

14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 14, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Shannon Thiebeau, worship leader

Prelude “O How I Love the Savior’s Name” arr. Kenon Renfrow

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

Opening Hymns Gerald Mast, song leader

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth

C: before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might and save us!

L: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

C: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

L: The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;

C: it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.

L: Why have you broken down its walls, so all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?

C: The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

L: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine,

C: the stock that your right hand planted. They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

L: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

C: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, we will call your name.

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

Special Music “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” Horatius Bonar
Wendy Chappell-Dick, vocal and dulcimer

Time with Children

Hymn “Jesus calls us here to meet him” (vs. 1) STJ 3

Conversation Lori Nester

Hymn “Jesus calls us here to meet him” (vs. 2) STJ 3

Pastoral Prayer

— PROCLAIMING —

Antiphonal Scripture Reading Hebrews 11 (*see opposite page*)

Sermon “Navigating the divine sojourn” George O’Reilly
(Sermon based on Acts 6:1-8:1)

***Hymn** “All glory be to God on high” HWB 122

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Amazing Grace” arr. Joseph M. Martin

***Hymn of Dedication** “Take my life” (verses 3 & 4) HWB 389

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “You shall go out with joy” HWB 427

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: fmcbluffton.org

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor – Wanda – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday

Pastoral Associate – George – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Custodian's schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

GREETERS: Fran Core, Vicky Laird

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – No nursery

Worship – Sabrina and Kurt Longworth, Anna Biesecker-Mast and Grace Paquin

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – No nursery

Worship – Amy Blount, Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Annalise Nisly

SOUND SYSTEM: Don Pannabecker

CHANCEL: Mary Amstutz

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, www.fmcbluffton.org. Videos normally are posted on the Tuesday following the service. Previously recorded worship service videos may be found at tinyurl.com/fmc-videos

OUR STEWARDSHIP

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Worship attendance last Sunday (Community Worship Service) | 218 |
| Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday | 5 |
| Spending plan giving August 7, 2016 | \$9,889.00 |
| 2016 Proposed spending plan | \$418,276.00 |
| The offering August 7 totaled \$12,475.25. Money was received for these special funds: Freudige - \$50, capital campaign - \$185, sister church - \$145, Syrian student project - \$2,000, college scholarships - \$87, kitchen services - \$4.25, deacons' benevolent - \$60, school kits - \$25, Steve Yoder memorial - \$30. | |

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
Pastoral Associate – George O'Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – fmc.george@bluffton.edu
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu
Director of Music – Mark Suderman
Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau
Custodian – Mick Hardy
Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu

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.

FAITH is
confidence in what we
HOPE for and
assurance
about what we do not
SEE
Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11 – Selected Verses – Antiphonal Reading

LDR — Leader **RIGHT — Congregation right** *LEFT— Congregation left*

LDR: Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of realities that are unseen.

RIGHT: It is for their faith that our ancestors are acknowledged. ...

ALL: Now it is impossible to please God without faith, since anyone who comes to God must believe that God exists and rewards those who seek God. ...

LEFT: It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants,

RIGHT: and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

LEFT: By faith he sojourned in the Promised Land as though it were not his, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob,

RIGHT: who were heirs with him of the same promise.

ALL: He looked forward to the well-founded city, designed and built by God

LEFT: All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised,

RIGHT: but they saw them in the far distance and welcomed them, recognizing that they were only strangers and nomads on earth.

LEFT: People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of a homeland.

RIGHT: If they had meant the country they came from, they would have had the opportunity to return to it;

LEFT: but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland.

ALL: That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since God has founded the city for them.

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.

TODAY, August 14, 2016

9:15 a.m. Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH
Adult SS - Neufeld-Weavers, FH
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching

THIS WEEK

Monday (8-15) Et Cetera Board, 7-9 p.m., AR
Tuesday (8-16) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Thursday (8-18) Council, 7 p.m., AR

NEXT WEEK

9:15 a.m. Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH
Congregational Meeting, FH
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Communion
Noon Community class potluck

Upcoming events: The annual congregational meeting will be held during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, August 21. The annual commission meeting will be held during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, August 28. The annual church picnic will be held at noon Sunday, August 28, at the Bluffton Village Park, County Line Road. Please bring a hot and a cold dish to share, as well as table service for your family. Beverages will be provided.

