

**Youth Sunday
First Mennonite Church
May 13, 2018**

Chimes call us to worship LuAnn Stuckey

Welcome and announcements Anna Biesecker-Mast, Ana Neufeld Weaver

Introductions

Prelude Grace Paquin

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** “What is this place” HWB 1
Ana Neufeld Weaver, accompanist

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 91:1-6, 11-12, 14-16 (IB - Inclusive Bible)
L: You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in the shadow of Shaddai, 2 say: “Yhwh, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!”

C: For God says: “I will rescue you from the snare, and shield you from poisoned arrows. I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will shield you.

L: You have no need to fear the prowlers of the night or the arrow that flies by day, the plague that lurks in the shadows or the scourge that stalks at noon...

C: For I will command my angels to guard you wherever you go. They’ll carry you in their hands, so you don’t hurt your foot on a stone...

L: Because you love me, I will deliver you; I will rescue you because you acknowledge my name.

C: You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble; I will deliver you and honor you.

All: I will satisfy you with a long life and show you my salvation.”

Special Music Youth Bells

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “God of the Bible” (v. 1) STJ 27 (*see insert*)
Conversation Grace Paquin, Danielle Novak
Hymn “God of the Bible” (v. 2) STJ 27 (*see insert*)
Anna Biesecker-Mast, accompanist

Special Music “Festival Sanctus” John Leavitt
Youth Choir

Special Music “The Wind” Rich Campbell
Middle School Youth

Hymnal Presentation Theo Andreas, Ben Hartzler, John-Paul Yoder

Community Prayer Wanda Stopher, Sophia Gott

Special Music “Poor Man Lazarus”
Hannah Yost, Alyssa Casemiere, Caleb Mikesell, Christopher Harnish

Scripture John 17:6-19 Jacob Biesecker-Mast
Ellie Nickel, Patrick Estell

Senior Statements Anna Biesecker-Mast, Christopher Harnish

***Hymn** “Guide my feet” HWB 546

Congregational Blessing and Gift to Seniors Shannon Thiebeau

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Pan!” Johannes Donjon
Sophia Gott, flute

***Hymn of Dedication** “Will you let me be your servant?” v. 1 HWB 307
***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** “You shall go out with joy” HWB 427

***Benediction** Christopher and Anna

***Postlude** “Minuet II” JS Bach
Theo Andreas and Ben Hartzler, violin duet

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story

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

Pastor – Theda – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

HOST: Sara Brenner

GREETER: Susie Gratz

NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS – Pat Sheidler, Cheri Slotter

Worship – Amy Freeman, Bruce Steingass, Sunita Hooley

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Elaine Suderman, Ashton Cluts

Worship – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Christopher Harnish

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Youth

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

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|---|---------------|
| Worship attendance last Sunday | FMC-154, MC-5 |
| Spending plan giving May 6, 2018 (includes e-giving) | \$6,973.00 |
| Special fund giving May 6, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Pk-5-\$5.02; Sojourners-\$15 Faith and Life-\$9; Faithful Living-\$17; Community-\$10; Kitchen-\$7; Flooring-\$270; Memorials-\$175; College scholarship-\$40</i> | \$553.02 |
| Total giving May 6, 2018 (includes e-giving) | \$7,506.02 |
| Total spending plan receipts as of March 31, 2018 | \$105,385.07 |
| Spending plan expenses as of March 31, 2018 | \$94,613.17 |
| 2018 spending plan | \$427,441.00 |

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Wanda Stopher – **419-551-1079 (cell)** -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu

