

Bridges among us: Conversation about Privilege

July 9, 2017

10:30 a.m.

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship	LuAnn Stuckey
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions	Carrie Mast, worship leader
Prelude	“Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus” setting by K.T. Kosche
Call to worship	
Opening Hymns	Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
Responsive Reading	Psalm 145:8-14

L: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C: The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.

L: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord, and all your faithful shall bless you.

C: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,

L: to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

C: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.

All: The Lord upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.

-- PRAISING --

Conversation with Friends		
Hymn	“God's Family” (vs. 1)	See insert
Conversation		Lynda Nyce
Hymn	“God's Family” (vs. 3)	See insert

Pastoral Prayer		George O'Reilly
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— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture	Luke 14:1, 7-14	
Sermon	“Leveraging our assets”	George O'Reilly and Carol Steegman
*Hymn	“Christ's is the world”	STJ 62

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All”	setting by K.T. Kosche
*Hymn of Dedication	“Grant us, Lord, the grace”	HWB 388
*Prayer of Dedication		

--- SENDING ---

*Hymn	“As rain from the clouds”	STJ 40
*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 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: Alice Ruth Ramseyer, Vicki Laird

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Mary Ina Hooley, Cheri Slotter

Worship – Andrea Goings, Sarah Phillips, Sunita Hooley

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Pat Sheidler, Monica Harnish

Worship – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Ana Neufeld-Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM:

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	188
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	6
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	NA
Spending plan giving July 2, 2017	\$7,254.00
E-giving June 1-30, 2017	\$6,658.97
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 July 2 totaled \$10,753.81. Money was received for these special funds: K-5 - \$4.07, Sojourners - \$15, Deacons Benevolent - \$20, Kitchen service - \$6, SHYF - \$50, SHYF convention - \$956.74, Syrian student - \$2,000, Willis Sommer memorial - \$270, MVS/Justin Neufeld Weaver- \$20.

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 race

“From Swords to Plowshares; Our Process of Transformation...” is a multi-media art exhibition responding to the RAWtools event during CDC 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 through July, Thursday-Sunday, from 2-5 p.m. at the Grace Albrecht gallery of the Sauder Visual Arts Center at Bluffton University.

Anabaptist Witness: Call for submissions. *Anabaptist Witness*, a journal featuring global Anabaptist and Mennonite dialogue on key issues facing the church in mission, welcomes submissions for its April 2018 issue on “Mission and Ecology.” Submissions are due to issue editor Sarah Werner (guesteditor@anabaptistwitness.org) by Oct. 1, 2017. More information, including submission guidelines, is available at www.anabaptistwitness.org. Watch for the October 2017 issue on “Mission and Suffering.”

Take time to learn about, study and pray over the results of the Future Church Summit that recently took place in Orlando. The gathering was designed to shape a new vision and direction that will energize the church.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Jan Emmert continues recovery from open heart surgery at Mennonite Memorial Home. He and Diana appreciate your prayers and cards, but visits remain restricted.

Congratulations to Lauren (LoBianco) and Kevin Brenneman on the birth of their daughter, Emersyn Violet July 4 in Lima. Emersyn is the granddaughter of Joan LoBianco and the great-granddaughter of Ernie Porzelius.

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 9, 2017

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, George O’Reilly preaching
Noon Freudige, Sojourners potlucks

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (6-11) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Education, 6:30 p.m. parlor
Trustees, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (6-12) Pastor’s visit with residents, MMH, 2:30 p.m.
Stewardship, 7 p.m., 301
Thursday (6-13) Senior Concerns, 2 p.m., AR
Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (6-14) Schroeder rehearsal, 3-7 p.m., sanctuary
Schroeder wedding, church reserved all day

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, Youth report on MCUSA; 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

We welcome Carol Steegman to our Sunday school and worship services today. Carol is the Bridges Out of Poverty Coordinator at Findlay Hope House and is a Certified Bridges Trainer. Carol spoke during the Sunday school hour and is collaborating with George O'Reilly on today's sermon.

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.

SHYF will report on their convention experience on Sunday, July 16, in the fellowship hall. They will provide a light breakfast as a special thank you to the congregation for supporting them. See you there!

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.*

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.

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

FMC youth attending camp at Friedenswald last week were Allison Diller and Milo Combs.

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 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*

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. **The VBS committee reports they have enough milk jugs for the igloo, and thanks everyone for their donations.**

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 16 - Youth report on MCUSA and "Thank you" breakfast

July 23 - Mission partners Bruce and Nancy Frey-Yoder

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. 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.