

**Eastertide
May 7, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship		LuAnn Stuckey
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Gloria Bucher
Call to Worship		
Prelude	“Toccata in D”	K.T. Kosche
Invocation		
*Hymn	-- PRAISING -- “Savior, like a shepherd lead us”	HWB 355
*Psalm Reading (read in unison)	Psalm 23	HWB 814
Time with Children		
Hymn	“Firstborn of Mary!”	STS 37
Conversation		John Rich
Hymn	“Firstborn of Mary!”	STS 37
Pastoral Prayer		George O’Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture	John 10: 1-21	Don Pannabecker
Sermon	“The Un-Gate”	Wanda Stopher
*Hymn	“O thou, in whose presence”	HWB 559

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“Shall We Gather at the River”	R. Lowery/arr. J. Leavitt
*Hymn of Dedication	“As saints of old” (vs 1)	HWB 386
*Prayer of Dedication		
	— SENDING —	
*Hymn	“Great is thy faithfulness”	HWB 327
*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

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: John Rich, Vicki Laird

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Lori Nester, John and Julie Mackey

Worship – Kurt and Sabrina Longworth, Jason Diller

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Elaine Suderman, Marilyn Bishop, Victoria Woods-Yee

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Annalise Nisly

SOUND SYSTEM:

CHANCEL:

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	201
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	67
Spending plan giving April 30, 2017	\$5,412.00
Spending plan receipts as of March 31	\$96,731.00
Spending plan expenses as of March 31	\$98,327.00
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

The offering April 30 totaled \$8,308.50. Money was received for these special funds: Pk-5 - \$6.43, Sojourners - \$9, Faith and Life - \$13, College scholarships - \$350, Habitat - \$20, Colonia Lopez - \$100, Kitchen service - \$2,147.62, Christian Ed - \$71.95, SHYF - \$100.

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 Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu

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.



I am the good shepherd.

Join others across CDC to peruse and ponder the pages of “Trouble I've Seen” by theologian, blogger, and activist Drew G. I. Hart. Written for each member of the church, the book is an impassioned urging by Hart to consider new ways of seeing and discussing racism. Consider participating in *The Big Read* as preparation for the Annual Meeting in June where Drew G. I. Hart will lead a plenary session, as well as an afternoon seminar/book discussion. Consider participating in The Big Read with your Sunday school class or small group. Books and a free, downloadable study guide are available through MennoMedia: <http://www.heraldpress.com/titles/TroubleIveSeen/Praise/>.

Rally Point Youth Center is an afterschool ministry for youth in Lima supported by area Mennonite churches. Volunteers from FMC provide afterschool snacks several times each month. You are invited to support Rally Point on Sunday, May 7, at a chicken barbecue held at St. John Mennonite Church, 15988 Road 4, Pandora. Tickets for carry out or dine in meals are available for \$8 from Louise Matthews at 419.303.8057 or matthewsa@bluffton.edu . See poster on the bulletin board for additional information.

The Jewish and Palestinian Voices for Peace Tour will be at Lima Mennonite on Monday, May 8, at 7 p.m. Amy Schuster, of Jewish Voice for Peace Central Ohio, and Jonathan Kuttab, a Mennonite and Palestinian human rights attorney, will discuss diverse perspectives on Israel-Palestine and prospects for peace in the current political climate. For more information, see the poster on the Upcoming Events bulletin board.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Darrel Yoder died Wednesday, May 3, at Mennonite Memorial Home. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 13 at FMC. Visitation will be held in the fellowship hall at 10:30 a.m. and during the meal, which will follow the service. Mary and her family appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Willis Sommer has been scheduled for surgery on May 15 at Cleveland Clinic. Please continue to hold Willis, Betty and their family in your prayers.

Be in prayer for all the graduates of the various Mennonite-related colleges, universities and seminaries who are finishing their academic work this month. Pray that they would be open to God’s leading as they follow their call on the next steps of their journeys.

-- Central District Conference

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.

Eastertide

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Connections potluck
2 p.m.	Bluffton University commencement, Sommer Center

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (5-9)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Education, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (5-10)	Youth Bells, 6:30 p.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., AR Stewardship, 7 p.m., parlor
Thursday (5-11)	Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir and Jubilate
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Sunday worship, Youth Sunday

Welcome to our worship service today. Please sign and pass the friendship pads in the pews. 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

Congregational Discernment Team has concluded their work. You will find a report including a set of recommendations in your mailbox this morning. Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in this process. We look forward to the ways that the 5 Priorities and recommendations will guide us into our future life together.

-- Congregational Discernment Team

One dollar bid, now two, now two, will ya' give me two? Bidding for the SHYF silent auction fundraiser continues until Sunday, May 14. Please check out the display of items and services in the fellowship hall. Remember that this is an auction and a fundraiser so it's perfectly fine to offer a higher bid than has been listed! The auction will conclude following worship on May 14. Profits from this auction will help to offset the costs of the SHYF participation in the MCUSA convention in Orlando, FL, in July.

Mennonite Women will meet Monday, May 8, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall for the final program of the 2016-2017 year. A panel of five women will share about various life transitions they have experienced -- parenting, career transition/retirement, going to and from service, empty nest and widowhood. Elfrieda Ramseyer will lead devotions, "New Beginning." In preparation, ask yourself how new beginnings have spiritually transformed your life. Special Celtic music will be provided by Joyce Hostetler's dulcimer group. Refreshments will be prepared and served by Lisa Shelly and Mary Edmiston.

Congratulations to Justin Neufeld Weaver on his graduation from Bluffton University today. He is graduating with a major in graphic design and has been accepted into MVS in Chicago for next fall.

First Mennonite joins other congregations in our region (Grace Mennonite, Lima Mennonite, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Emmaus Road Fellowship, and Shalom Community) to serve as host congregations for the Central District Conference annual meeting June 22 – 24. All activities will be held at Bluffton University. The weekend will open with a golf outing and RAWTools event. RAWTools will lead worship in Founders

Hall on Thursday evening. Volunteers will be needed for many tasks. Watch the bulletin for announcements about serving as host homes. We need help providing childcare for nursery- and preschool-age children. Hosts may also be needed to help with services such as set up/clean up for snack times, serving as ushers in worship, assisting guests with mobility concerns and other needs as they arise. Contact Lori Nester for more information.

-- Lori Nester

Our music doesn't stop just because the choirs are taking a break!

Summer musicians needed: Pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types. There are again opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer.

Opportunities include:

- Lead the singing for our opening songs
- Play piano or organ
- Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

Please contact our Director of Music, Mark Suderman, at 419.230.5368 or at sudermanme@bluffton.edu. If you have some specific dates in mind when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know. Thank you!

Penny Power: Do you have loose change in your pockets? Drop it in the Penny Power jug in the fellowship hall to help bring water and food to third world countries through Mennonite Central Committee. Together, we can make a difference in the world.

A new kitchen committee is now in place. With Mary Edmiston as contact person, along with Sue Schaaf and Mary Ann Suter, this group plans to oversee operations for both kitchens. Please be aware of any new signage or other changes as they develop. We appreciate their willingness to serve the church in this way. -- Nurture Commission

Camp Friedenswald needs your help to get ready for summer! Volunteer Day is Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Help move back into the renewed facilities and to make final preparations for summer. A variety of tasks will require a range of skills, including yours! Register online or by calling 269-476-9744. Overnight accommodations are available. Chris Moser plans to travel up Friday afternoon and return Saturday afternoon. If you would like a ride, please let him know.

Lucia Unrau and Peter Terry's new address is 1326 Duiguid Dr., Murray, KY 42071.