

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions LuAnn Stuckey
Call to Worship
Prelude “Linstead” arr. Mark Sedio

*Invocation

— PRAISING —

*Opening Hymn “Praise, I will praise you, Lord” HWB 76
(Sing v. 1 in French or English and v.2-3 in English)

*Responsive Reading Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22

L: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

C: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

L: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.

C: I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.

L: Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.

C: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.

L: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

C: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

L: Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all.

C: He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

L: Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

All: The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Time with Children
Hymn

“Jesus loves me”
(Sing through once)

HWB 341

Conversation
Hymn

“Jesus loves me”
(Sing through once)

Judy Steiner
HWB 341

Pastoral Prayer

Wanda Stopher

Hymn

“Healing balm, forgiving Lord”
(Interspersed with prayer)

STJ 55

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture

Mark 10:46-52

Sermon

“Blind Spots”

Steven Yoder

*Hymn

“O Christ, the healer”

HWB 379

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

arr. Lloyd Larson

*Hymn of Dedication

“What gift can we bring”
(Sing vs. 1)

HWB 385

*Prayer of Dedication

— SENDING —

*Hymn

“Lead on, O cloud of Presence”

HWB 419

*Benediction

*Postlude

**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: fmclubluffton.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: Jon Diller, John and Julie Mackey,

HOST: Mary Anne Moser

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Greg and Laura Hartzler

Worship – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Sunita Hooley

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: Melinda Estell, Shelby Cluts

Worship – Kevin Cluts, Mary Ina Hooley, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin

SOUND SYSTEM: Don Pannabecker

CHANCEL: Gregg Luginbuhl

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, www.fmclubluffton.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	284
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	9
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	123
Spending plan giving Oct.18, 2015	\$8,360.00
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
Spending Plan receipts as of Sept. 30, 2015	\$261,315.00
Spending Plan disbursements as of Sept. 30, 2015	\$283,985.00

The offering Oct. 18 totaled \$9,303. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$22, Capital Campaign - \$45, Deacons' Benevolent- \$304, MCC - \$100, College Scholarships - \$50, The Mennonite subscriptions - \$234, Mennonite Women - \$185, Timbrel subscriptions - \$13.

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



current participation and fellowship with Brazo en Brazo is a continuation of her dedication to serve in the name of Christ. -- Paul and Ann Conrad

The annual meeting of the Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service will be held Saturday, November 21, at the Bentwood Solutions plant, Millersburg. A tour of the plant will begin at 12:30 p.m. A joint meeting with the Eastern Ohio Unit will begin at 2 p.m. with registration and refreshments at 1:30. There will be updates from Kevin King and Larry Stoner (binational office), from Region 2, from Detroit, and from the WOU. Brief separate business meetings will be held by both units; the WOU meeting will include election of new officers, a financial report, and a report on projects. The annual meeting is open to everyone, whether active in MDS or not. Please RSVP to Lawrence Matthews at matthewsL@bluffton.edu or 419.303.8056 by Monday, November 16.

The Mennonite Youth Choir Festival will be held March 5-6 at Goshen College. Brent Hyman, director of music and worship coordinator at First Mennonite Church, Berne, IN, is conductor. Children in grades three through nine may register for the festival. Participants prepare for the festival by listening to and learning music sent to them. Practice will be held on Saturday, March 5, and the concert will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 6. Register online at <http://mennoniteyouthchoir.com>.

All are invited to the Election Day lunch and dinner at Bluffton First United Methodist Church, 116 Church St., on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Doris Hamman, 92, October 27.

Happy anniversary to Corrinne and Richard Boehr, 64, October 28.

Please keep Mary Lou Vercler in your thoughts and prayers as she faces serious health concerns. Cards are encouraged and appreciated – her family suggests sending cards that measure 4x6 inches because they fit perfectly into an album they've begun for Mary Lou.

