

**Mission Sunday
July 23, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions George O'Reilly, worship leader

Prelude Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

Call to worship

***Opening Hymn** "Praise with joy, the world's Creator" STJ 16

Responsive Reading Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
L: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

C: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

L: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

C: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

C: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

L: Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

C: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

L: If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

C: even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

L: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

**All: even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

Special Music "Wash My Eyes" Greg Brown
Sara Brenner

-- PRAISING --

Conversation with Friends

Hymn "God's Family" (vs. 1) See insert

Conversation Hymn JP Schumacher, Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder

Hymn "God's Family" (vs. 3) See insert

Pastoral Prayer Wanda Stopher

Blessing of the comforters

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture John 20:19-23

Sermon "Continuing the Ministry that Jesus started"
Nancy and Bruce Frey Yoder

***Hymn** "Away with our fears" HWB 292

— RESPONDING --

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

***Hymn of Dedication** "Grant us, Lord, the grace" HWB 388

***Prayer of Dedication**

--- SENDING ---

***Hymn** "O Holy Spirit, making whole" HWB 300

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**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

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: Alice Ruth Ramseyer, Margie Closson

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Wendy Chappell-Dick and Bobbi Chappell

Worship – George and Anita Lehman, Carrie Mast

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Gerald Mast and Jenny Moser

Worship – Annette Heslep, Jason Diller, Jacob Biesecker-Mast

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

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	132
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	NA
Spending plan giving July 16, 2017	\$3,478.00
Spending plan receipts as of June 30	\$165,251.32
Spending plan expenses as of June 30	\$206,209.62
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00
The offering July 16 totaled \$4,991.81. Money was received for these special funds: K-5 - \$.86, Deacons Benevolent - \$125, Kitchen service - \$2.95, Habitat - \$120, Willis Sommer memorial - \$250, Evelyn Luginbuhl memorial - \$50, Syrian student - \$1,000, SHYF - \$50.	

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.



few weeds, go for it. Margie Closson and Linda Miller are doing a great job caring for the beds along the parking lot sides of the church. -- Trustees

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 donations are still appreciated, whether by cash, check or e-giving.

Did you know that the "typical Mennonite" from around the world is a young woman from Congo? Right now, "average Mennonites" are facing trauma, grief and pain. Our global family of Mennonites needs your help now. Current violence is on the rise in the Kasai regions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where most of the Mennonite congregations are established. This leaves some Congolese Mennonites abused, others dead, and many in hiding. Consider donating to help provide emergency food relief, farming tools, and other support. To send a donation via Mennonite Mission Network, go to <https://www.mennonitemission.net/donate/causes/Congo%20emergency>.

The multi-media art exhibition, "From Swords to Plowshares; Our Process of Transformation..." continues through July at the Grace Albrecht gallery of the Sauder Visual Arts Center at Bluffton University. Twenty-five artists have shared from their collection or created new work on the theme of transformation from violence to peace. The gallery is open Thursday-Sunday from 2-5 p.m.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Samuel Diller, 83, July 29.

We want to express our thanks for the many expressions of care and support we received during the time of Willis's illness and passing. You sustained us through a very difficult time, sometimes even meeting needs we didn't realize we had. We are grateful.

-- Betty Sommer, Jen and Darby Benroth, Matt and Emily

Jan Emmert is making good progress with physical therapy and expected to be discharged from MMH on Saturday. He'll continue physical therapy at home for awhile until he is ready to start cardiac rehab in Lima.

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 23, 2017

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Mission Sunday worship, Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (6-25) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Thursday (6-27) Pastor/resident meeting, 2:30 p.m., Maple Crest
"Knowing and Hearing the Stories, 7 p.m., FH
Deacons, attending "Knowing and Hearing the Stories, 7 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher 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

We welcome Mennonite Mission Network workers Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder today for Mission Sunday. The Frey-Yoders teach and support local ministry in a variety of settings within Burkina Faso and West Africa. In Ougadougou, they work with the Mennonite university student hostel and church leaders. They work in concert with the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso. Today, they will report on their work and the work of MMN endeavors around the globe.

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 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*

“Knowing and Hearing the Stories,” an inner-church dialogue, will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 27, at First Mennonite. As they observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, “lament the violence and division that took place between Christian sisters and brothers,” Presbyterians from the Maumee Valley Presbytery have asked to hear stories of Anabaptists and Catholics. Storytellers will include Jackie Wyse-Rhodes (Mennonite,) Paul Mullet (Catholic,) and Rev. Barry Murr (Presbyterian.) There will also be discussion of how the splintering experienced in the Reformation continues to affect relationships today.

Kitchen Cleaning: Now is your opportunity to get some of FMC history! During our cleaning of the basement kitchen we have discovered a number of items that are no longer used at FMC. These items will be on display on the counter tops in the basement kitchen for several weeks. Help yourself to whatever suits you. Donations are optional. Anything that is not taken will be donated to the Et Cetera Shop. -- *The Kitchen Trio*

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.*

School Kits: “Back to School” sales start soon. That means the beginning of MCC School Kit collection at FMC. During the sales, kit contents can be purchased for about \$5 or less. Let’s stretch ourselves in filling a large number of kits this year!

Please limit your generosity to the following items for each kit:

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 ½ x 10 ½ in. and 70 sheets)
- 8 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30cm and 12 in.)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser

We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. (Heavier fabric is ideal for school kits.) Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of Fellowship Hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. -- *Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller*

Jan Wiebe and Jonathan Andreas are looking for responsible house-sitters while they are in Guatemala for four months in the fall (leaving August 28.) Terms are negotiable. Call Jonathan or Jan at 419-358-0979 for more information.

You are invited to join Charles Buller, a non-resident missionary with Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, and Leonard and Antoinette Kiswangi to learn the latest on the unfolding crises in the Congo on Sunday, August 13, at 5 p.m. at FMC. They’ll discuss unprecedented opportunities for grace to bring healing to this beleaguered nation. The Kiswangis lead Africa Enterprise RDC which works at conflict resolution, leadership development, and evangelization across Africa. They are also instrumental partners in the Congo Leadership Coaching Network (Charles’ ministry in association with AIMM.)

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. He is able to do caricatures from photographs as well. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Thanks for your support. Checks should be made out to MVS with Justin Weaver placed on the memo line.

See a weed? Pull a weed! The mulch areas on the Jackson and Church Street sides of the church are doing a great job of growing weeds. The weeds are getting ahead of the hands that remove them. If you have a green thumb or not such a green thumb, but are willing to pull a