

**Advent 4: Worth the wait
First Mennonite Church
December 22, 2019**

Call to Worship Chris Gott

One: Oh God, my God, I cry out to you.

Many: Asking, will I be saved to your goodness, forgiven of the brokenness I have made, certain that I am called to you?

One: Will I follow the child you sent to lead me? Will I no longer be afraid, but be restored?

All: God, what I am waiting for?

Prelude Laura Hartzler

Invocation

*Hymn "It came upon a midnight clear" HWB 195

*Responsive Reading from Psalm 80

Leader: Stir up your might, and come and save us!

People: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: Let your hand be upon us and make us strong.

People: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Leader: Give us life, and we will call on your name.

All: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Lighting of the Advent wreath Mel and Barb Stettler

*Hymn "O Long-Awaited" (vs. 1&4) HWB pocket

*Confession

All: God, we tire of waiting. We tire of scandal. We tire of bad news. We tire of requests for time, money, and soul. We tire of these because we frequently consider ourselves more righteous than we ought. Forgive us our stingy impatience, and grant us your generous Spirit.

(silence)

Leader: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts. Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Jubilate "The First Noel"
Ben Hartzler, guitar; Theo Andreas, violin

Conversation with Friends Rich and Gloria Bucher
"As the pauper waits for plenty" STS 9
(vs. 1 & 2 coming forward only)

Community prayer Steve Harnish

Chancel Choir "What Sweeter Music" John Rutter

Scripture Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:18-25
Ron Headings, Victoria Woods-Yee

Sermon "A child and a sign" Wanda Stopher

*Hymn "Savior of the nations, Come" HWB 173

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Laura Hartzler

*Hymn "Holy Child within the manger" (v.3) STS 28

*Prayer of dedication

*Hymn "Hark! The herald angels sing" HWB 201

*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 large print hymnals.*

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.

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; wanda@fmcbluffton.org
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); theda@fmcbluffton.org
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-11 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Asst. – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, fmc@fmcbluffton.org
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7-10 a.m., T-W-Th, weekends as needed

Greeter: Susie Gratz **Chancel:** Anita Lehman **Sound:** Chris Moser

Nursery today: Wendy Chappell Dick, Victoria Woods-Yee

Worship today: Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Ana Neufeld Weaver

Nursery next week: No SS

Worship next week: Betsi and Joe Werling, Sophia Gott

Our stewardship

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-236, MC-5
Volunteer hours	103
Spending plan giving 12-15-19 (w/e-giving)	\$19,047.00
Non-spending plan giving 12-15-19 (w/e-giving):	\$2,210.00
Capital campaign-\$55; JHY-\$110; SHY-\$120; Deacons ben-\$328	
Habitat-\$100; Mennonite-\$185; MDS-\$100; Freudige-\$20	
Hymnals-\$192; College scholarships-\$1,000;	
Total giving 12-15-19 (includes e-giving)	\$21,257.00
2019 spending plan	\$431,854.00

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.