

Stewardship Sunday
November 22, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship

LuAnn Stuckey

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions

Mark Suderman

Call to Worship

Prelude

“Nun Danket Alle Gott”

arr. D.E. Wagner

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn**

“Come, ye thankful people”

HWB 94

***Responsive Reading**

Psalm 132:1-12

L: O Lord, remember in David’s favor all the hardships he endured;

C: How he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,

L: “I will not enter my house or get into my bed;

C: I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids,

L: until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob.”

C: We heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Jaar.

L: “Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool.”

C: Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.

L: Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your faithful shout for joy.

C: For your servant David’s sake do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

L: The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: “One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.

ALL: If your sons keep my covenant and my decrees that I shall teach them, their sons also, forevermore, shall sit on your throne.”

Time with Children
Hymn

“We plow the fields and scatter”
(Sing v. 1)

HWB 96

Conversation
Hymn

“We plow the fields and scatter”
(Sing v. 3)

Lynn Miller
HWB 96

Pastoral Prayer

Wanda Stopher

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Lauda Anima”
— PROCLAIMING —

arr. A.K. Organ

Scripture

Mark 10:17-27

Sermon

“What would Christ ask of you?”

Steven Yoder

***Hymn**

“Count well the cost”

HWB 437

— COMMUNION —

The Invitation

Prayer of Confession (read in unison)

Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have offended you and your laws. We have neglected our duties, and committed evil against you and others. Lord have mercy on us. Fulfill the promise that if we confess our sins you are faithful and just and will forgive our sins. Grant us a godly, righteous and radiant life. As we partake of these elements, may we be filled with the fullness of Jesus Christ and grow into his likeness. Amen

Sharing the Bread

Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

— SENDING —

***Hymn**

“All hail the power of Jesus’ name”

HWB 285

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“Jubilation!”

arr. A.K. Organ

**Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.*
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey

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, 9-5, off Friday

Associate Pastor – Steve – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

GREETERS: Gayle Trollinger, Todd Rainey, Mary and Fred Steiner

HOST: Jo Clemens

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Pat Sheidler, Judy Diller

Worship – Darby and Jen Benroth, Betty Sommer, Annalise Nisly

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Lori Nester, Jen Benroth

Worship – Andrea and Tyson Goings, Seth Andreas, Douglas Nester

SOUND SYSTEM: Walt Paquin

CHANCEL: Mary Amstutz

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 212

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD) 9

Sunday school attendance last Sunday 103

Spending plan giving November 15, 2015 \$11,122.13

2015 Proposed spending plan \$419,469.00

The offering Nov. 15 totaled \$12,914.10. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$14, Capital Campaign - \$550, Facility use - \$250, The Mennonite subscriptions - \$35, Timbrel subscriptions - \$13, SHYF - \$243.97, Morning Prayers - \$181, Mennonite Women - \$205, Stan Naylor memorial (Deacons' Benevolent) – 200, Syrian Relief - \$100.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - fmc.steve@bluffton.edu

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

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

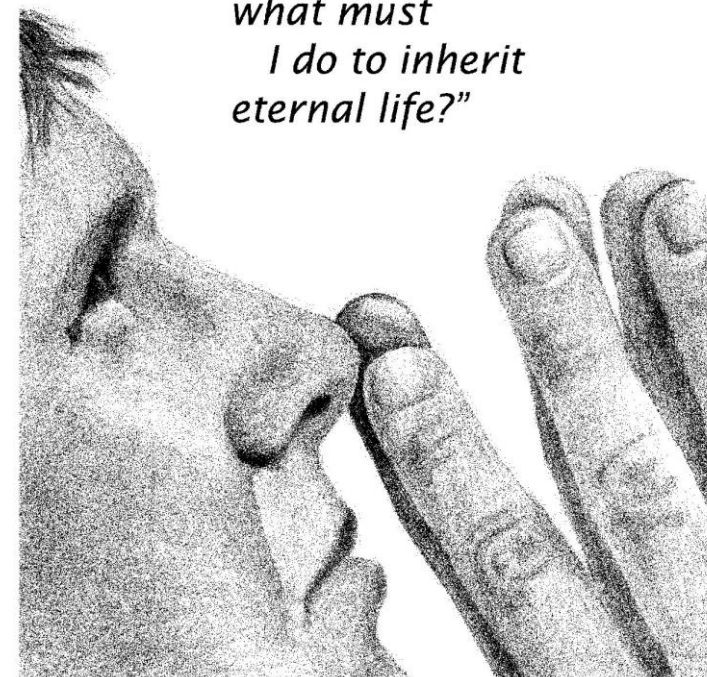
Custodian – Mick Hardy

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

*a man ran up and
knelt before him,
and asked him,*

**“Good
Teacher,**

*what must
I do to inherit
eternal life?”*



Mark 10:17

The Bluffton University Music Department will hold a holiday instrumental concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, in Yoder Recital Hall. The performance will feature the Concert Band, conducted by Dr. Roy Couch, and chamber ensembles led by Couch and Dr. Adam Schattschneider. Admission is free.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Treva Suter, 97, Nov. 27, and Harvey Bauman, 93, Nov. 27.

Happy anniversary to Corrinne and Dick Boehr, 64, Nov. 28.

