

Reveal to us your faithful, loving presence

First Mennonite Church

March 8, 2020

In this season of cold and flu, please pass the peace of Christ with your words and eye contact, recognizing the light of Christ's presence within.

Welcome Jeff Boehr

Announcements

Prelude *In Christ There Is No East or West* arr. J. Blersch
LuAnn Stuckey

*Invocation

*Hymn *To God be the glory* HWB 102

Call to worship

Leader: We lift up our eyes looking for help.

People: Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Leader: When we have troubles and lack understanding, where does our help come from?

People: Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Leader: When we are invited into new ways of thinking and being, where does our help come from?

People: Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. Let us worship the One who faithfully helps us and never leaves us or forsakes us.

Chancel Choir *He Watching Over Israel* Felix Mendelssohn

Confession

All: We confess, O God, that you are faithful, loving, and totally trustworthy. We also confess our desire for what is familiar, comfortable, and secure. We acknowledge that you sometimes call us to accept new challenges, new ways of thinking, or new places of service. Lord, give us the grace

to respond to your call when you invite us into new ways of being.

(Silence)

Assurance of forgiveness (from Psalm 32)

Leader: Friends, the One who calls us is the faithful One who promised to never leave us or forsake us. May you know God's faithful presence more fully.

All: Thanks be to God.

Conversation with Friends Carrie Mast
Unless a grain of wheat STS 56
(vs. 1 forward and vs. 3 returning)

Community prayer Gloria Bucher

Scripture John 3:1-17 Steve, Carrie, Claire Phillips

Sermon *Birth Story* Wanda Stopher

Invitation

*Hymn *Mothering God, you gave me birth* HWB 482

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *To Thee, Lord of All* arr. K.T. Kosche

*Hymn *As saints of old (v. 2)* HWB 386

*Prayer of dedication

*Hymn *Of the Father's love begotten* HWB 104

*Benediction

Postlude LuAnn Stuckey

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

Greeter: Don Hooley

Sound: Kevin Cluts

Bulletin covers: Victoria Woods-Yee Chancel: Wendy Chappell-Dick

Nursery today: Monica Harnish, Mary Ina Hooley

Worship today: Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Grace Paquin

Nursery next week: Judy Diller, Gerald Mast

Worship next week: Kathy Dickson, Annette Heslep

Our stewardship

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-147, MC-5
Volunteer hours	69
Total spending plan giving March 2020 to date	\$3,464.14
Avg monthly offering needed to meet 2020 spending plan	\$37,136

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.



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