

**Bridges among us: Conversation about family**

**August 20, 2017**

**10:30 a.m.**

**–GATHERING –**

**Chimes call us to worship** Laura Hartzler, accompanist

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Laurel Neufeld Weaver, worship leader

**Prelude** “Musette” J.S. Bach  
*Benjamin, Ellie and Laura Hartzler*

**Call to worship**

**Opening Hymns** Gerald Mast  
Anna Biesecker-Mast

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 133

L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**C: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

**All: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**

**– PRAISING –**

**Conversation with Friends**  
**Hymn** “God's Family” (vs. 1) See insert  
**Conversation** Wanda Stopher  
**Hymn** “God's Family” (vs. 3) See insert

**Pastoral Prayer** Wanda Stopher

**Commissioning** Jan Wiebe, Jonathon, Isaac, Seth and Theo Andreas  
Justin Neufeld Weaver

**Special Music** “Bouree” G.F. Handel  
*Benjamin and Laura Hartzler*

**– RESPONDING –**

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “My Soul is Filled with Joy” arr. David Haas  
*Benjamin, Ellie and Laura Hartzler*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**– PROCLAIMING –**

**Scripture** Genesis 12:1-3; Mark 3:31-35; Acts 3:25

**Sermon** “Spreading the Blessing” George O’Reilly

**\*Hymn** “You walk along our shoreline” STJ 99

**– COMMUNION –**

**The Invitation**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Sharing the Bread**

**Sharing the Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**– SENDING –**

**\*Hymn** “Become to us the living bread” HWB 475

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*\*Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.)  
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey  
Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.*

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**

**101 S. Jackson Street**

**Bluffton, Ohio 45817**

**Phone: 419-358-5766**

**Website: [fmcbluffton.org](http://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:** Cheryl Slotter, Margie Closson

**HOST:** Lori Nester

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Shelby Cluts, Lori Nester

**Worship** – Kevin Cluts, Rachel Diller, Grace Paquin

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Kevin and Alison King, Christopher Harnish

**Worship** – Melinda, Patrick & Rebecca Estell

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Melissa Friesen

**CHANCEL:** Alison King/Banner

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmcbluffton.org](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-201, MC-4
Spending plan giving Aug. 13, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$9,124.00
Special fund giving Aug. 13, 2017: <i>Grades K-5-\$10.08; Freudige-\$10; sch kits-\$75;</i>	\$2,274.42
MW comforters-\$500; Habitat-\$120; Deac Bene-\$305; Kitchen-\$5.95;	
Justin N-F VS-\$50; Coll schol-\$100; E. Luginbuhl mem-\$100; SHYF-\$798.39; Misc.-\$200	
Total giving Aug. 13, 2017	\$11,398.42
Total spending plan receipts as of July 31, 2017	\$224,479.89
Spending plan expenses as of July 31, 2017	\$236,660.94
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

**CHURCH STAFF**

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

*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.*

# Bridges Among Us



Conversation  
about family

**FMC phone/address directory:** Please remember to provide updates of phone numbers/addresses for yourself and/or family members. We're in the process of updating the phone and address directory (this is separate from the photo directory.)

**We received the electronic version of the August CDC Focus** and have e-mailed it to those for whom we have addresses. There are also some print copies in the literature rack in the fellowship hall.

**All are invited to attend the Brazo en Brazo Fiesta Familiar** on Sunday, Sept. 10, from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church, 1318 N. Main St. This event includes games, food and music for all ages. Donations will be accepted.

**We are looking for church friends** who might be interested in spending some one-on-one time with Ethan, a happy and very active two-year-old who likes to play with balls, swing, and go on long walks with his lawn mower, or Brycson, a 7-year-old autistic child who is sensitive, caring, and interested in fishing, animals and crafts, but needs some help with reading. If interested please contact Wendy or Andy [wendy@mennofolk.org](mailto:wendy@mennofolk.org).

**Lima Mennonite Church** invites you to join them for a hymn sing using Hymnal: a worship book, Sing the Journey, and Sing the Story on Sunday August 27 at 7:30 pm. Snacks and sweets will be available for purchase to help fund our efforts toward children's ministry. Tea and coffee will be free. The church is located at 1318 N Main St, Lima.

