Friday, June 3, a noon meal will be provided. Children can be picked up at 12:00.
- **The VBS offerings** will go towards MCC's Ukraine emergency response. MCC's primary response at this stage includes several short-term humanitarian projects providing food, cash, shelter, medicine and hygiene supplies to displaced persons, host families and conflict-affected households.

Pastoral Candidate Josh Janzen and his wife Stephanie will be here June 11 and 12, 2022. **Saturday evening, June 11**, Josh and Steph will gather with the young adults and enjoy getting acquainted without children. The children will be supervised at the church. **Sunday, June 12, 9:30** Josh and Steph will meet with the children prior to worship during a Sunday School time. At **10:30 worship service**, Josh will give the message. At **11:30 a potluck** will be held in the fellowship hall for the congregation followed by a question and answer time.

Sunday, June 19, the Search Committee will formally **recommend Pastoral Candidate Josh Janzen to the congregation for a vote, after the 10:30 worship service**. If Josh is approved, he will begin August 29.

We will celebrate **Communion** during worship on June 19.

In worship on May 29 we will have a Bible School Kick-off Sunday using the theme of our 2022 Bible School "**Passport to Peace**". We will also have a brief report from young adults on their winter retreat, which focused on making peace through conflict resolution. Pastor Roger will preach on "Our Anabaptist Witness in Gage County." There will be **NO Sunday School classes on May 29**.

There will be NO WMS May 24 due to Arylis Goertzen's Memorial Service and on May 31 due to VBS. WMS will resume meeting Tuesday, June 7.

Dan Kunzman is working on the content for the new website and **requests that pictures** of recent church activities be sent to him at dank@fes.org.

Gardening for good; Creation care tips for your backyard and stories from Bolivia, May 26 at 7 pm CDT. In this virtual visit, we'll explore what it looks like to care for the planet – from our own backyards to remote Bolivian communities. Learn more and register at mcc.org/virtual-visits.

Everyone is welcome to attend the WDC Annual Assembly July 29-31, 2022 at Camp Copass, Denton, TX either in person or on-line. Speakers include Conference Minister Heidi Regier Kreider and Dianne Garcia, Pastor of Family Life at San Antonio Mennonite Church who will speak on how their church ministers to those who pass through their community. **Drivers are needed for 15 passenger vans** to go to the Assembly. Please email Kathy at kathynd@mennowdc.org or call 316-283-6300 for more information.

Help Is Needed for Beatrice immigrants! Dale and Kathy Linsenmeyer have been relating to **six different families from Nicaragua** who have moved into Beatrice to better their lives. When families arrive, it can be a challenge to locate furnishings for their apartments, or gather together household items like towels, sheets, etc. on short notice. Members of these families have jobs and are currently working, but need start-up furniture and supplies. Jim Ensz is the designated contact person for our church for those who are interested in helping. If you are willing to be on a list of people from our church that Jim could contact when there is a need, please let him know (402-239-0062; jimensz@diodecom.net). If you have extra furniture (or perhaps a mattress, sheets) that you might want to donate, or have extra towels or are willing to purchase supplies when called, this would be a tremendous help to these families. If interested in helping, talk to Jim Ensz for more details.