

GATHERING

Prelude to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

Candle Lighting

* Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord,

make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works

As God heard the cries of the Israelites in Egypt

God also hears those who cry out for justice today.

And just as God delivered the people from Egypt**God will also bring justice to those who are oppressed****today!**

Seek the presence of the Lord continually.

We will remember the judgments God has uttered,**and the wonderful works God has done.**

* Opening Prayer

* Hymn *Come, we that love the Lord* HWB 14

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,***we confess that we have sinned against you******in thought, word, and deed,******by what we have done,******and by what we have left undone.******We have not loved you with our whole heart;******we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.******We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.******For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,******have mercy on us and forgive us;******that we may delight in your will,******and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

Words of Assurance

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**PROCLAIMING**

Scripture Reading

Exodus 2:23 – 3:15

Hymn

Here I am, Lord

HWB 395

Scripture Reading

Matthew 16:21-28

Sermon

Reflection

RESPONDING* Hymn *Come, thou long-expected Jesus* HWB 178

Offering and Offertory

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SENDING* Hymn *The Lord lift you up* STJ 73

* Benediction

Postlude

* *All who are able are invited to stand where indicated.**Our worship ends after the postlude; please remain seated.**HWB – blue hymnal**STS – purple hymnal**STJ – green hymnal**Preacher: Charles Bontrager**Worship Leader: Darren Newcomer**Accompanist: John Gamin***Welcome to First Mennonite Church** If you are new here today, we're glad you can worship with us. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you!**Wednesday** 6:00pm you are invited to a **Fellowship Meal** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a potluck dish to share as we become better acquainted in a casual setting.

Sunday School will resume **Sunday**, Sept. 10 with the book study of *Human Sexuality in Biblical Perspective*. A sign-up sheet is posted for those interested in purchasing the study guide for the 10-week course.

MCC Connections Thrift Shop, Kidron, Ohio has opportunities in several departments for those who wish to give back through volunteering. Please call, email or stop by for additional information, or to request a volunteer application form. Training provided. We'd love to have you join the MCC Connections volunteer family! We support Mennonite Central Committee in its world wide service, development and relief work, in the name of Christ. Phone: 330-857-7802. Email: cindyconnections@zoominternet.net.

Camp Friedenswald Women's Retreat will be held Sept. 15-17. Restoring our Soul: Cultivating Peace Within and Beyond. At this retreat we will pause to discover how we might cultivate peace within, restore ourselves, and make a difference in our world. Register today at friedenswald.org/retreats Cost: \$160, under 25 free

*Our **MISSION** is to welcome all to know Christ's salvation through worship and works of love, peace and justice in service for God.*

THIS WEEK September 3 – 10

TODAY 9:30am Sunday School hour
10:45am Worship Service

Monday Labor Day observed

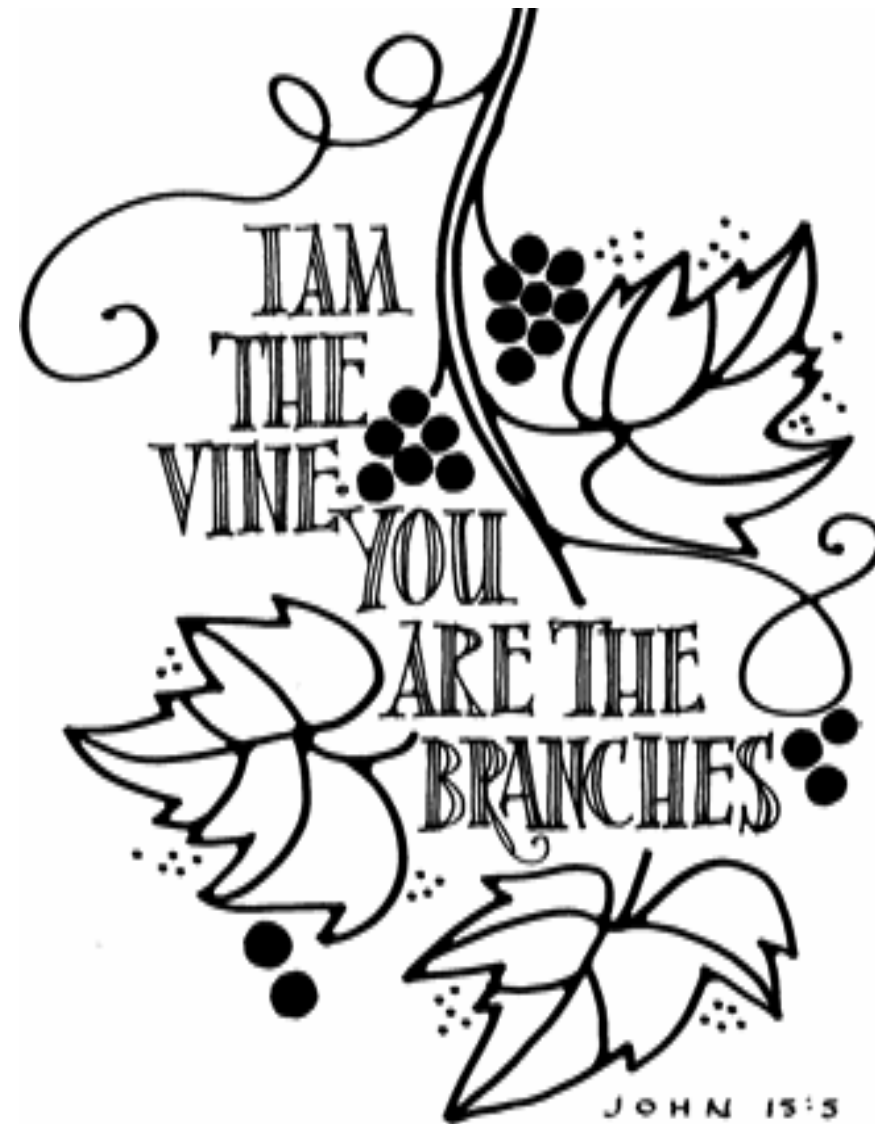
Wednesday 6:00pm Potluck Fellowship Meal – all are welcome!

Thursday *Announcements & calendar items for Sunday due by NOON to: chrischamberlin99@yahoo.com*
🕒 *Bobbie & Jim Mohr anniversary (60th!)*

Sunday 9:30am Sunday School hour (book discussion)
10:45am Worship Service
Grandparents Day observed

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Charles Bontrager, Pastor
Direct (330) 969-9364

Sunday School 9:30 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
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**First Mennonite Church**
A congregation of Mennonite Church USA