

**First Mennonite Church
February 11, 2018**

Chimes call us to worship		LuAnn Stuckey
Welcome		Hans Houshower
Introductions		
Prelude	“When Morning Gilds the Skies”	arr. R. Hartsell
Call to Worship		
*Opening Hymn	“For the beauty of the earth”	HWB 89
*Responsive Reading		Psalm 50:1-6
L: The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.		
C: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.		
L: Our God comes and does not keep silence. Before him is a devouring fire and a mighty tempest all around him.		
C: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:		
L: “Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!”		
All: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge.		
Special Music	“I Love that Story” <i>Jubilate</i>	
Conversation with Friends		
Hymn	“Let the children come to me” (<i>refrain, vs.1, refrain</i>)	STS 47
Conversation		Wanda Stopher
Hymn	“Let the children come to me” (<i>refrain, vs.2, refrain</i>)	STS 47

Pastoral Prayer		Wanda Stopher
Special Music	“How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Johannes Brahms
Scripture	2 Kings 2:1-14	
Sermon	“Mentors, Mantles and Mysteries”	Doug Luginbill
*Hymn of Response	“Beloved, God’s chosen” (<i>insert</i>)	STJ 38
Installation of Theda Good		Doug Luginbill
Membership Transfer		HWB 794
Presentation	Doug: Followers and friends of Jesus, we have gathered today in the presence of God to bless Theda as Pastor of Connections of this congregation. Who presents Theda for installation?	
	C: We, the people of First Mennonite Church, present Theda. Believing that we have been guided by the Spirit of God, we have called her to be our pastor.	
	Doug: In commending her for this ministry, will you also uphold her in your prayers and with your support?	
	C: Yes. We will stand by her and pray for her.	
Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory	“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”	arr. S. Glick
*Sending Hymn	“We are people of God’s peace”	HWB 407
Benediction		
Postlude	“Hyfrydol”	arr. J. Purifoy
	*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.	

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

Pastor – Theda – 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

HOST: Christopher Harnish

GREETER: Ana Neufeld Weaver, Sophia Gott

NURSERY TODAY: SS – Pat Sheidler, Kathy Traucht

Worship – Melissa Friesen, Kevin Cluts, Anna Biesecker-Mast

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Rachel Diller, Mary Pannabecker Steiner, Tig Intagliata

Worship – Amy Blount, Alison King, Ana Neufeld Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Bev Simon

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-175, MC-5
Spending plan giving Feb. 4, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,022.00
Special fund giving Feb. 4, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$20.25, Sojourners-\$22; Community-\$10; SHYF-\$1,061; Kitchen-\$5.25; Deacons-\$111; Habitat-\$20; MCC-\$1,000; MDS-\$1,000; Capital campaign-\$1,005	<u>\$4,254.50</u>
Total giving Feb. 4, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$10,276.50
Total spending plan receipts as of December 31, 2017	\$396,125.15
Spending plan expenses as of December 31, 2017	\$407,282.00
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu

Pastor – Theda Good – 419-549-2417 (cell) -- fmc.theda@bluffton.edu

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu

Director of Music – Mark Suderman – sudermanme@bluffton.edu

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.

complete, but are also desperately needed. They would be a good project for Sunday school classes or small groups. Relief kit lists are also on the bulletin board. Just pack all items into a box, label it "Relief Kit," and place in the quilt room. We will send these to MCC where the items will be placed into a new plastic pail with a lid.

Through the Church Matching Scholarship program, FMC provides \$500 per semester for students who attend FMC and 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 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 may be made at any time and designated "FMC scholarship fund." – *Worship Commission*

An International Student Assistance Fund has been started to allow individuals to contribute to the financial needs of international students attending Bluffton University. The fund will focus on responding to occasional and extraordinary situations in which individual international students with financial need request assistance. Individuals may contribute by submitting a check to First Mennonite Church with ISAF or International Student Assistance Fund in the memo line. For more information, talk to Paul Neufeld Weaver or Lori Nester.

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.

Rev. Matthew Yoder, pastor of Grace Mennonite Church, will speak on "Failure and Spiritual Growth in Myth, Marvel and the Age of Social Media," in Bluffton University's Spiritual Life Week Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. in Yoder Recital Hall.