**The Lima ReStore is in need of volunteers**, according to Bill Croft. The current federal administration eliminated a program that gave troubled young people an opportunity for employment at non-profits. The ReStore had the equivalent of nearly 10 full-time workers through that program but those persons are now gone. Therefore, they need volunteers immediately. Saturdays and Mondays are the best days for volunteers to clean and categorize incoming donations and move them to the floor to be sold. See Bill Croft if you are interested.

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy anniversary** to Dwight and Trella Kauffman, 53rd, Aug. 20; Elnore and Burton Yost, 68<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 21; **LaVonne and Paul Klassen, 70<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 23!**

**Happy birthday** to John Murray, 81<sup>st</sup>, Aug. 21; Eleanor Baumgardner, 93<sup>rd</sup>, Aug. 21.

### 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 20, 2017

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, George O'Reilly preaching, communion
Noon	SHYF fundraiser meal, FH
12:30 p.m. ( <i>approx.</i> )	Congregational meeting, sanctuary

### THIS WEEK

Monday (8-21)	Et Cetera Board, 7 p.m., AR
Tuesday (8-22)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Thursday (8-24)	Pastor's visit with MC residents, 2:30 p.m., MC Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (8-25)	Menno-Life deadline
Saturday (8-26)	Commission reorganization, 1-5 p.m., Bluffton Village Park

### NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	All-church picnic, Bluffton Village Park

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**Artwork and resources displayed on the back communion table** are on loan from The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University to reflect the various conversation topics during the summer worship series.

**The SHYF is hosting a fundraiser meal** today after worship in the fellowship hall. The menu will include Mexican haystacks and Tres Leches cake. Cost is by donation. **The congregational meeting will follow at approximately 12:30 p.m. Childcare will be available.**

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 watched over while you worship, our staff will care for them in the nursery downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today we will receive Communion.** Please note that all the bread today is gluten free. As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC include the giving of alms. We do this 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. Baskets are available at the doors.

*Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer!*

*Come to the table humbly,*

*not because you have earned a place here,*

*but because you know your need of mercy and help.*

*Come because you love God and want to love God more.*

*Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us.*

*Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit.*

*Come, by the mystery of God's grace,*

*One Spirit-filled people of God,*

*the body of Christ present here and now.*

*(compiled and adapted from various sources)*

**Bring your backpack, lunch box or other school item** to worship next Sunday!

Sunday, August 27 our worship will highlight our Christian Education programs and the "back-to-school" season. Students and educators of all age and stages are encouraged to bring a school bag or other item you will be taking back to school with you for our "Conversation with Friends" during worship.

**The annual church picnic** will be held at noon Sunday, August 27, 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.

**Shannon Thiebeau's hours:** Beginning the week of August 28, Shannon's new office hours will be Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Pastor George is on vacation through August 27,** visiting with family members. For pastoral care, please call Pastor Wanda.

**New photo directory:** Photos for the First Mennonite photo directory will be taken Sept 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30. This new smaller photo book will help us better know each other so your photo is very important. Photos will be taken in the fellowship hall. More information will be available soon. **Also, we need photo directory helpers!** We need several volunteers to be hosts, some to make brief reminder calls, etc. Contact Pastor George if you're interested in helping.

**Music ensemble rehearsals to begin:** note the dates, times, locations and ages for the church's music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship for our congregation and encourage others to join. We would gladly welcome new additions to the ensembles and will greatly enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 7 p.m. (Mark Suderman, director) – Adult Choir Room
- Adult (adults of all ages) and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively (Ray Raeburn, director) – assembly room
- Cherub Choir (3yr. olds-1st graders) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- Jubilate (2nd-5<sup>th</sup> graders) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. - (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- Youth Choir (7th grade and up) will meet on Sunday, September 10 at 8:30 a.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
  - *Parents with new choir members are welcome to stay as needed.*

**School Kits:** We are in immediate need of bag fabric and people to sew bags! Heavier fabric is ideal for school kits. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of the fellowship hall. Some pre-cut bags and cords are also there. ***Please limit your generosity to the following items for each kit:***

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 ½ x 10 ½ in. and 70 sheets)
- 8 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30 cm and 12 in.)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser

-- Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller