

Impossible Possibilities: Welcome
First Mennonite Church
January 6, 2018

Bells call us to worship Ray Raeburn

Welcome and announcements Rhonda Winstead

Call to worship

*Hymn "Bright and glorious is the sky" HWB 219
Laura Hartzler

*Responsive Reading Psalm 117 (NRSV)

L: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

L: but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

C: Nations shall come to your light,

ALL: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Special Music "Sanctus" Franz Schubert
Everett Collier and Jeff Boehr

Conversation with friends Judy Steiner
"Come, light of the world," sing twice, coming forward STS 3
"Come, welcoming peace," sing twice, returning

Community prayer Theda Good

Presenting our tithes and offerings

Offertory "Bourrée" J.S. Bach
Theo Andreas, violin

*Offering words (*read responsively*)

L: We give these gifts, O God, believing the impossible is possible.

C: May our gifts empower others near and far to welcome a new day.

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12 Ruth Naylor
Luke 2:25-32 Kevin King

Sermon "The Gifts of the Magi...and the Gift of Jesus"
Tig Intagliata

*Hymn "Love came down at Christmas" HWB 208

Communion

*Hymn "Lo, how a Rose e're blooming" HWB 211

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book; STJ – Sing the Journey; STS – Sing the Story

Please ask an usher for assistance in locating large print hymnals.

Please note that today's worship coordinates with We Make the Road by Walking, Chapter 18.

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson St., Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F

Church Staff

- Pastor Wanda Stopher -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079 (cell); fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastor Theda Good -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); fmc.theda@bluffton.edu
- Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-10 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

Host: Gene and Dottie Long

Greeter: Sara Brenner

Sound: Kevin Cluts

Chancel: Lois Wetherill

Nursery today: Melissa Friesen, Gerald Mast

Worship: Amy Blount, Kristen Niekamp, Ana Neufeld Weaver

Nursery next week: Shelby Cluts, Elaine Suderman

Worship: John & Julie Mackey

Our stewardship:

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-180, MC-5
Volunteer hours Dec. 23-29, 2018	N/A
Spending plan giving Dec. 30, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$9,237.00
Special fund giving Dec. 30, 2018 (includes e-giving): Freudige-\$100	
Sojourners-\$300; Faith and Life-\$35; SHYF coffee/pancakes-\$1,547.75	
Deacons Bene-\$2,317; MDS-\$300; Flooring-\$225; Camp F-\$300	\$5,124.75
Total giving Dec. 30, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$14,361.75
Total spending plan receipts as of November 30, 2018	\$324,996.31
Spending plan expenses as of November 30, 2018	\$359,425.17
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.

