

**Celebration: Enjoying Life
First Mennonite Church
August 19, 2018**

Music calls us to worship Laura Hartzler
Welcome and announcements Rhonda Winstead
Introductions
Prelude Laura Hartzler
Call to Worship
***Opening Hymns** John & Melinda Estell
***Responsive Reading** Psalm 100 (NRSV)
L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
**C: Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his
people, and the sheep of his pasture.**
L: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him,
bless his name.
**C: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to
all generations.**
Special Music “Amazing Grace” John Newton
Joyce Hostetler, Alice Lora, Teri Sato, Cheri Slotter, and Pat Sheidler
(Congregation: Hum on third round, sing first verse on fourth round)
Conversation with Friends Elizabeth Kelly
“Come, let us all unite to sing” (v. 1 coming forward and v.2 for return) HWB 12

Community Prayer Theda Good
Scripture Matthew 9:14-17 Elam Suter
Sermon “Celebration!” Shannon Thiebeau
***Hymn** “Come, thou fount” HWB 521
Presenting our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory Medley of “Nearer My God to Thee” Lowell Mason
and “I’ll Fly Away” Albert E. Brumley
Dulcimer Group
***Hymn** “Heart and mind, possessions, Lord” (vs. 1) HWB 392
***Prayer of Dedication**
***Hymn** “You shall go out with joy” HWB 427
Benediction
Postlude
**Please rise in body or in spirit.*
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book 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
Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: 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, Tues, 8:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.; mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

Sound: Kevin Cluts

Greeter: Sally Roth

Nursery this week: SS – Laura and Greg Hartzler

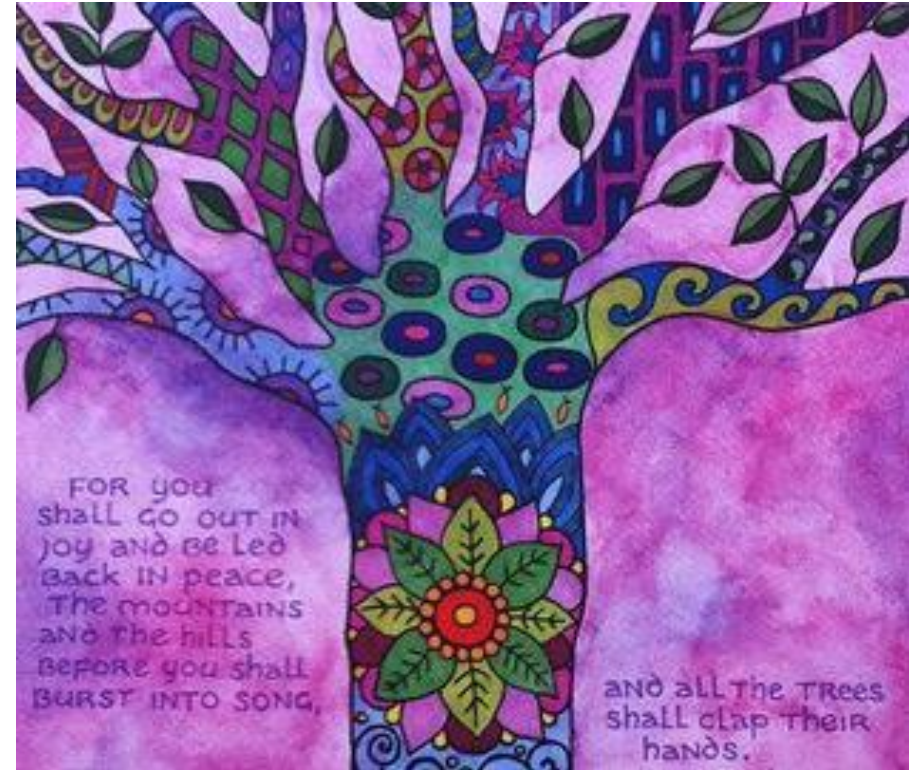
Worship – Mary Ina Hooley, Melissa Friesen, Annalise Nisly

