

Anabaptist Heritage
October 29, 2017
10:30 a.m.

–GATHERING –

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| Chimes call us to worship | | LuAnn Stuckey |
| Welcome, Announcements, Introductions | | Gerald Mast |
| Prelude | “Oh When the Saints” <i>Cherub Choir</i> | Traditional |
| Call to worship | | |
| *Opening Hymn | “Be Gracious, Bless Us” (Tune of “Sanctuary”) | See insert |
| *Responsive Reading | | Psalm 90: 13-17 |
| L: Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants! | | |
| C: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. | | |
| L: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. | | |
| C: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. | | |
| All: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands -- O prosper the work of our hands! | | |
| Special Music | “In Bitterness of the Soul” <i>Paul Neufeld-Weaver</i> “The Lord Will Still Protect” <i>Lucas Harnish and Wendy Chappell-Dick</i> | Arr. Wendy Chappell-Dick |

– PRAISING –

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| Conversation with Friends | | |
| Hymn | “We plow the fields and scatter” (vs. 1) | HWB 96 |
| Conversation | | |
| Hymn | “We plow the fields and scatter” (vs. 2) | HWB 96 |

Pastoral Prayer Wanda Stopher

– PROCLAIMING –

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| Scripture | Revelation 12:1-6, 13-17 | Linda Suter Alice Ruth Ramseyer |
| Sermon | “Fugitive grace” | Isaac Villegas |
| *Hymn | “O Lord God ruling from your throne” | See insert |

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

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| Offertory | O Worship the King with “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring” <i>Anna and Jacob Biesecker-Mast</i> | arr. Weekly and Arganbright |
| *Hymn of Dedication | “Lord, thou dost love” (vs. 1) | HWB 387 |
| *Prayer of Dedication | | |
| – SENDING – | | |
| *Hymn | “We are people of God’s peace” | HWB 407 |
| *Benediction | | |
| *Postlude | “Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott” | J. G. Walther |

**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.

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.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

GREETER: Rich Bucher

HOST: Gloria Bucher Hernandez

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Lori Nester, Mary Ann Ring

Worship – Sabrina and Kurt Longworth, Annalise Nisly

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Gerald Mast, Marilyn Bishop

Worship – Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Wendy Chappell Dick

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Gott

CHANCEL: Anita Lehman

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

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| Worship attendance last Sunday | FMC-228, MC-9 |
| Spending plan giving Oct. 22, 2017 (includes e-giving) | \$5,262.30 |
| Special fund giving Oct. 22, 2017: <i>Grades K-5-\$7.58; JHYF-\$2; Sojourners-\$5, Freudige-\$10; MDS-\$150, Casket fund-\$40, Menno subscript-\$370, Deacons-\$20, Building fund-\$100; Kitchen-\$9.30, Pictorial directory-\$10</i> | <u>\$733.88</u> |
| Total giving Oct. 22, 2017 ((includes e-giving) | \$5,996.18 |
| Total spending plan receipts as of September 30, 2017 | \$279,490.31 |
| Spending plan expenses as of September 30, 2017 | \$306,251.16 |
| 2017 spending plan | \$421,146.00 |

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 – 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.



- “The Crucible” by Arthur Miller will be presented Nov. 2, 3 and 4, at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 5, at 2:30 p.m. in Ramseyer Auditorium, College Hall. The drama depicts events related to the 1692 witch trials in the Puritan village of Salem, MA. Melissa Friesen is the director.
- “Music of the Martyrs: A Choral Tapestry” will be performed at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 5, in Yoder Recital Hall. Directed by Dr. Mark Suderman, the event will feature organist Dr. Shirley Sprunger King performing “Singing at the Fire,” a three movement composition by Brent Weaver featuring stories from the “Martyrs Mirror.” The concert includes choral arrangements of hymns that reflect the Christian commitment to faithful and costly witness, including Anabaptist martyr songs.

Threads of Grace, the women's sewing ministry at Grace Mennonite in Pandora, will be having a Comforter Blitz Thursday and Friday, Nov. 2-3 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. All are invited to knit comforters during any of the two-day period. Please RSVP to Cindy Luginbill at lugc@watchtv.net by Monday, Oct. 30 (for meal planning purposes.)

The Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Tedrow Mennonite Church in Wauseon. Larry Stoner, Regional Operations Coordinator (eastern US) will report on MDS response to recent disasters including his ten-day assessment trip to Puerto Rico. A brunch will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting is from 10 a.m.-noon. If you wish to attend, RSVP by contacting Lawrence Matthews: cell 419.303.8056; email matthewsL@bluffton.edu.

Mennonite Disaster Service seeks a full-time regional operations coordinator for Region 2. Applicants must be active in an Anabaptist church and committed to the Anabaptist faith and peace position. See job description at mds.mennonite.net/about-us/employment.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Pray for the family of Ronin O'Reilly, grandnephew of Pastor George, who was shot and killed in a friend's home early this past week. Services are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 5, and Pastor George will be gone to attend.