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, October 25, 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
Noon	SHYF spaghetti dinner fundraiser, FH, all are invited

THIS WEEK

Monday (10-26)	Our Daily Bread, volunteers leave FMC at 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday (10/27)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Swiss Historical Society, AR
Wednesday (10/28)	ILR Pies and Pastries, 1:30 p.m., FH kitchen Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Saturday (10/31)	Genevieve Fast memorial service, 2 p.m., sanctuary, followed by light refreshments for all, FH; Fast family dinner, 5 p.m., FH

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: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a, John 11:32-44.

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

SHYF will host a spaghetti lunch following the worship service TODAY to raise funds for their summer service trip. The location of our trip will be announced at the lunch.

Are you interested in transferring your membership to First Mennonite Church? A new member class will be held today during the Sunday school hour beginning at 9:15 a.m. We will work with the class to schedule three more sessions. Contact Pastors Wanda or Steve if you are interested.

Let's get acquainted! Seriously! My overarching goal for my first year as pastor of First Mennonite Church is for us to learn to know one another. I look forward to learning to know you as individuals, as families, as a faith community and as part of the larger Bluffton community. One of the best ways I know to start is to meet and swap some stories over coffee or a meal, or just in my office. Give me a call to make sure I'll be free. If you'd like Bret to join us, we'll schedule it when he's available, too. Hope to see you soon!
-- Wanda (419) 551-1079

A memorial service for Genevieve Fast will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31 in the sanctuary. Following the service, there will be a time for sharing and refreshments for all in the fellowship hall. Genevieve died May 17, 2015. She is survived by four children and their spouses, Cheryl Berz, Dohn and Jeanette Fast, Gary and Traci Fast, and Janita and Richard Rawls.

Our Daily Bread: Volunteers are needed to help with the noon meal tomorrow, Oct. 26 at Our Daily Bread soup kitchen in Lima. The group will car pool from FMC at 9:30 a.m. and should be back by 12:30-1 p.m. Contact John Rich if you are willing to help.

All Saints Day is one of the oldest feast days of the Christian Church Year and is celebrated on Sunday, November 1. This festival day reminds us, not only of the "cloud of witnesses" named in Hebrews 11, but also of all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the body of Christ. Next Sunday, at the end of our worship service, we will offer an invitation for those who have lost loved ones since November 1, 2014, to light a candle to remember them and give thanks for their lives.

Let your FMC family learn to know you better by sharing your interests, collections and hobbies in the glass case in the Assembly Room. Contact Carolyn Rich to make arrangements. John Rich currently has some of his work on display. -- Carolyn Rich

"TIMBREL" MAGAZINE is published quarterly by Mennonite Women USA. Renew your subscription at a group rate of \$13 at the MW monthly meeting or with a designated check in the offering plate by November 9. Sample copies are in the church library.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Lucia Unrau, pianist and professor of music at Bluffton University, will present a faculty recital with Sandra Jackson, clarinet, and David Jackson, trombone, *today* in Yoder Recital Hall. The recital begins at 2:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The Bluffton University Nutrition Association will hold its annual fall dinner benefiting both the Bluffton Community Assistance Corp. and the Lima-based Churches United Pantry, from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 in the FMC fellowship hall. This year's dinner will include homemade soup, bread and dessert. Nonperishable food items will be accepted, as will cash and checks made payable to BUNA. All proceeds will benefit the two food pantries.

Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora, will hold its annual book sale, bake sale and breakfast November 20-21. If you wish to order materials or books in advance, contact Jilaine Graber at Faith and Life Bookstore at info@faithandlifebooks.com or 260-589-2135. 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. Donations will be accepted for breakfast and profits will benefit Pastor Max Villatoro. An Iowa Mennonite pastor, Villatoro was deported to his native Honduras in March, despite efforts by clergy members and immigrant advocates to keep him in the U.S. with his wife and four children.

Brazo en Brazo: During worship Oct. 18, Kristen Rohdes shared her experience of a two-year term of service with the people in Bolivia with Mennonite Central Committee. She cited her three-week study term in Guatemala with Bluffton University as awakening her interest in Christian service. Though the first year was difficult, she found the MCC motto, "In the name of Christ" sustaining her in her purpose and work in Bolivia. Her