

Announcements:

This Sunday will be the third Sunday for making contributions to the Mutual Aid fund to help meet a substantial expense for a member's need. The current balance in the Mutual Aid fund is a bit more than \$4000, which is a bit more than the Mutual Aid committee has authorized for the current need. This third collection will help maintain a balance to cover smaller needs that arise in a timely manner, without making a special appeal.

Two dates to put on your calendar. Next Sunday, March 3, is potluck, which is always a good time of fellowship. Florence will have a Love Feast on Thursday, March 28 in the evening. This is a distinctive Church of the Brethren commemoration held on Maundy Thursday. More details to follow.

February is Black History month. Read a short feature on James Weldon Johnson, author of the poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," put to music and known as the Black National Anthem.

<https://www.watershedvoice.com/2024/02/20/black-history-makers-james-weldon-johnson/>

We are invited to enter the sanctuary tomorrow morning, and all Sundays during Lent, to sing together a reflective Taize song. Those who participate can enter at 9:45. We will start singing at 9:50.

Treasurer's Report:

February 18, 2024 7th Sunday

Attendance 36

General Fund Offering \$ 2,770.55

Mutual Aid \$ 1,725.00

TOTAL OFFERING \$ 4,495.55

General Fund Balance \$ 31,959.95

Leadership Team: Dan Petry, Congregational Chair; Tim Lind, Serving Steward; Nathan Nichols, Caretaking Steward; Devon Miller, Gathering Steward.

David Shenk, Pastor pastor@miflorence.org (574) 238-0893

Florence Church of the Brethren Mennonite Sunday, February 25, 2024



Peter's Denial

Part of a sculptural facade entitled "The Passion of Christ" at the Sagrada Familia cathedral in Barcelona.

We adore you, Jesus Christ,
And we bless your holy name;
Truly your cross and passion bring us life and healing,
Truly your cross and passion bring us life and healing.

Congregational Singing - Taize Verna Troyer

Welcome David Shenk

Visitors, Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Opening Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness VT 419 Verna Troyer

Call to Worship David Shenk

Lenten travelers, who is this Jesus that we follow?
He is the Messiah.
What kind of Messiah is Jesus?
He is the Messiah who teaches that he will lose his life, and who calls us to lose our lives in order to save our lives.
How does it feel to follow a Messiah whose teachings and call are so hard and uncomfortable?
Some feel fear and anger, while others feel uncertain and anxious, and still others feel resolute and ready to follow.
Lenten travelers, we are not alone in our feelings about following Jesus as our Messiah. It is a hard road. The blessing is that we do not travel it alone.
Thanks be to God that we share this journey with Jesus and one another as we lose our lives for the sake of the gospel to save our lives through Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

Confession Congregation reads the bold David Shenk

Holy Friend, our God and Saviour,
we talk about faith, yet are sometimes slow to take its risks,
we praise forgiveness, yet sometimes find it hard to extend it,
we praise truth, yet sometimes fudge our own integrity,
we extoll love, yet sometimes place conditions on our loving,
we honor Christ’s Cross, yet sometimes shrink from carrying our own.

Faithful God, you know our individual shortcomings in following the Gospel we espouse. By your Spirit, enter the secret caverns of our souls and counsel, cleanse and reform us. Forgive us we pray, until forgiveness is such a part of us that it may become a way of life as we deal with those around us. In the name of Christ our Redeemer. Amen

Assurance: Sung O Lamb of God VT 321 Verna Troyer/Naomi

Offering

Singing Together Verna Troyer

Will you come and follow me? VT 540
Fill us with your feast VT 309
With astonishment, fear and wonder VT 579

Children's time Christina Bromley

Children to Sunday School

Scriptures Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Meditation Showing us faith Devon Miller

Congregation’s Response to Meditation David Shenk

Congregational Sharing

Prayer

Benediction David Shenk