

**A World of Meaning
First Mennonite Church
September 16, 2018**

Procession

Welcome and Invocation Elizabeth Kelly

*Opening Hymn “Of the Father’s love begotten” HWB 104
Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, accompanist

*Responsive Reading Psalm 145 (NRSV)

Downstairs: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Upstairs: Every day I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

D: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

U: The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

D: They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

U: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

D: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

U: The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

D: The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.

All: You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

Conversation with Friends Kathy Dickson
HWB 570 “We walk by faith” (v. 1 for coming forward and v. 3 for returning)
Conversation

Community Prayer Ray Person

Scripture John 1:1-18 Chris Moser
Proverbs 8:1-11 Melissa Friesen

Sermon “Mystery in Plain Sight” Jeff Gundy

Scripture Proverbs 8:22-31 Ellie Hartzler

*Hymn “When long before time” STJ 25

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

*Hymn “Praise God from whom” (*verse A*) HWB 119

Parent Child Dedication John Douglas (JD) Sider, son of
Kathy Dickson and Alex Sider

Congregation: Alex and Kathy, you have entrusted JD on this day to God’s tender care. We rejoice with you in this act and give thanks for JD as a wonderful gift from God. For our part as your church family, we commit to praying for JD, to playing with him, to supporting him whenever we can, and to being examples of Christ’s love for him. We also promise to support you, Alex and Kathy, in your awesome task as parents and to care for you every step of the way. We will pray that God will bless you all with sufficient strength for the journey.

*Hymn “Immortal, invisible, God only wise” HWB 70

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.*

Jackie and Beth Wells have learned that their 10-month-old son, Greyden, has a tumor on his brain, as well as retinoblastoma in both eyes. Your cards and prayers are deeply appreciated. Their address is in the FMC address directory.

MCC response to flooding in India: The worst monsoon flooding in a century has damaged roads, homes and sources of income for hundreds of thousands of people in the Kerala state of India. As displaced people are returning to their homes, Mennonite Central Committee is working with Gilgal Mission Trust in India to provide tarps, food baskets, cooking utensils, and cleaning and hygiene items. Donations to support the response may be made at mcc.org/india-flooding; by phone at 888-563-4676; or by mail to MCC U.S., 21 S. 12th St., PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501.

Welcoming Statement

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, September 16, 2018

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Jeff Gundy preaching
Noon Community class potluck
1:30 p.m. SHYF
5:30 p.m. Learning Circle, supper provided, FH
6:30 p.m. Learning Circle, Maple Crest family room

September 17-22, 2018

Monday (9-17) Et Cetera Board, AR, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday (9-18) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (9-19) 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 (9-20) Council, 7 p.m., AR
Friday (9-21) Menno-Life deadline

Next Sunday, September 23, 2018

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Jeff Gundy of First Mennonite Church to the pulpit today. In addition to being an author of poetry, nonfiction and essay publications. Jeff is professor of English at Bluffton University, teaching creative writing, poetry, American literature, modern literature, and critical theory. The lyrics to the four songs he'll sing during today's sermon are available on the First Mennonite Church website at <http://fmcbluffton.org/bulletins/>.

Pastor Theda is at Camp Friedenswald this weekend as one of the speakers for the Central District Conference Women's Retreat.

Learning Circles are beginning! See the calendar for dates and locations. For additional information, take one of the bright orange-colored half sheets in the literature rack on the wall of the fellowship hall.

We will commission Carrie Mast in her new role as interim children and youth ministry director during worship on Sunday, Sept. 23. ~ *Governance Task Force*

Reminder: Extra copies of the year-long schedule for our study of "We Make the Road by Walking" are available on the literature racks on the wall near the door to the fellowship hall. Electronic copies are available from Mary Pannabecker Steiner at fmc@bluffton.edu. You may also order a book through the church office.

Church address directory: In anticipation of reprinting the address directory (*not the pictorial*), **please notify the church office of any changes to your contact information (i.e. address, phone number(s), e-mail addresses) by Sunday, Oct. 7.** Please submit via e-mail to fmc@bluffton.edu. If you don't use e-mail, submit in writing to the office or place in Mary Pannabecker Steiner's mailbox.

Sharing a meal together is one way FMC provides hospitality and fellowship. We will hold a potluck at noon in the fellowship hall following worship on Sunday, Sept. 30 to welcome Bluffton University students. Please bring food to share and your own table service. Students will be our guests. All are welcome!

During Mick Hardy's recovery, we appreciate the efforts of the "Three Micksketeers" who are covering Mick's custodial duties. During this time Everett Collier is tending the outside maintenance; Rich Bucher is setting up for events; and Jeff Boehr is covering day to day custodial tasks.

In our world we are constantly bombarded with words. Come away once a week to a quiet place. You are invited to Tuesday morning prayers, a quiet place to listen to the texts for the coming Sunday worship, a time to listen for the still small voice of the Spirit, and an opportunity to offer your own silent prayers of petition, praise, confession, and thanksgiving. Prayers are from 7-7:30 a.m. and are followed by a light breakfast and fellowship.

School kits will be collected through September. You may also donate health or relief kits at any time, but there will be a drive for them in spring 2019.

FMC members are needed to walk elementary students from school to Weekday Christian Education, which is held at First Mennonite. Walkers may cover one shift to all day. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Goings by phone/text at 419-303-6870 or at ajgoings@mercy.com.

Mennonite Memorial Home Service Group invites you to the Fall Festival Bake Sale on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21-22, beginning at 9 a.m. each day. While you are there, place a bid on one of the silent auction items. You may also donate a baked item to the bake sale by bringing your baked goodies to MMH by 9 a.m. Friday, or make a monetary donation by placing it Gloria Bucher's church mailbox. The MMH Service Group thanks you for your support.

Bluffton University events:

Sept. 18: Forum, "Debating the Constitution and Corporate Citizenship," Constitution Day Forum by Dr. Jonathan Andreas, professor of economics, and Dr. Perry Bush, professor of history, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

September 21: Colloquium, **Dr. Jackie Wyse-Rhodes**, assistant professor of religion, "Reading the Cosmos in Second Temple Jewish Literature: Nature as Model, Sign, Punishment, Witness and Mystery," 4 p.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall.

Sept. 25: University student Forum, spring 2017 cross-cultural experiences, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall