

**Lent One**  
**February 14, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

**Chimes call us to worship** Lucia Unrau

**Call to Worship**

**Welcome**

**Invocation**

— PRAISING —

**\*Opening Hymn** “The God of Abraham praise” HWB 162

**\*Confessing and Reconciling**

*Confession*

**ALL: God of deliverance, we confess that we are tempted in many ways.  
We are distracted by false hopes and illusions of power.  
Our fears threaten to overwhelm us.  
We forget that we can rely on you.  
Forgive our weakness and forgetfulness.  
Take away our doubt and fear.  
Give us courage to trust in your life-giving Word.**

*(silence)*

*Assurance of God’s Grace*

Leader: The Lord hears our cries.  
When we wander from the path,  
God rescues us with an outstretched hand.  
Today, let us receive the gift of salvation.

**Special Music** “Psalm 91” Craig Courtney  
*Chancel Choir; Steve Harnish, recorder*

**Pastoral Prayer** Lavon Welty

— PROCLAIMING —

**Special Music** “Yesu Kwetu ni Rafiki” Arr. Mark Burrows  
*Youth Choir*

**Time with Children**

**Hymn** “I love to tell the story” HWB 398  
*(Sing v.1)*

**Conversation** Gloria Hernandez Bucher  
and Elizabeth Kelly

**Hymn** “I love to tell the story” HWB 398  
*(Sing v.2)*

**Gospel Reading by Logos** Luke 4:1-13  
*Readers: Gary Wetherill, Greg Ring and Chris Moser*

**Sermon** “Into the Wilderness” Wanda Stopher

**Time of Silent Reflection**

— RESPONDING —

**\*Hymn of Response** “My dear Redeemer and my Lord” HWB 547

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**  
**Offertory** “Southwell” arr. J. Bert Carlson

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “Praise God from whom” HWB 119  
*(Sing vs. 3)*  
*(Children bring their books forward during the Hymn of Dedication)*

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn** “Jesus, Rock of ages” HWB 515  
*(Sing twice)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*\*Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.  
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story*

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: [fmclubluffton.org](http://fmclubluffton.org)

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor – Wanda – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday

Associate Pastor – Steve – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- 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

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**GREETERS:** Cheri Slotter, Judy and Larry Diller,

**HOST:** Gloria Hernandez Bucher

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – Melinda and Patrick Estell

*Worship* – Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Sabrina and Kurt Longworth

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** SS – Pat Sheidler, Judy Diller

*Worship* – Darby and Jen Benroth, Betty Sommer, Annalise Nisly

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Melissa Friesen

**CHANCEL:** Gregg Luginbuhl

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmclubluffton.org](http://www.fmclubluffton.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	235
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	11
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	90
Spending plan giving Feb. 7, 2016	\$8,604.55
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Feb. 7 totaled \$9,642.18. Money was received for these special funds: Grades P-5 <sup>th</sup> SS – \$6, Grades 9-12 – 1, Sojourners - \$20, Freudige - \$10, Faith and Life - \$6, Connections - \$2, Deacons' Benevolent - \$155, MDS - \$400, Habitat - \$120, SHYF - \$66.08, Kitchen service - \$5.75, Rejoice - \$27.80, Capital Campaign - \$315, MVS – Lily Schumacher, Elizabeth McDowell Memorial - \$100.	

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)

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

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)



Gerald and Carrie Mast. **A group from FMC will attend March 5 in Berne. Please see Wanda Stopher for more information or to indicate that you plan to attend.**

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**You are invited** to offer a favorite scripture passage, prayer, blessing or word of thanks to Lois Johns Kaufmann for her eight years of service to Central District Conference. You may write directly in the journal at one of our regional gatherings, or at the annual meeting in Columbus. You may also email an entry to Lisa Weaver at [weaverld70@gmail.com](mailto:weaverld70@gmail.com) by June 1. Please write CDC Journal for Lois in the subject line. Entries received by email will be printed out and included in the journal. The journal will be given to Lois at the conclusion of our annual meeting on June 25.

**Bluffton University's** Jazz Ensemble and Concert Band will hold their Winter Instrumental Concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21 in Yoder Recital Hall. The Jazz Ensemble will perform selections including "Love Matters the Most" by Mark Taylor and, "Rush Hour" by Lennie Niehaus. The Concert Band's program will include "And a Time" by Jeff Jordan and "On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss" by David Holsing. Dr. Roy Couch directs both groups. A free-will offering will be collected. The funds will go toward music scholarships.

**Dr. Rebecca Janzen**, assistant professor of Spanish at Bluffton University, will present "We See Them but We Don't Know Them: Mexican Ideas About Mennonites" in the C. Henry Smith Peace Lecture at 11 a.m. on Feb. 23 in Founders Hall. The lectureship honors the late professor who taught at Bluffton from 1913-48. After his death in 1948, his estate established a trust that funds projects that promote peace. The lectureship is awarded each year to a faculty member from a Mennonite university.

