

One of the most beautiful and characteristic hidden churches in our country is the Vermaning (Fermanje) in Pingjum, probably dating from the late 16th century.

Baptists were, like the Roman Catholics, only tolerated at that time provided that the place of their gathering could not be seen or heard from the open road. In Pingjum, only the arched window above the door indicates that there is a 'church' behind this facade.

The church space is located behind the living area. The layout of this is very simple and functional, as usual at the time. All around, along the walls, are the benches for the men, the brothers. In the middle are chairs for the women, the sisters. To the left of the pulpit is a lectern for the choirmaster. There was singing without an organ.

When Pingjum lost its center function as a village, the municipality also became smaller. The municipality is now churching elsewhere, but occasionally the church is still used for services. The church has been classified as a national monument since 1968 (no. 39427).

Church and house were restored in 1983. In the living room you can still find the old bedsteads.

A visit to the Schuilkerkje in Pingjum is possible all year round. Volunteers will show you around. However, you must make an appointment well in advance. You can make this appointment by email. A film about the life and work of Menno Simons can be shown. In addition, there is information material for sale about the Mennonites and the life and work of Menno Simons.

For groups of more than 15 people there is a guided tour, with a visit to the Victoriuserkerk in Pingjum - where Menno Simons started his career as a chaplain - or a visit to the Koepelkerk in Witmarsum - the place where Menno Simons said goodbye to the (Catholic) church and joined the Anabaptist movement - also possible.

Register for this at least two weeks in advance.

The church can be rented for church services, concerts, meetings and other activities. Information: info@doopsgezindemonumenten.nl

Address:

Grote Buorren 28 - 8749 GE Pingjum

GPS coordinates: 53.115795, 5.438805

Contact:

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