

12th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau

Call to Worship, Announcements, Introductions Shelby Cluts

— PRAISING —

Invocation

Opening Hymns Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

*Responsive Reading *Psalm 19:7-11*

L: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

C: the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

L: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

C: the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

L: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

C: the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

L: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

C: sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

ALL: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Time with Children

Hymn “Lord, we bring to you our children” STJ 90
(Sing vs. 1 for coming forward)

Conversation Jo Pannabecker and Ana Neufeld-Weaver

Hymn “Lord, we bring to you our children” STJ 90
(Sing vs. 1 for coming forward)

Special Music “Your presence is my favorite gift of all” Claire Lynch
Wendy Chappell-Dick

Commissioning for Service

HWB 795

*Jennifer Steinmetz, David Hooley, Jackson Bush,
Lily Schumacher, Paul, Laurel, and Ana Neufeld-Weaver*

Responsive Reading

Congregation: In company with your faithful people in every age, you have called out those with gifts for your service, O God. Fill them with the love of Christ and the power of the Spirit as they carry out the church’s ministry.

Those commissioned: Grant us wisdom, patience and hope when we falter.

Give us joy in serving your church and keep us faithful to this calling.

ALL: For the ministries taking form within us and for all the callings yet to be, we praise your name, O Lord! AMEN

Pastoral Prayer

Lavon Welty

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture

Matthew 5:14-16

Sermon

“Light to All”

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

*Hymn

“This little light of mine”

HWB 401

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“We are people of God's peace”

Johann Horn

Julian Harnish, piano, Steve Harnish, recorder Text by Menno Simons

*Hymn of Dedication

“Lord of all good”

STJ 60

*Prayer of Dedication

— SENDING —

*Hymn

“Forth in thy name”

HWB 415

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please stand, or 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

Interim Pastors: Gloria – Mon & Fri 9-4, Tues 8-noon; Lavon – Tues, 8-noon, Wed 9-4, Thurs, Noon-5

Monday – Steve's day off

Director of Youth Ministries: Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

GREETERS: Janine Paul, Cheri Slotter, Mary and Fred Steiner

HOST: Shannon Thiebeau

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Carmen Ordonez, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Annette Heslep, Amelia Heslep, Alison King, Christopher Harnish

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Tig Intagliata, Joyce Hostetler

Worship – Carrie Mast, Karen McCullough, Jacob Biesecker-Mast

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

CHANCEL: Heather Theis

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	221
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	8
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	NA
Spending plan giving July 26, 2015	\$8,880.46
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
Weekly offering needed for spending plan	\$7,663.46
The offering August 9 totaled \$10,488. Money was received for these special funds: VS Fund - \$600, Capital Campaign - \$355, Habitat - \$140, College Scholarships - \$75, School Kits - \$245, Betty Steiner Memorial - \$50.	

CHURCH STAFF

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder –419-369-4753 (h) - fmc.steve@bluffton.edu

Interim Pastor – Gloria Hernandez Bucher – 419-429-2621 (h) – gloriaferdin1946@gmail.com

Interim Pastor – Lavon Welty –419- 222-6102 (h) - lavonw@wcoil.com

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – shannonthiebeau@gmail.com

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu



M a t t h e w 5 : 1 4

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brazo en Brazo: With steadfast resolve, Alex Hernández declared his Christian faith and commitment to Christ and the church. He demonstrated the same as he entered the water at Ottawa Metro Park and was baptized by immersion. Those present sang the prayer song, “Jesús, yo he prometido” (Jesus, I have Promised) and then enjoyed a celebration picnic at the park.
Paul and Ann Conrad

The Swiss Community Historical Society’s celebration of the first church in the Swiss Community, 175 years ago, will be held Sunday, August 30. Each Mennonite church has been asked to provide 20 pies and eight volunteers to help at the event. Please contact wendy@mennofolk.org if you are willing to help. Tickets are available for purchase today in the fellowship hall.
-- Wendy Chappell-Dick

Adriel will hold its annual benefit golf scramble in Morenci, MI, on Monday, Sept. 14 at DeMor Hills Golf Course. A poster and registration forms are posted in the fellowship hall. For more information, contact Adriel at 937-465-0010, ext. 113. You may also enter your team or sponsorship at www.adriel.org.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy Birthday to Dorothy Hoffman, 94, August 19; Neil Kehler, 83, August 19; Eleanor Baumgardner, 91, August 21.

Happy Anniversary to Jo and Stan Clemens, 53, August 19.

A memorial service will be held at FMC at 3 p.m. Sunday, August 23, for Irene Hamman. Visitation will be held in the fellowship hall at 2 p.m., and light refreshments will be served following the service.

Dave and Jane Hooley appreciate your continuing prayers. Dave is in the Hospice unit at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay.