Pastor Theda Good – **419-549-2417 (cell)** -- fmc.theda@bluffton.edu

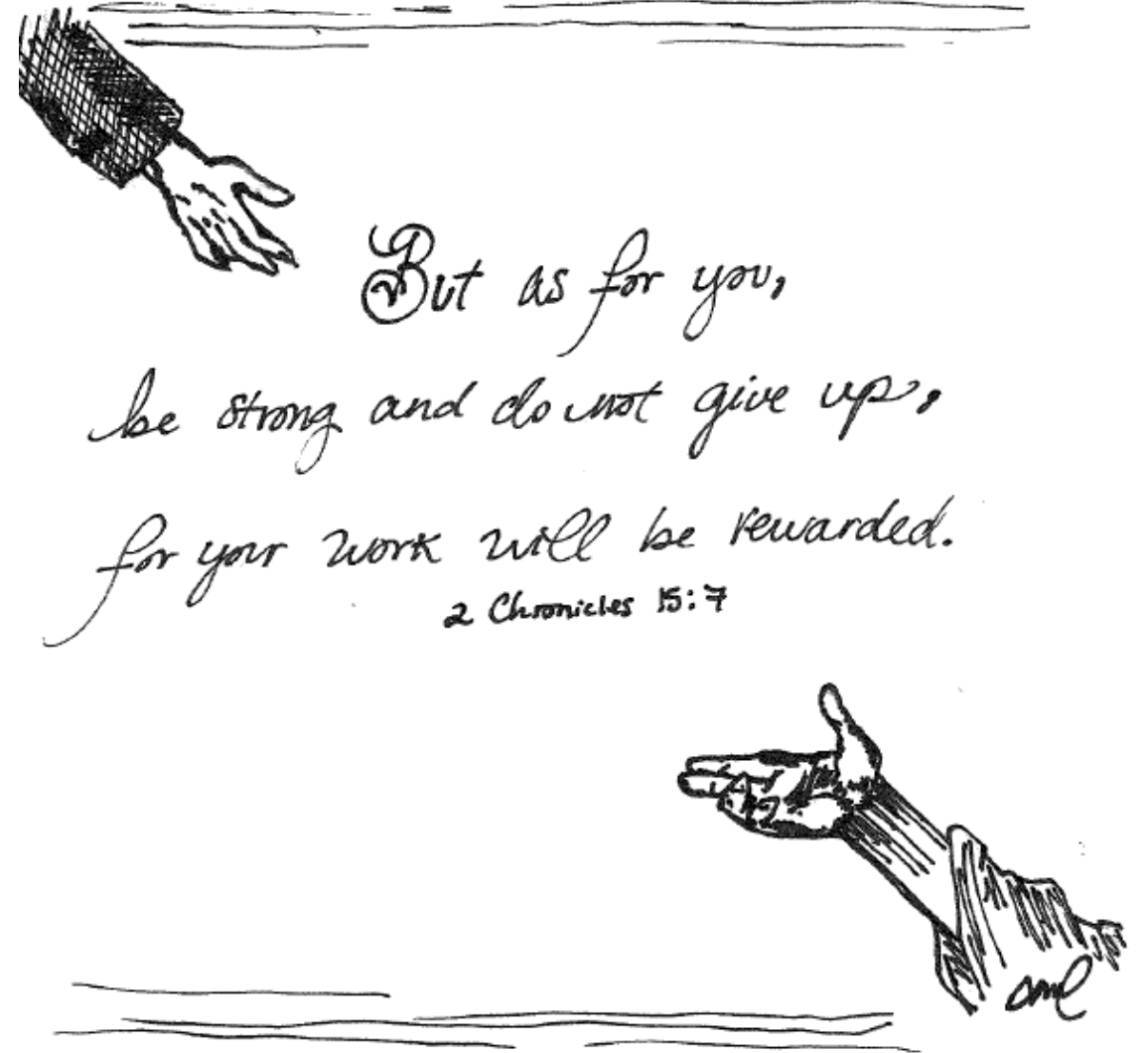
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu

Director of Music – Mark Suderman – sudermanme@bluffton.edu

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.



We're collecting coins for My Coins Count for MCC's water and food project via the Black Swamp Benefit June 15-16. Please deposit your coins in the jug in the fellowship hall. Also, your attendance and donations of items will benefit MCC and Sunshine Homes. Please place donated items, with forms attached, in the quilt room. Contact John Rich for more information.
~ John Rich

Due to Mary Ina Hooley's retirement, there is a teaching position open in the second and third grade classes of Release Time/Weekday Christian Education. See the position description posted on various bulletin boards in the fellowship hall and near the exterior doors.

The 2018 Central District Conference annual meeting will meet June 21-23 at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN. The theme is "Come, walk with us. Tell us your story!" Registration is now open. For details of the annual meeting, visit <https://www.mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting/>. (A general schedule and information is posted on the "Here and Now" pillar in the fellowship hall.

Note received via the First Mennonite website: What a beautiful service today (Music Sunday.) We loved every part of it. Our son, Peter Rafaniello, and his wife, Kirstie Wehri Rafaniello are both graduates of Bluffton. And after their marriage they remained in Ohio. Whenever we visit them, we come to First Mennonite so we are grateful that we can worship with you online. We live in an area of NJ where there is no Mennonite church so we feel blessed when we can worship with you.