Betty Sommer continues treatment for stage 4 renal cell carcinoma. Short visits may be planned by calling Betty's 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

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 29, 2017

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| 8:30 a.m. | Youth choir |
| 9:15 a.m. | Sunday school, coffee hour |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Isaac Villegas preaching |
| 2 p.m. | SHYF “Rake and Run” |
| 4 p.m. | “History Dramatic and Useful: The 1748 Ephrata Martyrs Mirror,” Carrie Phillips, Kreider Room, Marbeck Center |

THIS WEEK

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| Monday (10-30) | Volunteers leave for Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m. |
| Tuesday (10-31) | Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. |
| Wednesday (11-1) | Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m. |
| Thursday (11-2) | Worship, 7 p.m., parlor |

NEXT SUNDAY

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| 8:30 a.m. | Youth choir |
| 9:15 a.m. | Sunday school, coffee hour |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching |
| Noon | Connections potluck |
| 6:30 p.m. | “Music of the Martyrs: A Choral Tapestry,” 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

The colorful image on the bulletin cover of the woman clothed with the sun confronting the seven-headed dragon is Lucas Cranach's illustration of Revelation 12 in the 1534 edition of Martin Luther's translation of the German Bible.

Today, we welcome Isaac Villegas, pastor of Chapel Hill (N.C.) Mennonite Fellowship. He is a member of the governing board of the North Carolina Council of Churches and has served on the denominational board of Mennonite Church USA, as well as non-profit organizations. He is a graduate of Westmont College and has a M.Div. from Duke Divinity School.

Our sermon response hymn today is a translation of stanzas 1, 14, and 18 from an *Ausbund* hymn by Michael Schneider: "O Herre Gott in deinem Thron." Michael Schneider was one of the leaders of a group of nearly sixty men and women imprisoned as Anabaptists in the Passau Castle from 1537-40. This Anabaptist community was a group of singers and songwriters associated with the mystical Anabaptism of Hans Hut and Philip Plener. While in the Passau prison, they composed a collection of 51 remarkable spiritual songs that form the core of the larger Swiss Anabaptist hymnal – the *Ausbund*. Michael Schneider wrote eleven of these songs – including our sermon response hymn. The Passau songs acknowledge the conflict that is part of genuine Christian faith and invite all believers to share together joyfully in the suffering of Christ as God's love made visible in the world. This song is one of three *Ausbund* songs for which Martin Luther's tune "Ein feste Burg" is recommended.

Kay and Mark Weidner are moving to Lancaster, PA, this week to be near a clustering of four of their children and eight of their grandchildren. Mark said it was a hard decision to leave Bluffton as they have a family here at FMC and another in Eastern PA. Someone commented on the move and said, "Oh they will be back." Their new address is: 1949 Rachael Dr, Lancaster, PA 17601. Cell numbers are unchanged.

Next Sunday, November 5, we will observe an All Saints service at the end of worship. This is an opportunity for us to reflect corporately and as individuals on the losses we have experienced over the past year. We will honor the lives of sisters and brothers and family members who have gone before us, and offer ourselves to God's healing grace.

The banner for our summer worship series, "Bridges Among Us" served us well as we explored our theme in worship. The banner, now displayed outside next to the peace pole, challenges us to expand our thinking and invites others to consider the invitation to join us, building bridges among us as a community.

All mentor/mentee pairs are invited to a baking event at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12 in the assembly room kitchen. If you have questions, please contact Lisa or Amber Shelly.

It is time to renew our group subscription to *The Mennonite* magazine. Renewal notes have been distributed to those currently subscribing. If you are interested in joining our group plan as a new subscriber, please contact the church office at fmc@bluffton.edu or 419.358.5766. New subscribers can receive a one-year subscription for the discounted rate of \$30. Renewal rates for 2018 are \$37.

Thanks to Mona Reichenbach for sharing her collection of Noah's Ark items in the assembly room display case. The first lesson of the Adult Bible Study Guide is based on Genesis 9:8-17 and Genesis 8:20-22. Mona, who has collected these items for 30-40 years, explains, "A collection of Noah's descendants and the covenant God made with him and all living creatures. Build an ark; send a flood to destroy evil and a rainbow to appear that never again would the earth be flooded again. (It was) his promise to Noah."

MCC school kit collection for this year is complete and we filled 210 kits. Thank you for your generosity. Our present supply of kit bags is very low, so we will need to rebuild the supply before hygiene kit collection begins in 2018. This fall, we had to request 50 kit bags from MCC in Goshen. Hopefully, we can stay ahead of the need for the next collection. We will keep the tubs out for material collection, cut "ready to sew" bags, and for completed bags. If you have questions or difficulty with any stage of making the bags, please let us know. Thanks!
-- Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf

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.

- "History Dramatic and Useful: The 1748 Ephrata Martyrs Mirror," 4 p.m. today, Kreider Room, Marbeck Center, Carrie Phillips will tell the story of the translation and publication of the 1748 Martyrs Mirror at Ephrata Cloister – an early American monastic community of pietist believers. Phillips situates the event within the larger network of German print culture in colonial America and examines the craft and artistry displayed in this edition of Martyrs Mirror.