

**First Mennonite Church  
February 4, 2018**

<b>Chimes call us to worship</b>	Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
<b>Welcome</b>	Kevin Cluts
<b>Introductions</b>	
<b>Prelude</b>	Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
<b>Call to Worship</b>	
<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	“Sing praise to God who reigns” HWB 59
<b>*Responsive Reading</b>	Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c
L: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.	
<b>C: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.</b>	
L: He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.	
<b>C: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.</b>	
<b>All: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.</b>	
<b>Special Music</b>	“Goliath” <i>Jubilate</i> J. Paul Williams/Joseph M. Martin

**Conversation with Friends**

<b>Hymn</b>	“Let the children come to me” ( <i>refrain, vs.1, refrain</i> )	STS 47
<b>Conversation</b>		Justin Berg
<b>Hymn</b>	“Let the children come to me” ( <i>refrain, vs.3, refrain</i> )	STS 47

**Pastoral Prayer**

Theda Good

**Scripture**

Mark 1:29-39

Todd Rainey

**Sermon**

“Urgent!”

Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn of Response**

“Healer of our every ill”

HWB 377

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

Jackie Wyse Rhodes

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

“Praise God from who” (vs. A)

HWB 119

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Sending Hymn**

“I sought the Lord”

HWB 506

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*\*Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*

*HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book      STS – Sing the Story*

*Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.*



**Kimberly Schmidt** will present a talk on her book, “Magpie’s Blanket,” at 4 p.m. today at FMC, followed by a book signing. The novel recounts the events of the massacres of Sand Creek (1864) and Washita (1868) and the healing ceremony and reconciliation after the townspeople's misguided attempt to re-create the battle of the Washita with descendants of US soldiers. Schmidt is professor of history at Eastern Mennonite University and director of the Washington, D.C. Community Scholars’ Center. She is the daughter of Charlotte and Melvin Schmidt, former pastor of FMC.

**Lima Area Habitat for Humanity** has two needs: 1) On Saturday, Feb. 17, the Habitat ReStore in Lima needs to move their entire showroom inventory to another location in order to refurbish their floor. On February 24, the inventory will be moved back. To make this move possible, approximately 50 individuals are needed each morning and each afternoon. 2) Volunteers are needed in the ReStore - product preparation, customer service, donation/product pick-up and more. *Contact Mark Suderman, Volunteer Coordinator (419)222-4937 or [mark@habitatlima.org](mailto:mark@habitatlima.org).*

**Bluffton University students** will report on their 2017 cross-cultural experiences during two Forums on Tuesday, Feb. 6, in Yoder Recital Hall. At 11 a.m., students who lived in Guatemala and studied at CASA, a program affiliated with the Guatemalan Mennonite Church, will present, and at 7 p.m., students who participated in the Washington Community Scholars’ Center in Washington, D.C., will report.

**Bluffton University’s Musselman Library** will hold Celebrate the Library Week, Feb. 5-9, “Celebrating Student Research and Creativity.” The week includes a variety of activities: Forum 11-11:40 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6, Dean Walters will present, “Identifying Novel Chemical Compounds to Inhibit the Development of Cancer”; health and wellness expo, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 7; and a research fair, 1-4:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8..

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**We offer our prayers and condolences** to Jim and Karen Harder, Annalisa and John, on the death of Jim’s father, Milton Harder, at Bethesda Home in Goessel, Kansas. Milton was 93 years old and in Hospice care briefly. A memorial service will be held February 19 in Goessel.

**We offer our prayers and condolences** to Monica and Steve Harnish, Lucas, Julian and Christopher, on the death of Monica’s mother, Rose Yoder Hostetler, 87, who died in West Chester, PA, on January 29. A memorial service will be held March 24, in Scottdale, PA.

**We offer our prayers and condolences** to Victoria Woods-Yee on the tragic shooting death of her cousin, Dustin Woods, 33, of Massillon. A funeral service was held February 3 in Dalton, OH.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of these families during this time.

### 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, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

8:30 a.m. Youth choir  
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday (2-6) Morning Prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Wednesday (2-7) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (2-8) Blood drive, 1-6 p.m., FH

### NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. Youth choir  
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Doug Luginbill preaching

***Weather-related cancellations: If it becomes necessary to cancel a function at FMC, cancellations will be posted on the church website, on the Bluffton Icon, Lima FOX-WLIO (Hometown Stations,) The Findlay Courier, WFIN, WKXA and 106.3FOX. Cancellations will also be noted on the church answering machine.***

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

**In your church mailbox** you will find a written report of one of the items shared at the congregational meeting last week. This sheet outlines the steps that are being taken to form a Governance Task Force which will lead us as a congregation in reflecting on our current structure of governance, exploring where there is life and vitality and identifying challenges and concerns to be addressed. Questions may be directed to Pastor Wanda, Kendra Nickel (Moderator) or any member of Council.

