

Christian Education Sunday

August 27, 2017

10:30 a.m.

–GATHERING –

Chimes call us to worship Elaine Suderman, accompanist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Rhonda Winstead, worship leader

Prelude “He Leadeth Me” arr. Melody Bober

Call to worship Victoria Woods-Yee

Opening Hymns Marlyce and Jeff Gundy

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 124

L: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side – let Israel now say –

C: if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,

L: then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

C: then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

L: then over us would have gone the raging waters.

C: Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.

L: We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

– PRAISING –

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “God's Family” (vs. 1) See insert

Conversation Rhonda Winstead, Shannon Thiebeau

Back-to-School Blessing, Welcoming New Youth Group Members, Presentation of Key Chains

Hymn “God's Family” (vs. 2) See insert

Sunday school reflections

Adam Phillips, Jean Miller

Special Music

“When You Walk On”
Jeff and Marlyce Gundy

Eliza Gilkyson

Pastoral Prayer

Elizabeth Kelly

– PROCLAIMING –

Scripture

Romans 12:1-8

Amber Shelly

Sermon

“Be Reasonable”

Wanda Stopher

***Hymn**

“O God, who give us life”

HWB 483

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

arr. Melody Bober

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn of Dedication**

“We give thee but thine own” (vs. 1)

HWB 384

– SENDING –

***Hymn**

“I was there to hear your borning cry”

STJ 89

***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

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.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

GREETERS: Jon Diller, Margie Closson

HOST: Lori Nester

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Kevin and Alison King, Christopher Harnish

Worship – Melinda, Patrick & Rebecca Estell

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS –

Worship –

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

CHANCEL: Alison King/Banner

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

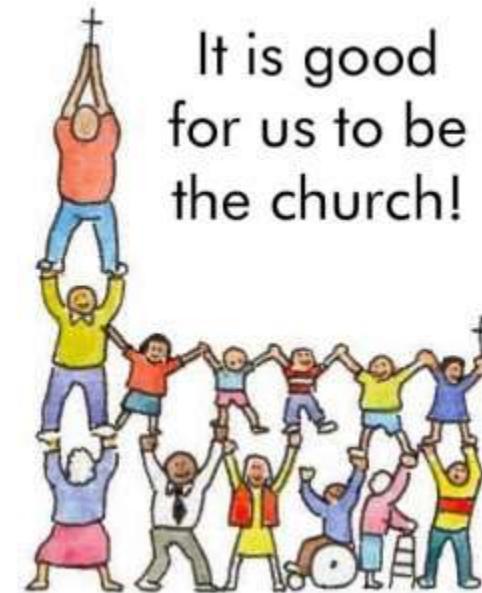
OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-197, MC-10
Spending plan giving Aug. 20, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$7,664.27
Special fund giving Aug. 20, 2017: Grades K-5-\$5.62; Deac Bene-\$48; Kitchen-\$5.95;	\$757.62
Coll schol-\$36; SHYF-\$225; Freudige-\$10	
Total giving Aug. 20, 2017	\$8,421.89
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
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
Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - 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.



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.

Lima Mennonite Church invites you to join them for a hymn sing using Hymnal: a worship book, Sing the Journey, and Sing the Story today at 7:30 p.m. 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 annual Adriel benefit golf scramble will be Monday, Sept. 11, at Eagle Stock Golf Club in Defiance. Additional information is on the bulletin board near the Jackson Street door. For more information, call 937-465-0010, ext. 113.

Armed conflict in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has displaced 1.4 million people, including 8,000 Mennonites. A Congolese assessment team has found a severe lack of food and increasing malnutrition. Families had to leave their fields and animals when they fled and food that is available for purchase is very expensive. An Anabaptist response is underway, shaped and implemented by Congolese Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren church-based relief committees, coordinated by Mennonite Central Committee and supported by global and Canada- and U.S.-based Anabaptist organizations. Your gift of money will help provide food, household items and shelter supplies. Make your donation online at mcc.org/congo-relief or by phone, 1-888-563-4676; mail checks to MCC, PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501. Please keep those who have been forced from their homes and those hosting them, in your prayers.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy anniversary to Elfrieda and Richard Ramseyer, 59th, Aug. 30.

Happy birthday to Ruth Naylor, 83rd, Sept. 3.

Anne Buller fell last week following the congregational meeting and had hip surgery on August 22. Cards may be sent to her at 815 Red Maple Court, Bluffton.

Sally Roth had knee replacement surgery on August 22 and is recuperating at home.

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 27, 2017

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

THIS WEEK

Monday (8-28)	Volunteers leave for Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday (8-29)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Thursday (8-31)	Great Day of Singing planning committee, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m.	Fall quarter begins Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Gerald Mast preaching
Noon	Connections potluck

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

The annual church picnic will be held at noon today 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.

Pastor Wanda will be on vacation this week, visiting family. For pastoral care needs, please call Pastor George.

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.

Photo directory underway: Photo sessions will be Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2-9 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2-9 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 28, 2-9 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. You may schedule your photo appointment time online at our website: fmcbluffton.org. The link is located in the banner just beneath the photo slide show on the home page. If you need help with online sign up, Gloria Hernandez Bucher is available to assist. Beginning Sunday, Sept. 3, you may sign up in the fellowship hall after worship. Large families or families wishing to take multi-generation photographs will need to schedule two back-to-back sessions.

Bicyclists: Please place your bikes in the rack at the rear of the church. Leaning and pushing your bikes into the landscaping is damaging it. *– Thank you, Trustees*

Sharing a meal together is one way our church family provides hospitality and fellowship. We are hosting a carry-in meal at noon in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 10 to welcome Bluffton University students. Please plan to bring plenty of food to share and your own table service. Students will be our guests; food, drink and table service will be provided for them. Everyone is welcome.

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-5th 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.*

The service group of Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will hold a silent auction during the annual fall festival on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Mennonite Memorial Home. The service group is seeking donations for the fundraiser. Donated items in the past have included wooden items, quilted items, pottery, canned goods, antiques, unique crafts and specialty baskets. If you would like to donate an item, please sign the sheet in the fellowship hall or contact Benji Bergstrand, MHCO volunteer coordinator, at 419.358.1015, ext 248, by Wednesday, Aug. 30. Bidding will begin on Monday, Sept. 18, and will close at noon on Saturday, Sept. 23. Thank you for your continued support.

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 a thank you from the Sisters of St. Francis for our support of their Project Hope Ministry. We've shared Sister Sara Aldridge's letter on the "Here and Now" pillar in the fellowship hall.