Bluffton University's concert band will perform at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, in Yoder Recital Hall, under the direction of Dr. Roy Couch, assistant professor of music.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Ginger Theis had a stent inserted on February 7 and was hospitalized overnight at St. Rita's Medical Center. She is recuperating at home and appreciates your prayers.

Mary Blosser was hospitalized for a few days. She has returned home and is recovering. Your thoughts and prayers are appreciated.

Congratulations to Micah and Ariel Boehr on the birth of their son, Henry Thomas Boehr, born January 29 in Illinois. Henry is the grandson of Beth and Jeff Boehr, and great-grandson of Corrinne and Dick Boehr.

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 11, 2018

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Doug Luginbill preaching, installation of Theda Good
11:30 a.m.	Welcome potluck for Theda Good
6 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF movie/discussion

THIS WEEK

Monday (2-12)	Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (2-13)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (2-14)	Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Stewardship, 6:30 p.m., parlor Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service, 8 p.m.
Thursday (2-15)	Council, 7 p.m., AR
Friday (2-16)	Julian Harnish recital, 7 p.m., sanctuary Menno-Life deadline

NEXT SUNDAY

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

On April 30, 2017, we commissioned a Pastoral Search Committee consisting of Shelby Cluts' (Chair), Isaac Andreas, Melissa Friesen, Kevin King, Jean Miller, Mary Anne Moser, and Brent Schroeder. On this day of celebration as we install Pastor Theda for her ministry among us, we give special thanks to the Search Committee, for their prayerful work, for their gift of time, diligent effort and willingness to use their gifts for this special task.

Please join us for a potluck and time to welcome Theda Good as Pastor of Connections following worship today. Please bring a food item to share, as well as your own dinnerware.

-- *Nurture Commission*

Pastors' Office Hours and contact information:

Wanda -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu; 419-551-1079

Theda – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; fmc.theda@bluffton.edu; 419-549-2417

Please contact a pastor by e-mail or phone to schedule an appointment. Calling ahead is strongly encouraged. **Wanda** takes Friday as a Sabbath rest from work – including emails. She responds only in emergencies on Friday. **Theda** takes Monday as a Sabbath rest from work – including emails. She responds only in emergencies on Monday.

Thanks to everyone who donated and/or volunteered at Thursday's blood drive. According to the Red Cross, they collected 44 units of blood!

SHYF/JHYF movie and discussion: 6-9 p.m. today, SHYF room. We will watch "Wonder" and discuss the themes of the movie afterward. Bring your favorite snacks, drinks, and friends!

We begin this Lenten season with the observance of Ash Wednesday, a time in the church year of fasting, self-examination, reconciliation and prayer. Join us as we gather together February 14, at 8 p.m. It will be a service of singing, of scripture, prayer, candles and ashes.

Menonite 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.

Families with children: This Wednesday is the first day of Lent and the beginning of "Between Me & You," a free, downloadable guide for family worship from February 14-

April 1. Pick and choose the activities that work best for your family. Find it at www.anabaptistfaithformation.org.

You are invited to a preview of Julian Harnish's senior recital on Friday, February 16, at 7 p.m. in the FMC sanctuary. He'll be performing works by Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, Debussy, and Kapustin. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Our new First Menonite Church pictorial directories are here! It is our hope that these directories will help us learn to know each other, connect with one another, and provide a resource to those who join us in the months ahead. You will find a directory in your church mailbox. If you don't have a church mailbox, request a directory and a mailbox from the church office.

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) 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.

Church College Relations and Bluffton University Campus Ministries are partnering to hold 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 and/or attend this event, sign up in the fellowship hall. Thank you for providing pies and for attending. -- *Louise Matthews, Mona Reichenbach, Jacob Litwiller*

Did You Know...

...that in 2017, nearly 50 percent of FMC members used an Everence product?

...that Everence Sharing Funds provided \$2,877.65 in matching funds to support special needs in our church and community in 2017?

...that Rich Bucher serves as our church Everence advocate? Please contact him if you have any questions.

Hygiene Kits - MCC has made an urgent call for hygiene kits and relief kits, and we will be collecting kits for a few months. MCC has recently added a comb to the hygiene kit list, so be sure to check the content list carefully.

Hygiene Kit Contents – Only NEW items, in original packaging

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6–8 in)

Please limit your generosity to the items listed. Bags and content lists are on the table and bulletin board near the church library. We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of fellowship hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. ***Relief Kits:** *These kits are larger and more expensive to*