Stan changed from palliative/rehab care to hospice care at MMH on Friday. Both of us have appreciated your prayers, cards, visits, and other caring gestures. We have much for which to be grateful. Our FMC connection means a lot to us. Thank you.

-- Ruth (& Stan) Naylor

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.

TODAY, August 16, 2015

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school classes for children and junior high youth; Adult Bible study AR; Safe Sanctuary training, sanctuary; fellowship time, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Gloria Hernandez Bucher preaching Commissioning of voluntary service workers
Noon	Community class potluck
7 p.m.	Shizuo Tachibana speaking, FH

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (18)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., Sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Parlor
Wednesday (19)	Swiss Mennonite 175 th Choir rehearsal, 7 p.m., Choir room

NEXT WEEK

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school classes for children and junior high youth Congregational Meeting, sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Lavon Welty preaching Communion
Noon	Church picnic, Bluffton Village Park
3 p.m.	Memorial Service for Irene Hamman, sanctuary; Visitation 2-3 p.m., FH; Refreshments following service, FH Scripture: I Kings 8:22-30; 41-43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

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 available downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Megan Coffman will lead our annual Safe Sanctuary training in the sanctuary during the Sunday school hour (9:15-10:15) today. All who work in the nursery or with our children and youth programs are required to come to this session to learn about our Safe Sanctuary policy and to hear Megan talk about issues relating to keeping children and youth in a safe environment at First Mennonite Church.

Pastor Update: Pastor Steven Yoder will be out of the office this week. He and Janet are in Boston, enjoying their new grandson, Henry Yoon Yoder, born Aug. 12. Henry's parents are Neil Yoder and Youngju Yoon.

Today we will commission those from our congregation who are beginning (or have begun) service projects. These include Jennifer Steinmentz, Seattle MVS; David Hooley, SALT, Kenya; Jackson Bush, PULSE, Pittsburgh; Paul, Laurel and Neufeld-Weaver, SEMILLA/CASAS (Latin American Anabaptist Seminary/Central America Study and Service), Guatemala; and Lily Schumacher, Service Adventure with MMN in Albuquerque, NM.

Shizuo Tachibana of Japan will speak at 7 p.m. today in the fellowship hall. Shizuo (the first member of the Hiroshima Mennonite Church) will speak about the effects of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in August of 1945. He will share stories of hibakusha (survivors of the A-bomb). Bob and Alice Ruth Ramseyer will host Shizuo during his stay in Bluffton. All are welcome.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at 9:15 a.m. next Sunday, August 23, in the sanctuary. **There will be no Sunday school or fellowship time for adults and senior high students, but Sunday school for children and junior high youth will continue as scheduled.**

The Annual Church Picnic will be held at noon next Sunday, August 23, at the Bluffton Village Park. Please bring a hot and cold dish to share, as well as table service for your family. Beverages will be provided.

Thank you to Kay and Darrell Huber for their donation of a child-sized table and chairs. For now, we have placed it in the fellowship hall near the office for young children to use. Paper, crayons, stickers, etc., are in a basket on the table.

Ohio Mennonite Women has invited **our Mennonite Women** to a Women's Retreat at Camp Luz Sept. 18-20. The theme for their 46th annual retreat is "Where is the Pause Button? Making space for God in everyday life." Speakers are Becca J.R. Lachman and Joanne Lehman. For more information, see the brochure on the camp pillar in the fellowship hall.

Music Ensemble Rehearsals: 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 2 at 7:00 p.m. (Mark Suderman, director) – sanctuary
- Adult and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively (Ray Raeburn, director) – assembly room
- Cherub Choir (ages 3-grade 1) will begin on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00-6:30 p.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room. Parents of 3 year olds are encouraged to come to the first few rehearsals.
- Jubilate (Grades 2 - 5) will begin on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:45-7:30 p.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- Youth choir (6th grade and up) will meet on Sundays from 8:30-9:15 a.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.

Calling all college and university students: Join the conversation for five Sundays in the fall as five Bluffton University staff/faculty members discuss the role that faith has played in their lives. Grab a cup of coffee or tea in Fellowship Hall on the way and join the discussion in the church parlor. They will discuss some of the following and more:

- What role did faith play in your early years?
- Did faith help you in making college/career choices?
- How does faith help shape your academic work?
- Have you ever faced a life crisis in which faith was helpful?
- When has faith been tested in your life?
- How is faith nurtured in your life?

Five Sundays in the Fall of 2015:

- September 27 – Walt Paquin
- October 11 – Jeff Gundy
- October 25 – Karen Klassen Harder
- November 1 – Lamar Nisly
- November 8 – Melissa Friesen

Any questions? Contact *Associate Pastor Steven Yoder*, 419 358-5766 or fmc.steve@bluffton.edu.