

**Bridges among us: Conversation about ability**

**June 25, 2017**

**10:30 a.m.**

**-- GATHERING --**

**Chimes call us to worship**

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions**

Ruth Naylor, worship leader

**Call to worship**

L: Both strong and weak, we gather in the presence of God. And in faith, we meet our God who heals.

**C: God’s healing comes in many ways.**

L: Through Moses, we heard a God who stutters.

**C: God works despite our mortal bodies.**

L: Through Paul, we felt Christ in our weaknesses.

**C: In tender places, Christ is often most present.**

L: In Christ, God’s body ached, wept, sweat blood, and was crucified.

**C: Now this God carries our abilities *and* our limitations.**

L: The image of God shines in weakness as well as in strength.

**C: We are not ashamed of the image of God.**

*All: Thanks be to God!*

**Prelude**

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

**Invocation**

**Opening Hymns**

Wanda Stopher

**-- PRAISING --**

**\*Responsive Reading**

Psalm 86: 6-8, 16 & 10

L: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.

**C: In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.**

L: There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

**C: Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant. . .**

All: For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

**Conversation with Friends**

**Hymn**

“God’s Family” (vs. 1)

See insert

**Conversation**

Louise Matthews

**Hymn**

“God’s Family” (vs. 2)

See insert

**Pastoral Prayer**

George O’Reilly

**— PROCLAIMING —**

**Scripture**

Mark 5:1-20

**Sermon**

“Bridges for community”

Kathy Dickson

**\*Hymn**

“Will you let me be your servant”

HWB 307

**– RESPONDING –**

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

“God, whose giving” - vs. 3

HWB 383

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**--- SENDING ---**

**\*Hymn**

“Bless’d be the tie that binds” - vs. 1-3, 5

HWB 421

**\*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](http://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** – Amy Blount, Victoria Woods-Yee

**Worship** – Kristen Niekamp, Amy Blount, Grace Paquin

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – George and Anita Lehman

**Worship** – Mary Ina Hooley, Kendra and Ellie Nickel

**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](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	198
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	8
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	NA
Spending plan giving June 18, 2017	\$3,642.00
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 18 totaled \$4,638.22. Money was received for these special funds: Deacons Benevolent - \$167, Kitchen service - \$9.71, SHYF (including convention payments and donations) - \$612.50, Habitat - \$50, Facility use - \$55, Willadene Keeney memorial - \$50.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)  
Pastoral Associate – George O’Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – [fmc.george@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.george@bluffton.edu)  
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)  
Director of Music – Mark Suderman  
Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto: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 ability

**Bluffton's Town Hall Concert Series** will present Lalo Cura Friday, June 30, at 7:30 p.m. on the third floor of the town hall. Donations will be taken at the door; all proceeds go directly to the band. Lalo Cura is a Spanish Rock band based in Goshen, IN. Formed in 2012, Lalo Cura's sound combines musical genres that have influenced each member of the group. The band is led by Rafael Chávez y Moreno on guitar and vocals, Sam Que on saxophone, Sonny Carreño on drums, and Adam Hart on bass. They have toured extensively throughout the Midwest and have been featured on NPR's Alt Latino twice.

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday** to Lawrence Burkhalter, 97, June 30; Luther Shetler, 100, July 1.

**Willis Sommer** passed away peacefully early Friday morning in Bridge Hospice center in Findlay with Betty at his side. We can be grateful that his difficult struggle is over and pray for the Spirit's sustaining presence and comfort for the family. Service arrangements will be announced when plans have been finalized.

**Thank you everyone** for your kind thoughts and prayers this past week as my father's life waned and he was finally able to leave behind his pain from mesothelioma/lung cancer. I like to think he went to be with my mother and was able to meet my brother Christopher Robin for the first time. I am sad and grateful at the same time. And pleased I could be there to care for him. God is gracious. Despite all the suffering, my father's final moments were peaceful.

*-- Thank you again, Victoria, Maia, and Zander Woods-Yee and the Woods family*

**To our FMC family:** Thank you so much for the commissioned work of art created by Lois Wetherill. It will have a special place in our new home. We received a wonderfully warm welcome from members of the Murray community and are excited about the future opportunities that a new job and community have to offer. The years of friendship and support we have felt from the FMC family is overwhelming and humbling, and will never be forgotten.

*-- Lucia Unrau and Peter Terry*

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

**This summer, five youth** are serving in their home congregations for 100 hours -- working alongside their pastors in a mentoring relationship -- as part of !Explore: A Theological Program for High School Youth, an AMBS program. Pray that God would use these experiences to help shape and form them as Christ-followers and strengthen their leadership skills.

*-- Mennonite Education Agency*

### 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, June 25, 2017

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Kathy Dickson preaching
6-8 p.m.	SHYF, convention meeting and Bible study, 6-8 p.m., SHYF room

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday (6-27)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
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### NEXT SUNDAY

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

**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. Today’s items have special connections to this congregation.

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

**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.

**Thank you to everyone** who came to the Congregational Gathering on Sunday, June 4. Church Council appreciates your thoughtfulness and your engagement with the position descriptions. As a result, several recommendations were made by Church Council for revisions and were affirmed by Staff Relations. The revised descriptions were affirmed by Church Council and are posted on the staff bulletin board. Not every concern raised was addressed with a formal revision of the position descriptions, but all concerns raised will stay on our minds as we move forward with these descriptions and work to live in to them for the benefit of our congregation and God's kingdom here among us.

*-- Kendra Nickel, Church Moderator, on behalf of Church Council*

**Luther Shetler will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Saturday, July 1.** You are welcome to celebrate with Luther and his family from 2-4 p.m. in the living room and family room at Maple Crest. If you’re unable to attend the party, visits and cards are always welcome!

**MCUSA Conference:** FMC delegates to MCUSA are **Justin Neufeld Weaver, Gerald Mast, and Lawrence Matthews.** **Wanda Stopher** will attend as pastor. SHYF youth attending include: **Isaac and Seth Andreas, Anna and Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Patrick Estell, Sophia Gott, Christopher Harnish, Douglas Nester, Ana Neufeld Weaver, Grace Paquin, and Danielle Novak.** Their sponsors include **Shannon Thiebeau, Rhonda Winstead, Walt Paquin, and Tig Intagliata.** **Greg and Laura Hartzler and JP**

**Schumacher** will be working with the children’s programs, and the Hartzler children, **Benjamin, Ellie, Micah, and Anna** will attend children’s programs.

**Congratulations to Bill Croft and Mark Suderman**, AKA “The Ageless Wonders,” who won the CDC golf tournament on Thursday. Mark reports that he happily chose his prize of a two-book volume of Anabaptist Prayers.

**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 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.

### 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.

**FMC children attending primary camp at Friedenswald** last week were **Kennedy Longworth and Kari Diller.** Junior high campers included **Ellie Nickel and Jacob Suter.**

**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.**

**We received a thank you note** from the Central Christian High School (Kidron) girls basketball team, who stayed overnight in our assembly room June 15. The team participated in a tournament at Bluffton University. You’ll find their note posted on the “Here and Now” pillar in the fellowship hall.