

**First Mennonite Church
January 14, 2017**

Chimes call us to worship		Deb Niswander
Welcome		Tig Intagliata
Prelude	“Peace Before Us” <i>Jubilate and Cherub Choirs</i>	David Haas <i>Descant by Judy Steiner</i>
Call to Worship		
*Opening Hymn	“Be thou my vision”	HWB 545
*Responsive Reading		Psalm 139:13-18
L: O Lord, for it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.		
C: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.		
L: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.		
C: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.		
L: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!		
All: I try to count them - they are more than the sand; I come to the end - I am still with you.		
Special Music	“Oh, Sing to the Lord a New Song” <i>Chancel Choir; Jan Wiebe, flute</i>	John Leavitt

Conversation with Friends

Hymn	“Let the children come to me” (<i>refrain, vs.1, refrain</i>)	STS 47
Conversation		Jeff Gundy
Hymn	“Let the children come to me” (<i>refrain, vs.2, refrain</i>)	STS 47

Pastoral Prayer

Adam Phillips

Scripture

Numbers 27:1-11

Burton Yost

Sermon

“What's in our inheritance?”

Wanda Stopher

***Hymn of Response**

“New earth, heavens new”

HWB 299

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Behold That Star”

arr. Mark Hayes

*(Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder.
Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.)*

***Hymn of Dedication**

“Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem” (*v. 1*)

STS 32

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sending Hymn**

“For the healing of the nations”

HWB 367

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on “Regent Square”

arr. Anna Laura Page

**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

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

GREETER: Judy Buller

HOST: Doug Luginbill

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Shelby Cluts, Kathy Traucht

Worship – Alison and Kevin King, Andrea Goings

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Carmen Ordonez, Gerald Mast

Worship – Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Jason Diller

SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

CHANCEL: Anita Lehman

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-143, MC-9
Spending plan giving Jan. 7, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$23,391.15
Special fund giving Jan. 7, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5 th -\$7.60, Sojourners-\$51	<u>\$1,213.60</u>
Connection-\$50, Faith and Life-\$120, Habitat-\$20, Deacons-\$50, College scholar-\$106	
CC flooring-\$380, Community-\$10, SHYF-\$360, Kitchen service-\$9, Steve Yoder mem-\$50	
Total giving Jan. 7, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$24,604.75
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

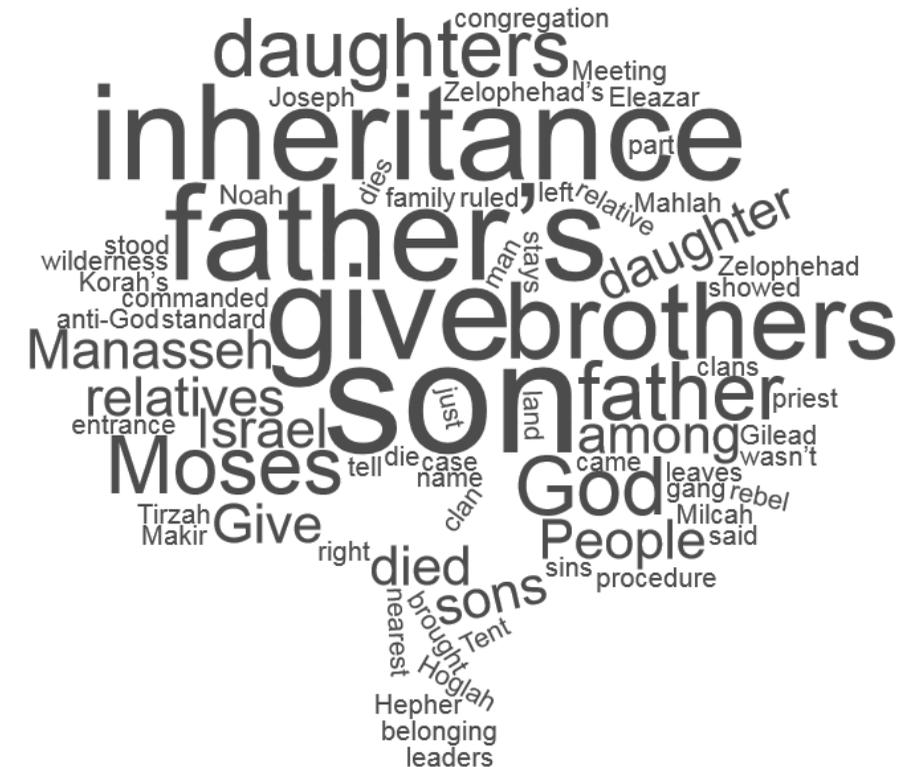
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu

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.



MCC's Sharing with Appalachia People is seeking volunteer groups and summer staff. Make your summer plans now to join SWAP in Kentucky or West Virginia, serving with this home repair ministry while learning about life in Appalachia. Groups or individuals can volunteer to serve as week-long volunteers. SWAP is also looking for summer staff to serve as job site coordinators and meals coordinators/cooks for three month assignments. For more information about bringing a group to SWAP or serving as summer staff, visit swap.mcc.org or contact Angela Maggard at AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org or 606-633-5065.

