

**First Mennonite Church
May 27, 2018**

Chimes call us to worship

Jackie Wyse Rhodes

Welcome and announcements

George Lehman

Introductions

Prelude

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn**

“Come, thou fount”

HWB 521

***Responsive Reading**

Psalm 36:5-9 (NRSV)

L: Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

C: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgements are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.

L: How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

C: They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

All: For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

Special Music

“Great is the Lord”

Lucas Harnish, piano; Julian Harnish, cello

Conversation with Friends

Hymn

“Earth and all stars” (v. 1)

HWB 47

Conversation

Carrie Mast

Hymn

“Earth and all stars” (v. 2)

HWB 47

Community Prayer

Adam Phillips

Scripture

Acts 8:26-40

Paul Neufeld Weaver

Sermon

“Likely and Unlikely Connections”

Theda Good

***Hymn**

“O Jesus Christ, may grateful hymns”

HWB 404

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Jackie Wyse Rhodes

***Hymn of Dedication**

“God, whose form is all creation” vs. 1

HWB 391

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn**

“Bless’d be the tie that binds” vv. 1, 3, 6

HWB 421

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**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 – Wendy Chappell-Dick, Bobbie Chappell, Victoria Woods-Yee

Worship – Melinda, Patrick and Rebecca Estell, Mary Ina Hooley

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Shelby Cluts, Monica Harnish

Worship – Mary Ina Hooley, Annette Heslep, Seth Andreas

SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

CHANCEL: Carolyn Rich

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	FMC-175, MC-11
Spending plan giving May 20, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$5,589.02
Special fund giving May 20, 2018 (includes e-giving): Pk-5-\$6.88; Sojourners-\$5 Faith and Life-\$17; Faithful Living-\$10; Freudige-\$10; Flooring-\$410; College scholar-\$61	
JHYF-\$196.20; SHYF-\$371.25; Kitchen-\$5.95; Deacons' benevolent-\$1,310; MCC-\$25	\$2,428.28
Total giving May 20, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$8,017.30
Total spending plan receipts as of April 30, 2018	\$ 136,553.78
Spending plan expenses as of April 30, 2018	\$ 128,187.11
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.



Registration is now open. For details, visit <https://www.mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting/>. A general schedule and other information is posted on the “Here and Now” pillar in the fellowship hall. First Mennonite’s delegates include Wanda Stopher, Theda Good, Carrie Mast, Gerald Mast, Ruth Naylor, Lawrence Matthews and Louise Matthews

Habitat for Humanity Lima will soon begin a home repair ministry in Lima and the surrounding area. Volunteers will be needed occasionally for one or more days work repairing and restoring homes to bring them up to a safe and healthy standard. If you could offer a half day or more of occasional work in the areas of de-construction, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, masonry, etc., please let Lynn Miller or Mark Suderman know when you might be available and what kind of work you feel competent doing.

Pray for the safe return of the Bluffton students who took the past three weeks to venture out into the country and the world. Pray those experiences changed the way they view the world and that they will share their experiences with others.

~ Mennonite Education Agency

Join MCC Great Lakes and Center for Community Justice for a week-long Pipeline to Prison learning tour. Based in Goshen, Ind., the tour will focus on the challenges and complexities of the U.S. criminal justice system and include day trips to Elkhart, Peru and Kokomo. Participants will journey from the local community level through the criminal justice system, learning about law enforcement, sentencing, incarceration and re-entry. All who are interested in learning about disparities in the justice system, including those working in or seeking to develop a prison/re-entry ministry, are welcome. For more information and registration visit mcc.org/gl-pipeline-to-prison or contact Cyneatha Millsaps at CyneathaMillsaps@mcc.org or 574-534-4133.

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 27, 2018

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Theda Good preaching

May 28-June 3

Monday (5-28) CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday (5-29) Morning Prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Comforter square cutting and packaging, 1 p.m., FH

Next Sunday, June 3

9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

Reminders:

Check the literature rack and the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall for recently posted items. New on the literature rack: Copies of the Appreciative Way Congregational-Pastoral Review Summary.

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

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 28. Wanda Stopher will be on vacation through May 28. In case of emergency, please call Theda Good at 419-549-2417.

Sanctuary renovation schedule:

**Please note that some of these steps/dates may change as work proceeds. We will provide updates when necessary*

- **June 24-August 26:** Our worship services will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Bluffton Middle School cafetorium. Please enter by the double doors across the street from the FMC Jackson Street entrance. Sunday school classes and coffee time will meet in the basement of First Mennonite Church. Look for the summer Sunday school schedule in your church mailbox.
- **June 18-July 24:** Removal of pews, removal of organ and some pipes, plaster repair (if needed), painting, new light bulbs
- **July 25-August 5:** Construction of steps and railings
- **August 6-19:** Hardwood flooring put in (front of sanctuary floor and stage area), sanding and clear coating of wood floor under and in balcony
- **August 20-25 or 31:** Carpet installed, along with new rubber stairs by Church Street door

You are invited to help cut and package fabric squares for comforter kits on Tuesday, May 29, beginning at 1 p.m. Please bring your own rotary cutter, ruler, and mat. If you have never done this job, come to learn. Two irons and ironing boards will be set up if someone would rather iron fabrics. No kits are left in the quilt room, so your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Bev Simon's seven-year-old grandson, Braylon, has been diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma. He is receiving chemotherapy treatments. His parents are Jon and Kayla Simon. Please hold Braylon and the whole family in your thoughts and prayers.

Summer 2018 Sunday school schedules are on today's bulletin insert

- **Adult option one** will meet in the assembly room and will include speakers discussing a variety of subjects, such as conference topics and service experiences.
- **Adult option two** will meet in the chancel choir room. Led by Gerald Mast, the class will study and discuss the theme of "Justice in the New Testament" as developed in MennoMedia's quarterly Adult Bible Study by Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New Testament at Eastern Mennonite Seminary.
- **Coffee time** will meet in the downstairs kitchen and in Room 113 (Faithful Living classroom.)
- **Children ages 3 years to fifth grade** will meet for Sunday school throughout the summer, with all ages beginning in room 104/106 for singing from 9:15-9:30 a.m. Depending on how many children and what ages are present on a given week, most children will remain in this same room until the end of SS at 10:15 a.m. As needed, preschool children may move to the preschool room 102 to finish out the Sunday school hour.
- **Junior and senior high youth** are encouraged to join adult option one or two.

All are invited to celebrate Christopher's graduation with us at First Mennonite Church on Sunday, June 3, from 2-4 p.m. ~ *The Harnishes*

You are cordially invited to Anna Biesecker-Mast's open house graduation party on Sunday, June 3, between 2 and 4 p.m. at the Mast residence, 177 W. Kibler St.

FMC outdoor service opportunity: One or more persons are needed to care for the plants along the tan fence enclosing the air conditioning units. If interested, please contact Bob Suter at 419-230-2744. ~ *Trustees*

There are just three more weeks to the Black Swamp Benefit. June 15-16 at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Wauseon. Our *My Coins Count* jug is in great need of more coins! Please deposit your spare change in the jug in the fellowship hall. *My Coins Count* benefits MCC water and food projects. Remember also that your attendance at the benefit and donations of quilts, wooden items, and homemade baked goods will benefit MCC and Sunshine Homes. Please place donated items, with forms attached, in the quilt room. Contact John Rich for more information.

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!"