Welcome to our worship service today. Please sign and pass the friendship pads in the pews. Wireless hearing aids are available. If you would like your children watched over while you worship, our staff will care for them in the nursery downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Wanda is on vacation and will return to the office Tuesday, August 16. For pastoral care please contact Pastor George.

Change in address: Mary Ann Kooker has moved to 700 Maple Crest Ct., Apt. E008, Bluffton, OH 45817.

Change in address: This week, Willadene Keeney will move to the home of her daughter, Lois Palmer. Her new address is 312 Campus Court, North Newton, KS 67117.

Everence® has released the fourth resource of its ongoing educational series, “7 steps to integrating faith and finances.” This month’s topic, “Connect my faith to my protection plan,” provides a biblical perspective on the topic of insurance, plus practical advice about when each type is appropriate. We encourage you to take a little time with this resource as a way of looking at your finances from a faith perspective. We will e-mail this document to those for whom we have e-mail addresses. We will also place some print copies in the fellowship hall.

Our mission partner, Bruce Yoder, is defending his doctoral thesis on the Nigeria Mennonite Church. Pray for safety as he travels from Burkina Faso to Massachusetts and that this thesis will further God’s mission. Bruce and his wife, Nancy Frey, and their children, Deborah and Jeremiah, are FMC’s mission partners in Burkina Faso.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nine members of Central District Conference will gather with a four-member MC USA Peer Review Team for an on-site visit on Friday, August 19. The on-site visit is part of a pilot Peer Review as identified in the Membership Guidelines Resolution passed at KC 2015. The agenda for the August 19 visit includes prayer, sharing, listening and reflection. If you would like more information or have questions regarding this process, please contact the CDC office at 574-534-1485 or email office@mcusacdc.org. The participants of the review value your prayers for God’s wisdom and guidance.

Register now for Camp Friedenswald’s Women’s Retreat scheduled for September 16-18. Cost: \$150; 25 and under, free. Presenter: Ohio Region Planning Committee. Join us for a weekend of conversations about faith and food! The speakers, Katie Kuntz-Wineland (a seminarian and student minister) and Beth Kuntz-Wineland (a certified plant-based chef) will lead participants in reflection about holistic wellness as a spiritual practice. Inspired by three cookbooks (*More with Less*, *Simply in Season*, and *Extending the Table*), discussion will focus on living simply, embracing the seasons, and practicing hospitality.

Registration is now open for the Women Doing Theology Conference, “I’ve got the power: Naming and reclaiming power as a force for good, which will take place” November 4-6 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. Come to listen to the stories of women from all across the country and come to share your own. Come to build relationships. Come to nurture your soul, challenge your mind and find rest for your body. We’ll be focusing our conversations and presentations on power: recognizing, honoring, sharing, celebrating and transforming the way we use it. Sponsor: Women in Leadership Project of Mennonite Church USA. Cost: \$400 by August 31, which includes a private room and all meals and snacks. Partial scholarships for women of color are available; apply by September 23. See the conference webpage for information on speakers, registration and scholarships: <http://mennoniteusa.org/wlp-conference>.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

As people of FMC identify concerns for prayer or expressions of gratitude for kindnesses, we list those here. Please feel free to let us know what we could share for you.

—FMC staff

Happy birthday to: Dorothy Hoffman, 95, August 19; Neil Kehler, 84, August 19; and Eleanor Baumgardner, 92, August 21.

Happy anniversary to: Jo and Stan Clemens, 54, August 19; Trella and Dwight Kauffman, 51, August 20; Elnore and Burton Yost, 67, August 21.

Ernie Porzelius is grateful for the prayers and support from FMC during his recent hospitalization and his current rehabilitation at Mennonite Memorial Home. He is pleased with his progress and very appreciative of the care received at Mennonite Home and looks forward to returning to his home.

We offer prayers of support to Olwen Pritchard, whose husband, Jim Satterwhite, died August 10 at Hilty Home. Arrangements are incomplete at Chiles-Laman, Bluffton.