Nursery next week: SS – Anita and George Lehman

Worship – John & Julie Mackey, Sunita Hooley

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-144, MC-7
Spending plan giving August 12, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$5,682.00
Special fund giving August 12, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$4.20; Freudige-\$20; Kitchen-\$2; School kits-\$90; Flooring-\$355; Coll scholarship-\$50; J. Moser-\$100	\$621.20
Total giving August 12, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,303.20
Total spending plan receipts as of June 30, 2018	\$189,473.39
Spending plan expenses as of June 30, 2018	\$198,232.79
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.

Transition Bluffton will sponsor a presentation on “Bluffton Recycling Dos & Don’ts: What We’re Doing Right, What We’re Doing Wrong and How How We Can Do Better” Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Bluffton town hall. The speaker is Dennis Baker, executive director of the North Central Ohio Solid Waste District. ~ *MPS Commission*

Mission Peace and Service needs hosts for four individuals from Japan who are part of the World Friendship Center PAX organization. They will be at FMC and Bluffton University Thursday, Sept. 27, telling stories and performing a play of the impact of the A-bomb on Hiroshima. Hosting includes providing lodging for two nights and breakfasts Sept. 26-27. For more information, contact Alice Ruth Ramseyer at 419-358-0835 or ramseyer@wcoil.com.

Findlay High School’s steel drum band, Pantasia, will perform a free concert today at 6:30 p.m. at Mennonite Memorial Home. The MHCO service group will serve ice cream. In case of heavy rain, the concert will be cancelled. Visit the MHCO Facebook page for updated information.

Beiler is the author of “Think No Evil: Inside the Story of the Amish Schoolhouse Shooting... and Beyond,” which is this year’s summer reading for first-year Bluffton students. The event will introduce Bluffton’s 2018-19 Civic Engagement Theme: “When Talking is Tough: Respectful Conversations in a Divided Nation.” Beiler will focus on the witness of the Amish following the West Nickel Mines School shooting. Cofounder and chairman of The Angela Foundation, Beiler grew up in an Old-Order Amish family, and is a licensed family. He is married to Anne Beiler, founder and creator of Auntie Anne’s Soft Pretzels.

A support group for caregivers of spouses or family members with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia is held the third Monday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the Mennonite Memorial Home library. For more information, contact Tricia Herrmann at 419-358-1015, ext. 221 or therrmann@mhcoliving.org.

The Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service raised a total of \$31,000 over the last 3½ years for a trailer, tools, and equipment to respond timely and efficiently to local disasters. FMC contributed \$2,400 to the project. Thank you! Pictures of the fully equipped trailer are on the bulletin board in fellowship hall. Lawrence Matthews is the MDS church contact and secretary/treasurer for the MDS Western Ohio Unit.

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, August 19, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Shannon Thiebeau preaching, school cafeteria
Noon	Community SS class potluck

August 20-25, 2018

Tuesday (8-21)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. (prayer room upstairs) Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (8-22)	SS Teacher Appreciation Dinner, 5-8 p.m., Assembly Room
Thursday (8-23)	Staff retreat, office closed Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (8-24)	Menno-Life deadline

Next Sunday, August 26, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Church picnic, Village Park

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregational meeting originally scheduled for today has been postponed and rescheduled for Sunday, Sept. 9. The meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Annual reports will be in church mailboxes next Sunday for your review prior to the meeting. Among other items, the agenda will include a ballot vote regarding calling Wanda to renew her term. Absentee ballots will be available with more information and instructions to follow next week. ~ *Kendra Nickel, Moderator*

The church office will be closed Thursday, Aug. 23 for the staff retreat. The office will reopen Friday, Aug. 24.