~ Love and blessings, Leslie and Dennis Rafaniello

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, May 13, 2018

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| 8:30 a.m. | Youth choir |
| 9 a.m. | Cupcake sales, all youth, fellowship hall |
| 9:15 a.m. | SS, coffee time |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Youth Sunday |
| 11:30 a.m. | Cupcake sales, all youth, fellowship hall |
| Noon | Freudige/Sojourners potlucks |

May 14-19

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| Monday (5-14) | Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH |
| Tuesday (5-15) | Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. |
| Wednesday (5-16) | Jubilate, 6 p.m. Youth bells, 7 p.m. |
| Thursday (5-17) | MPS, 8 a.m., parlor Council, 7 p.m., parlor |
| Friday (5-18) | M-L deadline |

Next Sunday, May 20

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| 9:15 a.m. | SS, Coffee time |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, Communion |
| Noon | All-church potluck, followed by pastoral review report |

Reminders:

Check the literature rack and the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall for newly posted items. New on the literature rack: May Central District Reporter with CDC annual meeting information; and on the Here and Now pillar: Elkhart Truth article about AMBS students, including Jeff Boehr, FMC member.

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 to Seth Andreas, today's artist for the bulletin cover.

Check your church mailbox for a 2018 summer worship schedule and an introduction to the summer theme, "Practicing faith."

In the church year Easter joy and resurrection are celebrated not just one day, but for 50 days, Easter through Pentecost. This Eastertide, worship at FMC has featured special emphases such as Church College Relations, Music, and Youth Sundays. We are also focusing on our 5 Priorities identified in our congregational discernment process:

1. Following Jesus 2. Nurturing faith 3. Connecting 4. Worship 5. Gifts expression.
Whether focusing on our priorities and imagining ways we might live into them with new life, or celebrating special emphases, we will worship the Resurrected Christ. May Spirit breathe life, joy and peace as we gather and worship together. ~Pastor Wanda

05-20-18 Priority: Nurturing Faith (Pentecost)
05-27-18 Priority: Connecting

Communion on May 20: In keeping with our tradition at First Mennonite we will celebrate communion together on Pentecost Sunday. Preparation for communion is to take time to examine our individual lives with God and our relationships with one another, and to take action to reconcile wherever that is indicated.

Giving Alms is another aspect of our communion experience. This is done at FMC by giving to the Deacons Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community. There will be baskets for alms at the entrances to the sanctuary on May 20.

Mennonite Women will meet Monday, May 14, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall for the final program of the 2017-18 year. It will be a time of celebration and fellowship on the theme of "Live!" Alice Ruth Ramseyer will lead devotions, and Paula Luginbill and Elizabeth Kelly will provide refreshments.

The plantings along the tan fence enclosing the air conditioning units have been cared for by Margie Closson for many years. Margie has retired from this service so we need

someone to take over -- it could be a shared opportunity. Please contact Bob Suter in person or call him at 419-230-2744. **Thank you Margie!** ~ Trustees

2018 FMC graduating high school seniors

Anna Biesecker-Mast, Oakwood High School

My parents are Gerald and Carrie Mast, and Sue and Bill Trollinger. I have two brothers, Jorian and Jacob, as well as two sisters, Abby and Bekah Trollinger. After graduation, I am going to attend the University of Dayton. I have yet to declare a major; however, I am thinking I will probably major in the humanities -- potentially a double major in Religious Studies and something else. I will be in the Honors Program and plan on remaining musically active. This could mean joining a choir, orchestra, or continuing to take piano lessons. One thing I know for sure, is that I am eager to embark on this new journey of independence, broaden my horizons, and begin to discern who I want to be.

Laura Strahan, Bluffton High School

Laura is the daughter of Jeff and Esther Yoder Strahan and has one brother, Isaac. She plans to attend Ohio Northern University in the fall.

Christopher Harnish, Bluffton High School

I've attended FMC for around 18 years (I'm 18). Growing up in First Mennonite has been a positive influence on me and has shaped my college decision. Being surrounded by people passionate about peace and social justice made me want to attend a college that also emphasized these values. For this reason, along with having both my brothers attend Goshen, it was always clear to me that I would attend a Mennonite college. It wasn't until recently though, that I decided to follow in my brothers' footsteps and also attend Goshen. Along with Goshen's values, I was drawn by their strong academics, smaller size, Study Service Term, and what I perceived to be a supportive community. I will study math as a major and computer science and/or Spanish as a minor, although I'm keeping my options open and fully expect my plans to change in some way. I also plan to participate in cross country, track, men's choir, and whatever clubs perk my interest.

Congratulations to Justin Paul and Courtney Stites, who were married Saturday in Lima. Justin is the son of Janine and Chad Paul.

Camp Friedenswald scholarships: Parents who wish to make use of our Camp Friedenswald scholarships should pay the full amount when registering a child. Submit a copy of your confirmation to the church office. We will reimburse you for the church's portion. Camperships this year are one-half of the cost for one camp per child.