**We will have a potluck** and time to welcome Theda Good as Pastor of Connections following worship on Sunday, Feb. 11. Please bring a food item to share, as well as your own dinnerware.  
-- *Nurture Commission*

**Thank you!** The SHYF would like to thank all of you for your support during our soup meal fundraiser. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise \$820 for our service trip and convention costs. Thank you!

**A Red Cross blood drive** will be held Thursday, Feb. 8 from 1-6 p.m. If you can provide cookies, help with registration, make sandwiches, help serve food, or unload and load the truck with their equipment, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. **To schedule your blood donation appointment**, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), sponsor code "fmenncbl."

**Mennonite Women will meet** at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, in the fellowship hall. Carrie Mast will speak on "How to say Yes." Gloria Bucher will lead devotions from the chapter "Engage," in the devotional, "Live Your Call." Refreshments will be prepared and served by Anita Lehman and Linda Miller.

**A co-teacher is needed** until the summer Sunday school quarter for Judy Steiner's K-2 class. Please contact Judy Steiner ([trsteiner@roadrunner.com](mailto:trsteiner@roadrunner.com)) if you are willing to help teach the class a few Sundays a month or if you are willing to act as back up for Judy.

**Thank you** to those that helped with the knotting of comforters on January 30. Twelve women participated in knotting eight comforters. Snacks were provided by the project committee. We look forward to the next knotting event in April.

**Copies of the current Constitution and By-Laws** are available on the literature rack. You may also request to receive this document electronically from the church office.

**Church College Relations and Bluffton University Campus Ministries** are partnering to host a Hymn Sing & Pie Night on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 8:30 p.m. at FMC. Join us for an evening of fellowship with Bluffton University students and the FMC family. If you can provide pies for the Hymn Sing & Pie Night, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. If you plan to attend the event, please also sign up so we can be sure there is enough pie for everyone. Thank you for providing pies and for attending.

-- *CCR: Louise Matthews, Mona Reichenbach, Jacob Litwiller*

**You can nurture your children's faith at home** this Lent and Easter with family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at [www.anabaptistfaithformation.org](http://www.anabaptistfaithformation.org). For use between March 1 and April 16 (Easter Sunday), it includes a daily Bible reading, short litany, songs, hands-on activities and questions to ponder together.

**In order to provide individuals** a way to contribute to the financial needs of International Students attending Bluffton University, an International Student Assistance Fund has been started. The fund will focus on responding to occasional and extraordinary situations in which individual international students with financial need request some assistance. Individuals who wish to contribute may do so by making a check out to First Mennonite Church with ISAF or International Student Assistance Fund in the memo line. If you would like more information, talk to Paul Neufeld Weaver or Lori Nester.

**Through the Church Matching Scholarship program**, First Mennonite Church provides \$500 per semester for students who attend FMC and choose to attend a Mennonite college or university. These funds are then matched by the college each semester. For students to receive the scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year, new requests must be submitted and current recipients renewed before Monday, Feb. 12 by contacting Louise Matthews, [matthewsa@bluffton.edu](mailto:matthewsa@bluffton.edu) or 419.303.8057. This program not only provides financial support to our students but the blessing of being connected to a church family. Contributions can be made at any time throughout the year and designated "FMC scholarship fund."  
-- *Worship Commission*

**You are encouraged** to attend one of the upcoming Regional Gatherings that will include updates about CDC and talks taking place with Allegheny Mennonite Conference. Each host congregation will serve lunch and share a bit of their congregation's story.

- February 10 @ Grace Mennonite Church (502 E Main St, Pandora) March 17 @ Silverwood Mennonite Church (1745 W Lincoln Ave, Goshen, IN.)
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Regional Gatherings are from 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m. and donations are requested to help cover the costs. To help plan for the meals, please let Emma Hartman know if you are attending by Feb. 5 or March 12, depending on the 1 gathering you choose to attend. Email [office@mcusacdc.org](mailto:office@mcusacdc.org) or phone 800.662.2264.