

**Let Anyone with Ears Listen**

**October 8, 2017**

**10:30 a.m.**

**–GATHERING –**

**Chimes call us to worship**

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions**

Victoria Woods-Yee

**Prelude**

**Call to worship**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Come, thou Almighty King”

HWB 41

**\*Responsive Reading**

Psalm 19: 7-14

L: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

**C: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

L: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

L: Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

**C: But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.**

L: Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

**All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

**Special Music**

Fanfare on “Cwm Rhondda”  
*Adult Bell Choir*

arr. by Bob Burroughs

**– PRAISING –**

**Conversation with Friends**

**Hymn**

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

HWB 96

**Conversation**

**Hymn**

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

Pat Sheidler

HWB 96

**Pastoral Prayer**

George O’Reilly

**– PROCLAIMING –**

**Scripture**

Matthew 20:1-16

**Sermon**

“Which wolf?”

Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn**

“Alleluia, the Great Storm is over”

STJ 71

**– RESPONDING –**

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

“Lord, thou dost love” (vs. 1)

HWB 387

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**– SENDING –**

**\*Hymn**

“The Lord lift you up”

STJ 73

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*\*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](http://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

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Pat Sheidler, Shelby Cluts

**Worship** – Kyle and Tara Miller, Ana Neufeld Weaver

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Judy Diller, Mary Pannabecker Steiner

**Worship** – Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass, Sunita Hooley

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Art Shelly

**CHANCEL:** Anita Lehman

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church’s homepage, [www.fmcbluffton.org](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-178 MC-8
Spending plan giving Oct. 1, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$6,499.00
Special fund giving Oct. 1, 2017: <i>Grades K-5-\$9.74; Sojourners-\$15,</i>	<u>\$572.75</u>
<i>College scholarships-\$50, MDS-\$25, Deacons-\$415, MCC-\$50, Kitchen-\$8.01</i>	
Total giving Oct. 1, 2017 ((includes e-giving)	\$7,071.75
Total spending plan receipts as of August 31, 2017	\$253,704.55
Spending plan expenses as of August 31, 2017	\$272,839.08
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

**CHURCH STAFF**

- Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)
- Pastoral Associate – George O’Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – [fmc.george@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.george@bluffton.edu)
- Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto: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.*



**Bluffton University** concert band will perform at 2:30 p.m. today in Yoder Recital Hall. Dr. Roy Couch, assistant professor of music, is the conductor.

**A RAWtools Guns to Gardens event will be held** from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Hindu Temple of Toledo, 4336 King Road, Sylvania. Sponsored by a group of faith-based organizations, RAWtools staff will forge a gun, donated by a community member, into a garden tool to be used in a community garden. The event will include singing of Hindu bhajans and Mennonite hymns, refreshments, statements by area police departments, temple tours and information booths.

**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](http://mennoniteusa.org) in English and Spanish and will be available for completion through Monday, Oct. 16.

#### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday** to Elizabeth Shelly, Oct. 10.

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

**Betty Sommer** is being cared for at home. If you would like to take her and her caregivers a meal, go to <http://www.takethenameal.com/> and sign up for either a Tuesday or Friday at 6 p.m. Under "Find" enter: Sommer. The password is 4651. If you have questions, contact Carolyn Rich at 419-358-5405 or Matt Sommer at 419-230-9854.

**Anne Buller** is recuperating and continuing therapy at MMH. Visitors are welcome.

**Jim Reusser, brother of Joan Diller and Ann Shumaker**, died September 27, in Kitchener, Ontario, at the age of 88. He attended Bluffton (College) University and AMBS and pastored several Mennonite Churches in the U.S. and Canada. Please keep Joan, Ann and their families in your prayers.

**Kay Weidner's sister, Joann Reeves**, had a massive stroke that took her life on October 1. Joann lived in Crestone, CO, where the funeral will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 7. Please keep Kay, Mark and their family in your prayers.

#### 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 8, 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.	"What Suffering Martyrs Teach Us about Christian Mission: Lessons from the Passau Songs of the 'Ausbund,'" Gerald Mast, Kreider Room, Marbeck Center, Bluffton University

#### THIS WEEK

Tuesday (10-10)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Trustees, 7 p.m.,
Wednesday (10-11)	Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m. Stewardship, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Thursday (10-12)	Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH Anabaptist Singers, 8 p.m., adult choir room

#### NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

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. For Oct. 8, 15 and 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** will be on vacation October 14-21, returning on October 22.

**Young Adult Potluck:** If you identify as a young adult, we would love to 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.

**Worship Commission has extended** the “Conversation With Friends” format for the children’s time in worship through the end of November. This takes us to Advent and will provide time for the commission to consider feedback. “Conversation With Friends” continues our traditional focus on brief conversations with one point and that engage our children. The invitation will continue through November to be extended to persons of all ages to gather with the younger children.

**Mennonite Women will meet** at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 (*note date change*) in the fellowship hall. The speaker will be Anita Hooley Yoder, author of the book, “Circles of Sisterhood,” the historical writing celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Mennonite Women. Autographed copies of the book will be available at the cost of \$25. Betty Shelly will lead devotions from the chapter, “Give” in the devotional, “Live Your Call.” Judy Buller, Judy Diller and Jane Weaver will provide refreshments. If you missed the first MW meeting in September, see the MW pillar by the kitchen for a written summary.

**Need your yard raked?** Each youth group will be participating in a “Rake ‘n’ Run” in October. The youth will come rake your yard but they don't expect any payment or reward! To see dates and to sign up, please see the sign-up sheet located in the fellowship hall or contact Shannon Thiebeau at 419-773-9446 or [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu).

**We need greeters and hosts during October and 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.

- Dr. Gerald J. Mast, Bluffton University professor of communication, will present “What Suffering Martyrs Teach Us about Christian Mission: Lessons from the Passau Songs of the ‘Ausbund,’” at 4 p.m. today in the Kreider Room, Marbeck Center. Among the Anabaptist martyrs memorialized in “Martyrs Mirror” were the composers and singers of the core songs of the early Swiss Anabaptist hymnbook—the “Ausbund.” This presentation explains how these witnesses, imprisoned in the Passau castle during the mid-1530s, conceived of Christian mission as joyful sharing together in the suffering and salvation of Jesus Christ.
- Sunday, Oct. 15, 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. Because many of these song texts tell the stories of martyrs and have thus not been regarded as fitting for congregational singing, this is the first time many of these songs have been sung in English

**Et Cetera Shop Inc. annual open house:** As a token of our appreciation to all sponsoring churches, the Et Cetera Shop Inc. stores will host a two-hour open house on Sunday, Oct. 15. Starting at 2 p.m., all three stores – Et Cetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages and Book ReViews – 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.)

**Rally Point is a youth ministry in Lima** supported in various ways by area Mennonite churches. First Mennonite is providing afterschool snacks for 42 youth and staff. The following Mondays are still open for volunteers: October 16, November 20 and December 17. If you are willing to provide a snack, donate money to purchase a snack or want additional information, contact Louise Matthews at 419.303.8057 or [matthewsA@bluffton.edu](mailto:matthewsA@bluffton.edu).