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

NEXT SUNDAY: The annual church picnic will be on Sunday, August 26, at the Bluffton Village Park. Please bring a hot and a cold dish to share, as well as table service for your family. Water will be provided. **NOTE:** The I75 overpass on County Line Road next to the Village Park will be closed to all traffic. Plan on using an alternate route* or ride your bike. The bicycle path under I75 on the way to the park will not be affected.
***Alternate route: Travel east on Route 103 to Township Road 51. Turn right (south) on 51 to County Road 29. Turn right (west) on 29 and right again (north) on County Line Road.**
~ *Nurture Commission*

Mick Hardy will have surgery to repair his shoulder on August 28. This will necessitate alternative coverage of Mick's custodial duties over the next three months. Please see Dave Moser for more information or to express interest.

Please consider joining one of our musical ensembles. We welcome new members in addition to the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (**adults of all ages**) begins on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m., Mark Suderman, director, sanctuary
- Adult (**adults of all ages**) and Youth (**Grades 7-12**) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, Ray Raeburn, director, Assembly Room
- Cherub Choir (**3 yr. old-1st grade**) begins on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children's choir room
- Jubilate (**2nd-5th grade**) begins on Wednesday, Sept., 5 at 6:30 p.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children's choir room
- Youth Choir (**7th grade and up**) will meet on Sunday, Sept., 16 at 8:30 a.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children's choir room
 - *Parents of young children new to choir are welcome to stay as needed.*

Email Update: As Shannon Thiebeau transitions from her role as Youth Ministry Director, so will her email transition to shannonthiebeau@gmail.com.

Jo Clemens slipped and fell, breaking her shoulder. She had surgery to repair the damage. Please pray for her healing.

Volunteers are needed to operate the elevator September 9-30. If you are able to be at the church at 8:50 a.m. Sundays to help during Sunday school and before and after worship on any of those dates, please contact Linda Miller 419.358.0439 or lindapmiller@juno.com or Heidrun Awad at 419.358.1390 or hawad@wcoil.com.

Sanctuary renovation schedule:

- Nearly done: Hardwood flooring installed, sanding and clear coating of wood floor under and in balcony
- August 20-25 or 31: Carpet installed and new rubber stairs by Church St. door

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 8. Governance Task Force invites you to save the morning of September 8 for a Governance Workshop at the retreat for all commission members. ***Please note that all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend!*** This is an opportunity for us to discern a new path together. Marathana Prothro will facilitate conversation and food will be provided. Childcare will be available as needed. More information will be forthcoming. Copies of *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* (Dan Hotchkiss) are available in the church office. All are encouraged to read it. Hotchkiss helps readers think about the necessary role of governance that supports and sustains our primary tasks of mission and ministry. The September 8 retreat will use this work to help us establish a common vocabulary for our ongoing conversations. Come to the retreat even if you didn't read the book.

Mennonite Women at First Mennonite will celebrate 100 years of meeting together as an individual church this fall. On September 10, we will kick off the year with a birthday party to review highlights of the many groups and activities that have happened within our walls during this time. Joanne Niswander has found information in the university archives and will have some of that on display. Anyone with memorabilia that help to highlight events and projects that have occurred over the years should contact Lori Nester at 419-358-9650 or nesterl@bluffton.edu.

Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald is slated for September 14-16. The theme is *Hearing Your Voice, Finding Ours*. Women ages 18-25 attend at no cost. Register at <https://friedenswald.org/retreats/#womens-retreat>.

MCC kit collection: See the kit collection area in the fellowship hall for required items. We need bag fabric and people to sew bags; heavier fabric is ideal for school kits. Sewing directions are on the kit cards in the kit collection. Some precut bags and cords are also there. **Relief kits:** Kit lists are posted in the kit collection area or you may write a check to FMC listing "relief kits" on the memo line
~ *Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller*

Reminders:

- **Check the new hanging literature racks in the fellowship hall for copies of the Central District Conference July Reporter, which covers the annual meeting.**
- **You may still request a free copy of “We Make the Road by Walking.” Sign up in the cafetorium or fellowship hall, or request one from the church office.**