

Rivalry or Reconciliation?
First Mennonite Church
October 21, 2018

Procession

Welcome and Call to Worship Jeff Boehr

*Invocation

Special Music “Thank You Father” Scott Davenport
Cherub Choir

*Responsive Reading Psalm 62:8-12

Downstairs: Trust in him at all times, O people;

Upstairs: pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

D: Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion

U: in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

D: Put no confidence in extortion and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

U: Once God has spoken; twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God,

All: and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.

*Opening Hymn “Open, Lord, my inward ear” HWB 140
LuAnn Stuckey

Special Music “God of Grace and God of Laughter” Rob Hopp
Chancel Choir; Monica Harnish, violin

Scripture Genesis 32:22-33:11 Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass

Conversation with Friends Amber Shelly
“Jesus loves me” (coming forward and returning) HWB 341

Scripture Genesis 50:15-21 Emily Griffioen

Community Prayer Theda Good

Scripture Luke 10:25-37 Ken Shenk

Sermon “Family Portrait” Wanda Stopher

*Hymn of Response “Slowly turning, ever turning” STJ 23

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” setting by J. Carter
*Hymn of Dedication “Lord of all good” STJ 60
*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Sending “O God of mystery and might” HWB 130

*Benediction

Postlude “Aurelia” arr. D.M. Cherwien

**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.

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

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: Amy Freeman | **Greeter:** Carmen and Chris Moser

Sound: Kevin Cluts | **Chancel:** Bev Simon

Nursery today: SS – Elaine Suderman and Judy Buller

Worship – Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Andrea Goings

Nursery next week: SS – Shelby Cluts, Wendy Chappell-Dick

Worship – Alison & Kevin King, Seth Andreas

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-184, MC-10
Spending plan giving Oct. 14, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$4,896.00
Special fund giving Oct. 14, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$7.95; Sojourners-\$6; Freudige-\$20	
Faith and Life-\$10; Faithful Living-\$8; Kitchen service-\$5.35; Deacons Benevolent-\$50	
MCC-\$1,000; MW-\$175; Habitat-\$20; Flooring-\$105; ISAF-\$100; Staff support-\$4,000	\$5,507.30
Total giving Oct. 14, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$10,403.30
Total spending plan receipts as of September 30, 2018	\$269,777.77
Spending plan expenses as of September 30, 2018	\$296,389.22
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.



member of Summit Mennonite Church in Barberton and describes herself as a “community activist, artist and dreamer.” She will speak on the week’s theme of “Reimagining the Church: looking back to move forward” at forum at 11 a.m. on Oct. 23 in Yoder Recital Hall and at chapel at 11 a.m. on Oct. 25 in Yoder. The week will also include a performance by professional “Juggler for Jesus” David Cain at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 22 in Yoder Recital Hall.

Bluffton University schedule:

October 21 – Fall choral concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

October 21-25 – Spiritual Life Week

October 23 – Forum, Hannah Troyer, “Reimagining the Church,” 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

October 26 – Colloquium, Dr. Gayle Trollinger, “Adventures in Bureaucracy: What I Learned from CAEP,” 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

In response to God’s unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

CALENDAR

Today, October 21, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Community class potluck
1:30 p.m.	SHYF, Suter’s corn maze
4:30 p.m.	Learning circle, assembly room (Note: this is the circle that previously met at Theda Good’s home)
5:30 p.m.	Learning circle, supper provided, FH
6:30 p.m.	Learning circle, Maple Crest

October 22-27, 2018

Tuesday (10-23)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. MPS, 7 p.m., parlor Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (10-24)	Worship planning circle, 5 p.m., parlor Adult bells and cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir and youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10-25)	Pastor visit with Maple Crest residents, 2:30 p.m. Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor
Saturday (10-27)	Senior celebration, 2:30 p.m., FH

Next Sunday, October 28, 2018

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Theda Good preaching

Welcome to our worship service today. If you are a visitor, please sign one of our guest books located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Wireless hearing aids are available. If you would like your children cared for while you worship, our nursery is downstairs in the church. Worship activity bags for children are available.

New announcement

New location for learning circle: The learning circle that previously met at the home of Theda Good and Dawn Kreider has moved to the FMC assembly room. The circle meets on the first and third Sundays from 4:30-6 p.m.

The church council is beginning a process of discerning who will represent our congregation as delegates this summer at the Mennonite Church USA Convention in Kansas City on July 2-6. If you are interested in being considered to serve as a delegate, please contact Karen McCullough: karenmccullough1@gmail.com; 419-234-5915.

SHYF will meet at Suter's Corn Maze today at 1:30 p.m. Youth needing a ride should contact Carrie Mast.

Enneagram video and handouts: We have a DVD and handouts from the enneagram workshop held at Grace Mennonite. Handouts are also available as an electronic document. If you would like to borrow it, please contact the church office.

In our prayers...

Dan Amstutz, son of Mary Amstutz, died Oct. 15 at St. Vincent Medical Center, Toledo. He is also survived by his wife, Marty, their three children and Dan's three brothers, Jim, Steve and Pete. The Amstutz family appreciates your prayers and support.

Susan Collier's mother, Mildred Burkholder, died Oct. 15 at Mennonite Memorial Home. Your prayers of support and comfort for Susan and Everett are appreciated.

Reminders

Let's celebrate! Senior citizens are invited to a celebration on Saturday, Oct. 27, in the fellowship hall from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Rich and Gloria Bucher will help us recall favorite Bible stories and characters who shaped our early years. Bus transportation will be available at Mennonite Memorial Home, Maple Crest and Willow Ridge.

New Path Together – If you missed the October 9 GTF meeting, you have another chance to ask questions and offer insights **Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 4:15-5:30 in the parlor.** Topics may range from communication among the congregation to opportunities for navigating our ongoing process of change. Copies of the constitution (turquoise cover) are available in literature rack in Fellowship Hall. -- GTF

Have you ordered some coffee yet? As a fundraiser, the Senior High Youth Fellowship is taking orders for Fair Trade coffee. For each package sold, the youth will receive 40% of the \$15 cost and \$1 will be donated toward MC USA peace and justice work. Details and order form are available in Fellowship Hall.

Gifts Discernment – Those attending the commissions retreat explored gifts discernment. Those interested in learning more about gifts discernment should contact Greg Hartzler at gregphartzler@gmail.com. -- GTF

MennoMedia needs your help to make the new *Voices Together* hymnal a reality by fall 2020. Before any copies of *Voices Together* are sold, MennoMedia will invest more than \$700,000. Everence and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. have issued a matching grant challenge of up to \$100,000 to help MennoMedia in this final fund-raising effort. Help ensure that *Voices Together* will be affordably priced for congregations. Make a gift today and have it doubled! Every voice matters. Every dollar counts. Give at <http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/> or email Steve Carpenter at SteveC@MennoMedia.org for more information. Gifts of \$500 or more entitle the giver to a tribute line in the hymnal.

BU Spiritual Life Week: Hannah Troyer of Akron, Ohio, will be the guest speaker for Spiritual Life Week at Bluffton University October 21-25. Hannah is a