**Brazo en Brazo:** Attention – students studying Spanish! The "adoracion" (worship) each Sunday 5 p.m. is also like an educational field trip. Conversation with others who attend and materials used in the worship service provide practical application of the language. Stephanie Moore discovered this when we introduced her to the Himnos de la Vida Cristiana. Her Spanish teacher at Findlay was pleased to see these expressions of Christian Faith in the Spanish language. Note: Beginning March 13 worship will be held at 4 p.m. Welcome to all! -- Paul and Ann Conrad

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday to** Barbara Bauman, 84, Feb. 16; Treva Stratton, 84, Feb. 18.

*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, Feb. 14, 2016

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Sojourners/Freudige potlucks
2:30-3:30 p.m.	JHYF

## THIS WEEK

Tuesday (2/16)	Morning prayers
Wednesday (2/17)	Staff meeting, 10 a.m. parlor First Night, supper 5:30 p.m., program 6 p.m., FH Cherub choir 6 p.m.; Jubilate, Adult bells 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday (2/18)	Council, 7:30 p.m., parlor
Saturday (2/20)	SHYF Parents Night Out fundraiser, 5-9 p.m., FMC

## NEXT WEEK

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult Fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
11:30 a.m.	Vote on Welcoming Statement and Policy will take place

**Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35**

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 downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Wanda Stopher** will leave after worship today and return to the office Wednesday morning Feb. 17. Please call Gloria Hernandez Bucher at 419-429-2621 for pastoral care during this time.

**Steve Yoder continues** to receive care at Cleveland Clinic. He has been moved from ICU to another unit, J82 19. He will be having surgery next week to remove the parathyroid gland. Thank you for the cards and expressions of support. Your prayers help sustain us.  
~Steve and Janet

**Cards may be sent** to Steve Yoder, J82 19, c/o Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44195.

**JHYF will meet** today from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the JH Sunday school room.

**Please notify the church office** to be included on an e-mail list for midweek congregational updates. Likewise, you may request to be removed from this list.

**Today is the final day** to sign up for Rejoice subscriptions. Cost is \$27.80 and checks should be made to FMC, with Rejoice subscription noted in the memo line.

**For better organization**, materials previously kept on the bulletin table are now in the literature rack by the womens restroom in the Fellowship Hall. This includes items such as monthly prayer materials, annual lectionary lists and Mennonite Women brochures. A sign indicating *First Mennonite Materials* is posted at the top of the rack.

**We begin First Night** this Wednesday, Feb. 17. Supper will begin at 5:30 p.m., with a program at 6 p.m. You'll find the schedule, menu, ticket and other details on an insert in this bulletin. You may purchase tickets today in the fellowship hall and on Monday in the office from 9 a.m.-noon; **payment is due no later than noon Monday**. Cost is \$4/person and \$12/family for each of the five nights. A vegetarian option will be available each night.

**Cameo stories sought for First Night:** During Advent we heard a story from Jesus' childhood and his being found in the temple, deep in conversation with teachers there. A

childhood cameo such as this is a short story about the child which foreshadows the adult that the person will become. You are invited to share your own cameo story at First Night on March 9. Please see Wanda Stopher (419-551-1079) for more information and to be included in the list of those who will share their cameo stories.

**The January 31** congregational meeting included extensive discussion of the proposed Welcoming Statement and Policy Statements. In response to that discussion, a few alterations were made to the proposed statements. The revised statements have been placed in church mailboxes, and a vote on adopting those statements is planned for Sunday, February 21 (following the worship service). If you would like to have a copy sent to you via email or US mail, or if you would like an absentee ballot, please contact the church office ([fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu).)

**Hey Parents!** Enjoy a night off! The SHYF is hosting a Parents Night Out fundraiser. On Saturday, Feb. 20, from 5-9 p.m., you can drop off your children (up to age 10) in the nursery and we will babysit for a donation. A light snack will be provided. Please register your children by contacting the church office. Registration forms are available in the fellowship hall. A registration form must be completed before or when you drop your children off. For more information, please contact Shannon Thiebeau at [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu).  
-- Shannon Thiebeau

**Time to order Easter Sunday flowers:** If you wish to purchase flowers in memory or honor of loved ones, please complete the form on the insert in today's bulletin. Put the form and payment in the offering plate or drop them off at the church office. Orders must be submitted to the church office by Monday, March 11.

**It's hygiene kit season!** Basic items like soap, toothbrushes, towels and nail clippers are luxuries we take for granted. This is not so for people without access or money. You can help. There is a list of items that make up a kit on the bulletin board above the pew in fellowship hall. On the pew, you'll see four boxes -- one each for fabric cut for bags, empty bags for kits, supplies and complete kits. There are several ways to help. We need fabric for bags and volunteers to sew bags. Can't sew? You can always cut fabric into designated sizes, or you may donate funds for supplies. Checks should be made to FMC with MW kit on the memo line. Thanks again in advance for all your help!

**All are invited** to attend a CDC Regional Gathering on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Community Mennonite (Markham, IL), Saturday, Feb. 20 at Faith Mennonite Goshen, IN), or Saturday, March 5 at Emmaus Road Mennonite (Berne, IN). The day includes scripture and song, congregational sharing, a choice of sessions on the recent MCC-sponsored tour to Palestine/Israel or a discussion using the Human Sexuality study guide developed by