

Parable of the Wedding Feast
October 15, 2017
10:30 a.m.

–GATHERING –

Chimes call us to worship		LuAnn Stuckey
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Ray Person
Prelude	“Dialogue” <i>(from Mass of the Convents)</i>	F. Couperin
Call to worship		
*Opening Hymn	“Praise the Lord who reigns above”	HWB 54
*Responsive Reading		Psalm 106:1-5
L: Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.		
C: Who can utter the mighty doings of the Lord, or declare all his praise?		
L: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.		
C: Remember me, O Lord, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them;		
All: that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage.		
Special Music	“Christ the Way of Life Possess Me” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	K. Lee Scott

– PRAISING –

Conversation with Friends		
Hymn	“We plow the fields and scatter” (vs. 1)	HWB 96
Conversation		Shelby Cluts
Hymn	“We plow the fields and scatter” (vs. 3)	HWB 96

Pastoral Prayer		George O’Reilly
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– PROCLAIMING –

Scripture	Matthew 22:1-14	Christopher Harnish
Sermon	“Which news?”	Wanda Stopher
*Hymn	“God of the Bible”	STJ 27

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“Gift of Finest Wheat”	R.E. Krentz/arr. J. Carter
*Hymn of Dedication	“Lord, thou dost love” (vs. 1)	HWB 387
*Prayer of Dedication		

– SENDING –

*Hymn	“Let justice flow like streams”	STJ 65
*Benediction		
*Postlude	“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”	J. Hughes /arr. E.T. Rogers

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.)*
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey
Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.

The search committee for Mennonite Church USA's next executive director invites denomination-wide participation in a Survey Monkey questionnaire to discern essential qualities and top priorities for the job description, and to nominate potential candidates for the role. The survey is available at mennoniteusa.org in English and Spanish and will be available for completion through Monday, Oct. 16.

Help wanted: Facilities assistant at Camp Friedenswald. The ideal candidate will have skills in building maintenance, equipment operation, and land management. Eagerness to learn new skills, love of the outdoors, and a desire to create a hospitable environment for guests are necessary. Benefits include competitive pay, free housing, utilities, meals, and an excellent work environment. For more information, contact the facilities director at jonathan@friedenswald.org.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Please pray for Tom and Amy Doty, of our community. Amy is battling stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

Betty Sommer continues treatment for stage 4 renal cell carcinoma. She is receiving weekly chemotherapy infusions in Findlay. She has had four treatments and seems to be responding well, but still tires easily. Short visits may be planned in advance by texting or emailing Betty or calling her sister, Doris, at 410-430-0849. Thank you for the prayers, food, flowers, and cards. Our family has definitely felt the love and support of this congregation over the last months.

-- Jen Benroth

Thank you for the loving, caring support I have been so blessed to receive in a variety of ways from you, my dear church family, during the past weeks. God bless you. – Anne Buller

Please pray for the people of Puerto Rico as they begin recovering from Hurricane Maria. MDS is accepting financial donations for hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria. A new video about the Hurricane Harvey response may be accessed on the MDS website at <https://www.mds.mennonite.net/>. MDS also now has clean-up crews in Florida. Donations may be made directly through the MDS website. To donate by check, mail your donation to MDS, 583 Airport Rd., Lititz, PA 17543. To give by phone, call 1-800-241-8111.

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, OCTOBER 15, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
4 p.m.	“Grace to You and Peace: Voices of the Martyrs,” Anabaptist Singers, Yoder Recital Hall

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (10-17)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Adriel, 9:30 a.m. Advent Planning, 6 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (10-18)	Deadline to submit changes for address/phone directory <i>(this is NOT the pictorial directory)</i> Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10-19)	Council, 7 p.m., AR
Friday (10-20)	Menno-Life deadline

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
4 p.m.	Great Day of Singing, Yoder Recital Hall

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

Chancel Contemplation: The James Baldwin quote, “The purpose of art is to lay bare the questions that have been hidden by the answers” is helpful as I try to look at visual dilemmas in a new way. Through October 22, scripture passages from Matthew bring us to familiar parables /stories. How can we “lay bare the questions” for our lives today? Visuals in the sanctuary are artworks that hopefully draw us to consider alternate ways of seeing.

-- Anita Lehman

Shannon Thiebeau is on vacation October 14-21, returning on October 22.

Final reminder: We are preparing to print the church phone/address directory (the most recent version was printed in April 2016.) If you wish to update your address, e-mail address, phone numbers or those of your college-age or adult children, please notify the church office at fmc@bluffton.edu or 419.358.5766. **Your deadline to submit changes is Wednesday, Oct. 18.**

Young Adult Potluck: If you identify as a young adult, we invite you to a potluck on Sunday, Oct. 22, following worship in the fellowship hall. Bring a dish to share. This potluck is not associated with the young adult Sunday school class. If you have questions, contact Shannon Thiebeau.

Need your yard raked? SHYF will hold another “Rake ‘n’ Run” on Sunday, Oct. 29. The youth will come rake your yard but they don't expect any payment or reward! To sign up, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall or contact Shannon Thiebeau at 419-773-9446 or fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu.

We need greeters and hosts during November. You'll need to be at the church by 10 a.m. Sunday. Sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall. Thank you for helping to make FMC a welcoming church. If you have questions, ask Mary Amstutz.

The “Mirror of the Martyrs” traveling exhibit continues in the Albrecht Gallery of Sauder Visual Arts Center at Bluffton University. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 1-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-6 p.m.

- Today, 4 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall, “Grace to You and Peace: Voices of the Martyrs,” Wendy Chappell-Dick and the Anabaptist Singers. This performance presents Anabaptist martyr ballads, translated into English from the original sources, and set to contemporary tunes -- from camp songs to folk music to rock and roll.
- “The Ephrata ‘Martyrs Mirror:’ A History Dramatic and Useful,” curated by Carrie Phillips, archives and special collections librarian at Bluffton University, will open. The Musselman Library’s Mennonite Historical Collection contains many copies of the 1748 “Martyrs Mirror” – the largest book printed in pre-revolutionary America and the first edition to be translated into German. This ancillary exhibit explores the craft of early colonial printing as displayed in the Ephrata Cloister’s publication of the “Martyrs Mirror” and other German devotional materials. The library’s exhibit will be open through November 5 from 2-5 p.m., M, W, F and 3-6 p.m., Sunday.
- On Sunday, Oct. 22, the Swiss Community Historical Society sponsors the Great Day of Singing at 4 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Bradley Kauffman, project director of the new hymnal from MennoMedia, will lead participants in hymns that explore the musical heritage of local Swiss immigrant churches: from songs of the Anabaptist martyrs, to favorite American hymns, to new songs from the global church proposed for the hymnal.

Et Cetera Shop Inc. annual open house: The Et Cetera Shop Inc. stores will host a two-hour open house today. Starting at 2 p.m., all three will offer substantial savings to shoppers. Et Cetera Shop – save 50% off on everything in the store. Ten Thousand Villages – save 25% off everything in the store and Book ReViews – save 25% on all regular priced books. Each store will have an enter-to-win and provide refreshments. Mark your calendar, one day only and for only three hours (2-4 p.m.)

From Neil and Janie Blough: “We are excited to be part of a movement of Christians that are seeking to join hands to work together to build unity. We want to do all we can to promote and further the church’s mission and presence in France.” The Bloughs are our MMN mission partners, serving at the Paris Mennonite Center and with several Mennonite churches. *Read their full letter, which is posted on the “Here and Now” pillar in the fellowship hall.*