

Congregational Discernment: Remembering Our Past
January 22, 2017
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship		Lucia Unrau
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Wanda Stopher, Worship Leader
Mission Moment		Amela Puljek Shank, MCC
Prelude	“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”	arr. Paul Manz
*Call to Worship		
*Invocation		
	— PRAISING —	
*Opening Hymn	“Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing”	HWB 110
Special Music	“Lord, You Have Been Our Refuge” <i>Psalm 90</i>	John L. Bell
Testimony		Mary Ina Hooley
Time with Children		
Hymn	“I will come to you in the silence” (<i>Verse 1 and refrain</i>)	STS 49
Conversation		Rhonda Winstead
Hymn	“I will come to you in the silence” (<i>Verse 2 and refrain</i>)	STS 49
Pastoral Prayer		Wanda Stopher

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture	Luke 4:14-22	Jacob Biesecker-Mast
Sermon	“As was his custom”	Sister Carol Inkrott

— RESPONDING —

*Hymn	“I’ll praise my Maker”	HWB 166
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Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“Come With Us, O Blessed Jesus”	arr. Dale Wood
*Hymn of Dedication	“What gift can we bring” (verse 4)	HWB 385
*Prayer of Dedication		

— SENDING —

*Hymn	“Lord, whose love in humble service”	HWB 369
*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 and bulletins are available on the cabinet next to the parlor.

Thank you to Fred Steiner, who designed the First Mennonite grid on the cover of today’s bulletin.

students who choose to attend. This program is supported by 19 area churches who share responsibility for walking children from school to the church. Walkers can help anywhere from one shift (about 30 minutes) to all day. More details and specific dates are available in your mailbox. Thank you to those who have helped! If you are interested in helping or have questions please contact Andrea Goings via email at ajgoings@mercy.com or phone/text 419-303-6870. -- Andrea Goings

Plan to attend the CDC regional gathering March 11 at First Mennonite Church, Wadsworth. The morning will explore the theme of Abounding in Love. . . Abiding in Grace, with input from Open Table Mennonite Fellowship, a story and tour from the host congregation and reporting on MC USA events. After lunch, participants will hear a historical vignette from Camp Friedenswald and discuss faith formation experiences. The Wadsworth church will provide lunch (donations are suggested.) *To help with lunch plans, please notify our church office at 419.358.5766 or fmc@bluffton.edu by Friday, Feb. 24.*

Mennonite Women: CDC Mennonite Women has sent a letter of invitation to FMC women regarding six organizations they feel “encourage all women on their spiritual journey towards wholeness and joy in Jesus Christ.” These organizations “step away from complacency and speak out as Jesus did for those who have been marginalized and silenced.” The letter is posted on the MW pillar in the fellowship hall. All are encouraged to read the letter and join in supporting and donating to these organizations. Donations can be made by checks through our MW organization or directly to the organizations. Details are in the letter and will be in the February Menno-Life.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Evelyn Luginbuhl, 94, January 29.

Adan Ortiz was hospitalized January 18 at Blanchard Valley Hospital. He appreciates your prayers.

Corrine Boehr expected to be released from St. Rita’s Medical Center by the end of the week and will be at the Mennonite Memorial Home for rehabilitation. She and Dick appreciate your prayers, cards and well wishes.

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 21, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Sister Carol Inkrott preaching
2-2:45 p.m.	Faculty recital, Lucia Unrau, Yoder Recital Hall
3 p.m.	Congregational Discernment Meeting, FH

THIS WEEK

Monday (1-23)	Ride to Remember planning group, 6-8 p.m., AR
Tuesday (1- 24)	
Wednesday (1-25)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Thursday (1-26)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Friday-Sunday	Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor 7:30 p.m., Deacons, parlor SHYF Winter Retreat, Camp Friedenswald

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	All-church potluck, FH
1 p.m.	Annual congregational meeting, FH

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

Today the pastors involved in Bluffton Area Ministerial Association are participating in a pulpit exchange. This is one of the ways we envision collaborating together as we work in the Bluffton Community toward unity and transformation. Pastor George is preaching at Emmanuel UCC and we welcome Sister Carol Inkrott from St. Mary's Catholic Church. Sister Carol is originally a farm girl from Putnam County and has been a Sister of St. Francis for 55 years. She has been a grade school teacher, high school teacher, a member of St. Mary's leadership team, a pastoral associate, a director of religious education and now a pastoral leader. She likes to sew, hike, put together jigsaw puzzles, and look at model homes.

Congregational Discernment Event One takes place today from 3-5:15 p.m. We expect 80 adults and youth, as well as 16 children (child care provided up to fifth grade. Please join us for this significant time and contribute ideas to the discussion of our future together as First Mennonite Church.

We at First Mennonite Church are actively and intensely engaged in a time of discernment. The big questions guiding us are: Who are we as a fellowship of followers of Jesus Christ? Where is God's Spirit moving among us? What does that mean for the next chapter in our shared life together? Throughout January and February, worship is one way we focus on themes important to this process of discernment. Each week we will hear a testimony from someone in the congregation. These testimonies will range from observations or stories of FMC at her best, to stories of beginnings at FMC. They might include stories of challenges we face or of dreams for our future together.

It is time to update photos for the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Fred Steiner will take photos of individuals, couples and families in the parlor after worship today and January 29. We would like to include photos of **everyone who attends regularly – not only members.** Please stop by the parlor to have your photo taken. If you have questions, please contact Mary Amstutz or Anita Lehman.

Annual Meeting: The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 29 in the fellowship hall. An all-church potluck will follow worship, with the annual meeting taking place immediately after the potluck. Please plan to bring food to share, as well as your own table service.

This is one of a series of "Did You Know" announcements from the Congregational Discernment Team, as we continue to explore the history and live into the future of First Mennonite.

Did you know...

...that many decisions in the congregation take time?

...that some decisions happen quickly? The custom of sharing one communion cup came from the old country. Some of the men chewed tobacco. When Dr. and Mrs. Mosiman joined the congregation in 1920, the common cup was still being used. Mrs. Mosiman did not appreciate this, especially if she followed a tobacco chewer. She spoke out against such an unsanitary practice. Soon First Mennonite started to use individual communion cups.

...that when Lena Moser's family came to Bluffton in 1925 the men sat on one side and the women on the other? Her parents wanted to sit together so they did. Soon other families began sitting together.

FIRST Night will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31. Those attending should bring their own table service. The menu for January 31 will include ham loaf/edamame salad, buttered corn, cabbage salad, dinner rolls with butter and jelly, and fruit. **A registration table will be set up in the fellowship hall after worship today and January 29. Registrations must be paid by noon on the Monday prior to the event.**

-- Susie Gratz, FIRST Night chair

MCC has issued an urgent call for hygiene kits and relief kits. We are starting to collect hygiene kits. (Information on relief kits will be forthcoming. Hygiene kit contents (NEW items, in original packaging) must include one adult-size toothbrush, one large bar bath soap, one fingernail clipper (good quality) and one hand towel (dark color.) Please limit your generosity to the items listed. (Due to strict regulations in some countries, MCC no longer asks for toothpaste. They add it to the kits when they are shipped from our warehouse. We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of the fellowship hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. (If making your own bags, please note that the bag size has changed over the years and fabric is cut 12½ x 38 inches.)

Weekday Christian Education is looking for First Mennonite attenders to help with walking elementary school students from the elementary school to WCE, which takes place at FMC. WCE is a program with a desire to aid the church and home in encouraging the spiritual growth and development of kindergarten to eighth grade