Thank you for so many acts of caring and kindness during Stan's last few weeks and following his death: prayers, phone calls, visits, food, cards, memorial gifts, and other assistance when needed! One morning on our journey we felt so blessed that we wanted to pay that feeling forward. Programs for the hungry in both Bluffton and Lima benefitted more than usual that day. You were a part of God's presence with us as we walked "through the valley of the shadow of death." Our family deeply appreciated the pastors, our whole church staff, and all those whose presence supported us at the calling hours and in the memorial service. Volunteer crews prepared, served the lunch, and cleaned up afterward. I know I speak for Stan as well as the rest of the family when I express our gratitude. Thanks again for being here and who you are. *– Ruth Naylor and family*

Wanda Pannabecker was hospitalized at St. Rita's Medical Center but was expected to return to MMH on Friday. She appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

Please remember Clarence Kooker in your prayers. He had outpatient surgery November 16 and is recovering at home.

This week we received a note of thanks from Jeff and Beth Boehr, who are living in Elkhart, IN, where Jeff is attending Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary and Beth continues work as physical therapy assistant. Their address is 3003 Benham Ave., Elkhart, IN 46517. The note is posted on a pillar in the fellowship hall. This is an excerpt: "This note is to express my deep gratitude for the support of the congregation through the church matching scholarship program. This financial support, your friendship and prayers are greatly valued on this new venture." *-- Jeff and Beth Boehr*

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.

TODAY, Nov. 22, 2015

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Steven Yoder preaching Communion
2:30 p.m.	JHYF, junior high room

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (11/24)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (11/25)	NO CHOIR REHEARSALS
Thursday (11/26)	THANKSGIVING DAY, OFFICE CLOSED

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult Fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching Scripture: Jeremiah 33:14-16; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

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 available downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spending Plan update: Our spending plan offerings will need to average \$10,164 for the remaining six Sundays of 2015 to cover our anticipated Spending Plan expenses.

-- Stewardship Commission

JHYF will meet today at 2:30 p.m. in the junior high classroom for a meeting with Wanda Stopher. Those planning to attend should come prepared with some questions for Pastor Wanda.

Deadlines for next Sunday's bulletin and December Menno-Life: Because of Thanksgiving, items for the Nov. 29 bulletin must be submitted by noon Wednesday, Nov. 25. Items for the December Menno-Life must be submitted by Monday, Nov. 23.

A year ago last April, Joanne Niswander began the discipline of writing a short essay each day, reflecting on the myriad "little" things that make daily life worth living. She has now compiled those 365 short reflections into a book titled "Reflections from Maple Crest Pond." Joanne will be in the fellowship hall after church today to sign this newest book. The price is \$14.95. She will also bring a few copies of her previous book, "An Alzheimer's Primer," published in 2012, for anyone wishing a copy.

By now, you should have found intent forms, a letter from the Stewardship commission and a draft of the 2016 Spending Plan in your mailboxes. Please prayerfully consider your response and return the card to the church office **today**.

Please help care for the church -- When using items – such as mugs, plates and silverware – from the First Mennonite kitchen, please always return them to the kitchen rather than leaving them in classrooms, the sanctuary, and other locations in the church. **Also,** if you or your child is playing the electronic keyboard in the VIP room, please turn it off when you leave the room. We often find that someone has left it on.

This year's Christmas program will be held Sunday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. We are still in need of people to share their gifts of music, poetry, drama or other talents. Please pick up a form from the Fellowship Hall if you, your family or friends would like to participate.

(Forms may be turned in to Mary Ina Hooley.) You are also invited to bring cookies or healthy snacks to share afterwards. -- Christian Education Commission

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Thursday, Dec. 3, from noon-6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to redcrossblood.org, sponsor code "fmennbl" to schedule your blood donation appointment. On the day of the blood drive, be prepared to show a donor card, driver's license, or other form(s) of ID. *Sign-up sheets for various volunteer jobs throughout the day are on a table in the fellowship hall.

All are invited to enjoy a Thanksgiving potluck at First Mennonite. The meal will begin at noon on Thursday, November 26. Please RSVP to Lori Nester (419-358-9650 or nesterl@bluffton.edu) for advance planning and so that you may sign up to bring a dish. Donations will be taken at the meal to cover general expenses, such as turkey, with surplus funds to be donated to the Deacons Benevolence Fund.

Apply for 2016 Everence college scholarships: If your family uses Everence faith-based services, you are eligible to apply for college scholarships for the 2016-2017 school year. Submit your application by Feb. 29, 2016. Learn more at everence.com/scholarships or see Willis Sommer, Everence advocate, for a copy of the application.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manager for Ten Thousand Villages: The Etcetera Board, Inc. is seeking qualified applicants for the vacancy of store manager of the Ten Thousand Villages Store in Bluffton. This person will oversee daily operation of the store, including supervising the volunteers, handling ordering of products and overall finances. Candidates must understand and embrace the mission of Ten Thousand Villages to support artisans in developing countries. Business and retail background is a plus. The job is about 30 hours per week. Interested applicants should send cover letter and resume to Linda Suter at suterlr@bluffton.edu or 122 Grove St., Bluffton. Applications will be received until January 1, after which interviewing will begin immediately and a recommendation will be made to the board and the filled position announced.

Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora, will hold its annual book sale, bake sale and breakfast November 20-21. The book sale and bake sale will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Nov. 20 and 8:30-11 a.m. Nov. 21. The pancake and sausage breakfast will be held from 8-10 a.m. Nov. 21.