

Freedom!
First Mennonite Church
October 28, 2018

Procession

Welcome and Call to Worship Jeff Boehr

*Invocation

*Responsive Reading Galatians 5:1, 13-15 (Message)

L: Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand. Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

C: It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life.

L: Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom.

C: Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows.

L: For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.

C: If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?

All: Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand. Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

*Opening Hymn "The God of Abraham praise" HWB 162
LuAnn Stuckey

Special Music "Te Ensalzare, Senor" John L. Bell
Jan Wiebe, flute; Elaine Suderman, Darryl Nester, and Sara Brenner, soloists
Chancel Choir (see translation on page ? of the bulletin)

Conversation with Friends Gloria Hernandez Bucher
"Jesus loves me" (coming forward and returning) HWB 341

Community Prayer Wanda Stopher

Scripture Exodus 1:1-14 Tami Hardy
Excerpt from "We Make the Road" Wanda Stopher
Exodus 3:1-15 Evan Steiner

Sermon "Co-creating Freedom" Theda Good

*Hymn of Response "God of the Bible" STJ 27

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory "Exultation" Matthew Compton
Adult Bells

*Hymn of Dedication "Lord of all good" STJ 60
*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Sending "The peace of the earth be with you" (*sing twice*) STJ 77

*Benediction

Postlude "All Glory to God" J.G. Walther

**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.

Bluffton University schedule:

October 29-December 7: “Phantoms of Film” by Whitney Goller exhibit, Grace Albrecht Gallery, Sauder Art Center

October 30-“Following the Nonviolent Way of Jesus: Why Christianity and Violence Don't Mix,” Dr. Eric Seibert, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Nov. 1-4: Fall play, Helen, Thurs.-Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 p.m., Ramseyer Auditorium, College Hall.

Mennonite Disaster Service of Western Ohio: Brett Troyer, Fleet and Logistics Coordinator of MDS, will be a featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Western Ohio Unit on Saturday, Nov.17, from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora. Lunch will be provided. The new and fully-equipped western Ohio tool trailer will be on-site for a tour beginning at 8:30 a.m. and again after the program. The event is open to all. Details of this program are posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall. If you plan to attend, please notify Lawrence Matthews at matthewsL@bluffton.edu.

The translation for today’s special music is Psalm 30: 1-5, 10-12.

I will praise you, O Lord; you lifted me from danger and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O Lord, your brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

For God’s anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Words by John Bell, composer: This responsorial setting of Psalm 30 was commissioned for the centenary of the Diocese of Austin, TX. Being a very Hispanic area, it was important that the two main languages in the region – Spanish and English – should be represented in the text. The final chorus allows for a brief foray into Latin, the historic language of the church.

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 28, 2018

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Theda Good preaching
Noon SHYF, cooking lunch
5:30 p.m. Learning circle, supper provided, FH

October 29-November 3, 2018

Monday (10-29) Volunteers leave for Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday (10-30) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (10-31) 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.

Next Sunday, November 4, 2018

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m. Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon Community potluck, FH
1:30 p.m. SHYF

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

Are you new here? First, welcome! We're glad you're here! Second, there are ways of connecting with others in the congregation that you should know about. Here are a few for starters. If you're interested in joining a Sunday school class, or getting a church mailbox, being included in the next church directory, or joining a membership class, contact one of the pastors or the church office. We are here to help you make connections.

-- Warmly, Pastors Theda and Wanda

All Saints Day is one of the oldest feast days of the Christian church year. This day reminds us, not only of the "cloud of witnesses" named in Hebrews 11, but also of all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the body of Christ. Next Sunday, (11-04-18) at the end of our worship service, we will remember those from our church family who have died in the past year. We will also offer an invitation for any who have lost loved ones this year to remember and give thanks for their lives.

Once upon a time...there was an intergenerational storytelling event scheduled on November 11 at 4 p.m. Friends from FMC were scheduled to share scripture through various forms of storytelling in stations throughout the church. Plans were made to enjoy fellowship and refreshments following the event. And all were invited, whether they were 1 or 101 or somewhere in between! **To learn the ending of this story, be sure to sign up in the Fellowship Hall!**

Serving food at "Our Daily Bread" is an opportunity for us to get to know our Lima neighbors. We meet at 9:45 a.m. at church to car pool to Lima and are usually home before 1 p.m. If you would like a fun volunteer job, please contact John Rich.

It's almost comforter time and the kit box is full! Please take a kit or two and sew a comforter top for this season's two knotting events. Note that a few kits do include backings. Otherwise, fabric for backings is located in the bottom large bin in the quilt room if you can also prepare a backing. Thank you from the comforters committee for your support and time!

Thank you church family, for your kindness and care during and passing of my son Dan. Words cannot express my appreciation for all the prayers, food and cards. We are blessed to have such a loving church family. Romans 8:28 -- *Mary Amstutz*

Urgent assistance needed: On August 15, Cristopher (Cris), 7, was involved in a car accident at his home in Leipsic, resulting in the amputation of his right leg. He is being treated at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus. Cris' mother, Fatima, is with him, staying at Ronald McDonald House with her baby and 3-year-old. Until recently, her husband, Wilmer, was in ICE custody. He witnessed a gang murder in El Salvador, was captured and caged in Mexico, then escaped and fled across the border and found work in Ohio. A support group is helping the family on legal matters and coordinating assistance for the family. Cris will soon be discharged and his family will not be able to stay at Ronald McDonald House. Financial donations will be used for ongoing personal and legal expenses. For more details, speak with a member of Mission Peace and Service Commission. Make donations to Brazo en Brazo (note "For Cris" in the subject line) or to the GoFundMe campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/cristopher-mauricio-herrera> -- *MPS*

Reminders

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.

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.

As a fundraiser, the SHYF is taking orders for fair trade coffee. For each package sold, the youth 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 the 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*