Rev. Daniel Hughes, Price Hill campus pastor of Shiloh United Methodist Church, Cincinnati, will present, "JUST LOVE - Justice and Love Ignites Faith in the Beloved Community," at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16 in Yoder Recital Hall at Bluffton University. The 2013 Bluffton graduate returns to campus to present the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Forum.

Dr. Jonathan Andreas, associate professor of economics at Bluffton University, will present the Colloquium, "Replacing GDP with Median Expected Lifetime Income," at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 19 in Stutzman Lecture Hall. Andreas will discuss MELI, his potential replacement for Gross Domestic Product as the standard measurement for well-being. MELI stands for Median Expected Lifetime Income, and is measured by adding up the median income for every age group in the population weighed by the probability of survival to each specific age. It is an expected value of how much people would earn in a lifetime, if economic conditions persisted as they are in the current year.

"Unconfirmed," an exhibit of artworks by John Dickinson, runs through January 26 in the Grace Albrecht Gallery of Sauder Visual Art Center. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekly and 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Linda Miller fell at home on Monday and was hospitalized overnight at St. Vincent Medical Center, Toledo. She was released Tuesday and continues to recover at home. Her huge headache is slowly diminishing, but she is not yet in good enough shape for visitors. We thank you for your prayers.
-- Lynn and Linda Miller

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, JANUARY 14, 2018

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

THIS WEEK

Monday (1-15)	Mission, Peace and Service, 7 p.m., parlor
Tuesday (1-16)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (1-17)	Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (1-18)	Council, 7 p.m., AR

NEXT SUNDAY

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

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

Save the dates:

January 28 -- Congregational meeting following a meal provided by SHYF

February 11 -- Theda Good's Installation, potluck to follow

Help Needed: On Tuesday, Jan. 23, Theda and Dawn's moving truck will be here and will need to be unloaded. We are looking for individuals able to help with this endeavor. We will meet at the church and begin at approximately 12:30 p.m. If you are available to help, please contact Bret Stopher, 419-445-1568.

Weather-related cancellations: If it becomes necessary to cancel a function(s) at the church, 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.

Deadline reminder: Please remember that the deadline for submitting items for the Sunday bulletin is noon on the Thursday preceding the Sunday bulletin for which it is intended. Note that in the case of holidays or vacations of the church staff, this deadline may be adjusted.

JHYF is attending the annual Winter Retreat at Camp Friedenswald this weekend. We ask for your prayers of safety, faith building, fellowship, and snow! -- *Shannon Thiebeau*

Soup's On: SHYF will hold a soup meal fundraiser following worship on January 28 in conjunction with the annual congregational meeting. There will be vegetarian and gluten-free options. We hope you will join us for this time of congregational fellowship!

Sharing your gifts of hospitality, welcome, and storytelling with the congregation are vital to our mission of being a welcoming congregation. Greeters and hosts offer a warm welcome as guests and regular attenders arrive. Worship leaders guide the congregation through meaningful worship experiences. Children's storytellers share the Gospel message to young

minds and hearts. If you have ever considered serving in one of these ministries but haven't been asked, consider this your invitation. Guidance and resources are available from the worship commission or church staff for each of these areas. Fran Core (coref@wcoil.com) coordinates greeters and hosts. Doug Luginbill (dluginbill@roadrunner.com) coordinates worship leaders. Kathy Dickson (dicksonKathy1@gmail.com) coordinates Time with Children. We look forward to affirming your gifts. –Worship Commission

You are invited to attend any of the upcoming Regional Gatherings that best fits with your schedule. We'll sing and pray together, hear updates about what is happening in CDC and the talks taking place with Allegheny Mennonite Conference. The host congregation will serve lunch and share a bit of their congregation's story. Come share your perspectives and ideas and bring a friend.

- January 27 @ Mennonite Church of Normal (805 S Cottage Ave, Normal, Illinois)
- February 10 @ Grace Mennonite Church (502 E Main St, Pandora, Ohio)
- March 17 @ Silverwood Mennonite Church (1745 W Lincoln Ave, Goshen, Indiana)

Regional Gatherings start with coffee and tea at 9:45 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. The congregations of Normal, Grace, and Silverwood have graciously agreed to provide lunch for those attending. We ask that those eating lunch bring a donation to help cover the costs. To help them plan for the amount of food needed, please let Emma Hartman know if you are attending by Jan. 22, Feb. 5, and March 12 (depending on the regional gathering you choose to attend.) Email office@mcusacdc.org or phone 800.662.2264.

Electronic Giving is an option for giving in support of First Mennonite Church. There is a link, "ONLINE GIVING," at the far right of the red navigation bar on the FMC website. To register, you will need your bank routing and checking account numbers. You'll choose a starting date, as well as frequency. **All forms of monetary contributions are much appreciated, whether by cash, check or e-giving.**

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for 2017-18 – We will follow Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary in 2017-18. You will find it at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=B&season=Advent>.

A Community Chili Cook-off is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Bluffton Middle School cafetorium. Bluffton churches and individuals are invited to participate by providing and serving a favorite chili, sandwiches and/or desserts, or helping with set up and tear down. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. Anyone interested in participating should contact the Bluffton Presbyterian Church mission committee through Lynda Best, 419.296.2790, or Carol Enneking, jcenne@gmail.com or 419.348.7691.