

Bridges among us: Conversation about giving and receiving care

July 2, 2017

10:30 a.m.

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship

LuAnn Stuckey

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions

Rhonda Winstead, worship leader

Call to worship

Prelude

“Allegro in G”

W. Walond

Invocation

Opening Hymns

Wendy Chappell-Dick

Responsive Reading

Psalm 13

L: How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

C: How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

L: Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

C: and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed;” my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

L: But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

All: I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Special Music

“In the Garden” (I Come to the Garden Alone) C. Austin Miles
Wendy Chappell-Dick

Child Dedication

Jackson Niekamp, son of Kristen and Ryan Niekamp

Ryan and Kristen, you have entrusted Jackson on this day to God’s tender care. We rejoice with you in this act and give thanks for Jackson as a wonderful gift from God. For our part as your church family, we commit to praying for Jackson, to playing with him, to supporting him whenever we can, and to being examples of Christ’s love for him. We also promise to support you, Ryan and Kristen, in your awesome task as parents and to care for you every step of the way. We will pray that God will bless you all with sufficient strength for the journey.

-- PRAISING --

Conversation with Friends

Hymn

“God’s Family” (vs. 1)

See insert

Conversation

JP Schumacher

Hymn

“God’s Family” (vs. 3)

See insert

Pastoral Prayer

George O’Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture

Mark 5:21-43

Sermon

“Wraparound Gospel”

Wanda Stopher

***Hymn**

“Christ’s is the world”

STJ 62

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Variations on “Christ Is My Life”

Pachelbel/Walther

***Hymn of Dedication**

“Grant us, Lord, the grace”

HWB 388

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sending Prayer**

For all attending MCUSA Convention

--- SENDING ---

***Hymn**

“The Lord bless you and keep you”

STJ 76

***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.

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

Pastoral Associate – George – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Custodian’s schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

GREETERS: Marilyn and Gary Bishop

HOST: Lynn Miller

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Lori Nester

Worship – Judy Diller, Kendra and Ellie Nickel

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Mary Ina Hooley, Cheri Slotter

Worship – Andrea Goings, Sarah Phillips, Anna Neufeld-Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Alison King/Banner

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	177
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	6
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	NA
Spending plan giving June 25, 2017	\$4,472.00
Spending plan receipts as of May 31	\$165,251.32
Spending plan expenses as of May 31	\$174,772.00
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

The offering June 25 totaled \$6,459.45. Money was received for these special funds: Deacons Benevolent - \$20, Kitchen service - \$5.75, SHYF auction - \$55, Willadene Keeney memorial - \$100, Sojourners - \$100, MDS - \$50, K-5 - \$16.70, College scholarships - \$600, Syrian student - \$1,000, JHYF - \$15.

CHURCH STAFF

- Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastoral Associate – George O’Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – fmc.george@bluffton.edu
- Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman
- 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.

Bridges Among Us



Conversation about giving and receiving care

as well. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Thanks for your support. Checks can be made out to MVS with Justin Weaver placed on the memo line.

To anyone who uses a sewing machine: A few comforters need hemming before the comforter dedication in July. Please take one or more so that the job can be finished in time. The comforters are in the eye-level bin back of the kit table. Some are trimmed, but a few also need trimming. Directions are in the kit box. Thank you so much for your help from the project committee. -- Sarah Basinger

“From Swords to Plowshares; Our Process of Transformation...” is a multi-media art exhibition responding to the RAWtools event in June, where a blacksmith forged garden tools out of local guns. Twenty-five artists have shared from their collection or created new work on the theme of transformation from violence to peace. The garden tools created at RAWtools are also on display for the month of July, Thursday-Sunday, from 2-5 p.m. at the Grace Albrecht gallery of the Sauder Visual Arts Center at Bluffton University.

Seminary scholarships for VSers: Did you know that Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary offers tuition discounts and scholarships (\$1,500 per academic year) to current and former voluntary service workers? Enrollment must occur within five years of completion of the VS assignment. Apply now, or tap a shoulder!
www.amb.edu/admissions/voluntary-service-scholarships

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Geneva Shetler, 98, July 8.

Jan Emmert is recovering well after open heart surgery June 26 at St. Rita’s Medical Center. He and Diana appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Ernie Porzelius had a pacemaker installed on Thursday, June 29, at St. Rita’s Medical Center. He appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

Surround the Mennonite Church USA 2017 Convention in prayer as it begins July 4 in Orlando, FL, and continues through July 8. More than 3,000 youth, delegates and others are expected to attend.

