

**In Over Our Heads
First Mennonite Church
September 30, 2018**

Procession

Welcome and Announcements

Elizabeth Kelly

*Opening Hymn

“Christ is our cornerstone”

HWB 43

LuAnn Stuckey, accompanist

Invocation

Conversation with Friends

Elizabeth Kelly and Jeff Boehr

“We walk by faith” (*v. 1 for coming forward and v. 3 for returning*)

HWB 570

Community Prayer

Theda Good

Special Music

“O Lord Increase Our Faith”
Chancel Choir

Henry Loosemore

Scripture

Genesis 4:1-17, 6:5-6
James 4:1-8

Gayle Trollinger
Lawrence Matthews

*Responsive Reading

Psalm 51:6-12

**Downstairs: You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Upstairs: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**D: Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

U: Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**D: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^l spirit within me.**

U: Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**All: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Sermon

“Brother’s Keeper”

Wanda Stopher

*Hymn of Response

“From the depths of sin”

HWB 136

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Variations on Foundation” I,II

settings by J. Eggert
LuAnn Stuckey

*Hymn

“Praise God from whom” (*verse A*)

HWB 119

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Sending

“Breathe on me, breath of God”

HWB 356

Benediction

Postlude

“A Mighty Fortress “

M. Luther/C. Callahan

**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: Jane Steinmetz | **Greeter:** Jenny Moser | **Sound:** Melissa Friesen

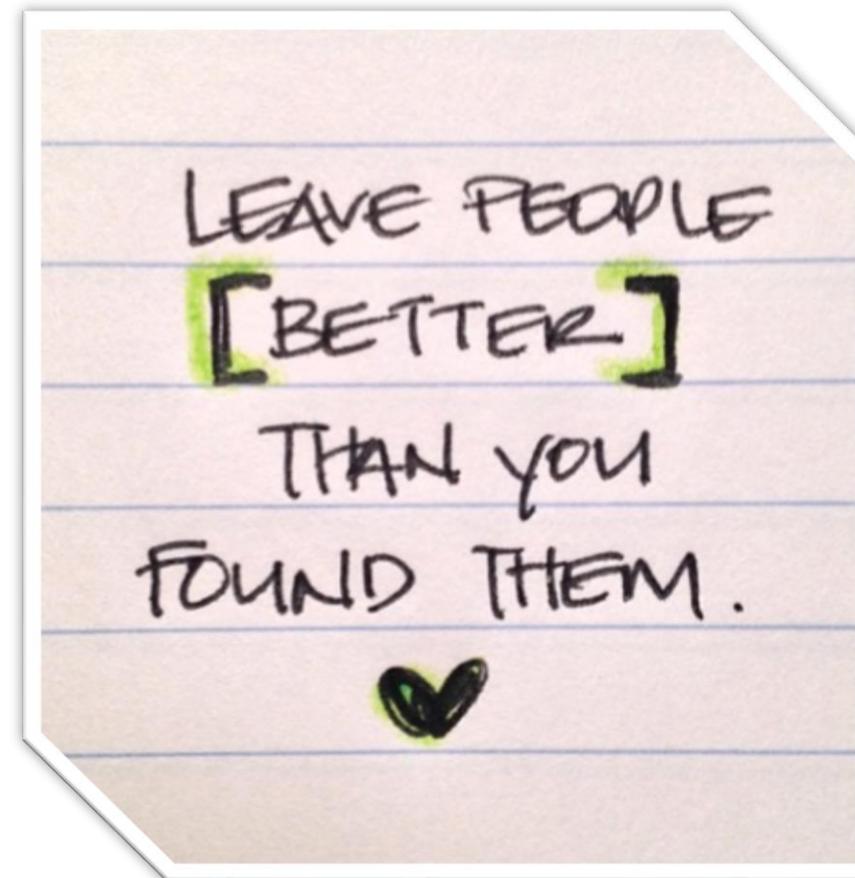
Nursery today: SS – Shelby and Kevin Cluts