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, July 2, 2017

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Connections potluck, FH
6-8 p.m.	SHYF, convention meeting and Bible study, 6-8 p.m., SHYF room

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (6-4)	NO Morning prayers CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
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NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Sunday worship, George O’Reilly 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

Thank you, Alison King, for designing the banner and bulletin covers for the summer worship series on “Bridges Among Us.”

Artwork and resources displayed on the back communion table are on loan from The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University to reflect the various conversation topics during the summer worship series.

The church office will be closed Tuesday, July 4. **Morning Prayers** is also cancelled for Tuesday, July 4.

Pastor Wanda Stopher will be out of the office Monday, July 3-Saturday, July 8, to attend the MCUSA biennial convention. If you have pastoral concerns during this time, please contact Pastor George O'Reilly at 402-619-7099 (cell) or fmc.george@bluffton.edu.

The position for a Pastor of Connections (Associate Pastor) has been posted on the MCUSA website, on the website of The Mennonite Weekly Review and with the Mennonite Seminaries. The search committee will be starting to look at applications from potential candidates very soon. Thanks for your continued prayers. -- Search Committee

The Trustee Commission has established a new policy regarding loaning church equipment. In order to ensure that all equipment remains available for church related activities both onsite and offsite, equipment will no longer be loaned for personal use. The trustees and staff appreciate your cooperation with this new policy. Please see the church office for copies of the revised forms for FMC facility use or to reserve the facility. If you have questions or concerns, please contact one of the trustees: *Everett Collier, Larry Diller, Rodney Dyck, John Mackey, Wendell Miller, Dave Moser, Chad Paul, Tom Schaaf, and Bob Suter.*

Carol Steegman, of Findlay Hope House, will discuss Topics of Bridges Among Us: Conversation about Privilege, on Sunday, July 9, during the Sunday school hour.

Deadlines: The deadline for submitting items for a Sunday bulletin is **noon on Thursdays.**

Community vacation Bible school, “Operation Arctic,” will be held at English Lutheran Church July 16-20, from 6-8 p.m. Registration will be on July 16 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Children ages preschool-grade 5 are invited to participate. Two volunteers to serve as walkers are needed for each night and volunteers to provide cookies are also needed. Contact Rhonda Winstead, 419-890-7012 or rhondaandwalt@yahoo.com, to volunteer or for more information. **SPECIAL REQUEST: Please begin saving milk jugs to be used to build an igloo at VBS. Drop off location for the milk jugs is yet to be determined.**

Mennonite Mission Network workers Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder will be here for Mission Sunday, July 23, both for worship and Sunday school. The Frey-Yoders will report on their work and the work of MMN endeavor around the globe.

Dwight and Trella Kauffman will welcome help on Wednesday, July 5, to finish loading their trucks. Their new address will be 950 Smith Ave., Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Email and phone will remain the same.

Summer options for adult Sunday school

***Adult Bible Study (Menno Media) (assembly room)** -- This class will explore God's urgent call in biblical texts from Exodus, Judges, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos and Acts, using the Adult Bible Study quarterly as a starting point for discussion.

***Coffee Fellowship (fellowship hall)**

***Special Topics (location to be determined)** -- Special opportunities for reporting, reflection, and discussion will be offered throughout the summer.

July 9 – Carol Steegman, Findlay Hope House

July 16 - Youth report on MCUSA and “Thank you” breakfast

July 23 - Mission partners Bruce and Nancy Frey-Yoder

FMC children attending pre-junior camp at Friedenswald last week were **Rebecca Estell, Kaleigh Coffman, Xavier Diller, Makayla Suter, Ethan Nickel and Ethan Blount.**

The Bluffton Area Ministerial Association has decided to move away from holding the community worship service that usually follows VBS week. Instead, they may join the Bluffton Fall Festival events in September for some combined community worship celebration. More will follow on the Fall Festival worship as plans develop.

To raise money for his upcoming year with Mennonite Voluntary Services-Chicago, IL Erie Neighborhood, Justin Neufeld Weaver will be doing caricatures at the Bluffton Farmers' Market on Saturdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. I am able to do caricatures from photographs