Worship – Alison and Kevin King, Annalise Nisly

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-229, MC-4
Spending plan giving Sept. 23, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$2,182.25
Special fund giving Sept. 9, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5; Sojourners-\$6; Freudige; Faith and Life-\$7; Community-\$10; Faithful Living-\$10; SHYF-\$353.39; Kitchen service-\$6.33; Deacons Benevolent-\$50; Habitat; College schol;	
Flooring-\$175; ISAF; New hymnals; library; Brazo en Brazo	\$707.72
Total giving Sept. 23, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$2889.97
Total spending plan receipts as of August 31, 2018	\$238,446.66
Spending plan expenses as of August 31, 2018	\$260,271.15
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.



Blessed and grateful. Those words describe my appreciation for the benevolent gift to Jon's family during Braylon's cancer. Braylon is cancer free as of August 20th and his port was removed September 6th. Our last joy is their new home at 184 Albert Street. I feel all my prayers were answered and I definitely appreciate First Mennonite's prayers. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. *Bev Simon*

Ann Shumaker experienced a fall this week. She is at St. Rita's. Please remember her in your prayers.

Mary Pannabecker Steiner had a successful hip replacement surgery this week. She is recovering at home. Your prayers of support and encouragement are appreciated for healing and the rehabilitation process.

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.

Bluffton University:

October 2 – Forum, "Using Social Media to Strengthen Relationships" by She Langley, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

October 2 -- First Tuesday in the Library, "Beyond the Words" by Becky Boban, 11 a.m., Musselman Library

October 8-9 – Fall break

October 12 – Dr. Samuel H. Hancock book signing, 3-4 p.m., Musselman Library Reading Room

October 14 – Concert Band performance, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital 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, September 30, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	All-church potluck with university students, FH
5:30 p.m.	Learning Circle, supper provided, FH

October 1-6, 2018

Tuesday (10-2)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (10-3)	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 (10-4)	Worship, 7 p.m.

Next Sunday, October 7, 2018

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, JP Schumacher preaching Communion

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

Learning Circles have begun! 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.

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. If you wish to read the electronic version of the book, you’ll need to order it from your own device and submit your bill to the church office for reimbursement.

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.

Communion 10-07-18: As is our practice, next Sunday we will join the church around the world in celebration of World Communion Sunday. In worship, we will observe communion and gift thanks for the church. Please take time this week in preparation, reviewing and considering your relationship with God and with your sisters and brothers. In this way, we tend both to our relationships and to the unity within Christ’s body.

Another practice we observe associated with communion is the giving of alms. We do this at FMC by giving to the Deacons Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community.

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.

Are you new to First Mennonite Church? Do you want to know more about the church? Are you interested in exploring or refreshing your memory regarding what it means to be a member of this congregation? If so, you’re invited to attend a membership class that will be held from 9-10 a.m. October 14, 21, 28, and November 4. Please contact either Pastor Wanda or Pastor Theda if you have questions or to express interest.

Annual open house: The Et Cetera Shop Inc. stores will hold an open house on Sunday, Oct. 7, from 1-3 p.m. Et Cetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages and Book ReViews will offer substantial savings to shoppers. Et Cetera Shop - save 50% off on everything in the store; Ten Thousand Villages – save 25% off everything in the store and Book ReViews, save 25% on all regular priced books. Each store will have an enter-to-win and provide refreshments. Come for great deals and a head start on Christmas shopping.

Connecting Faith and Mental Health: Sacred Spaces and Safe-Zones is a workshop for faith leaders, professionals, families and supporters of people living with mental illness. The workshop is being held October 4, 2018 in Toledo. See the posters in Fellowship Hall and entryway bulletin boards for details.

Enneagram Workshop, Grace Mennonite, Saturday, October 6 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. A light lunch and snacks are included in the registration. You may register at <https://www.gracepandora.org/> by calling Grace at (419) 384-3038, or signing up in Fellowship Hall. Child care is available by emailing gmc@bluffton.edu

