

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 4, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Gayle Trollinger, worship leader

Prelude “Come, Thou Almighty King” arr. Don Hustad

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn** “I sing the mighty power of God” HWB 46

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

L: O Lord, you have searched me and known me.

C: You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

L: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

C: Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

L: You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

C: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

L: For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

C: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

L: My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

C: Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

L: How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

All: I try to count them -- they are more than the sand; I come to the end -- I am still with you.

Special Music “Chorus from ‘Judas Maccabaeus’” G.F. Handel
Ellie and Ben Hartzler, Theo and Isaac Andreas, Ana Neufeld Weaver, Anna Biesecker-Mast and Grace Paquin, violins; Laura Hartzler, piano

Scripture Matthew 5:33-48 Gayle Trollinger

Time with Children Hymn “Jesus love me” HWB 341

Conversation Bruce Steingass

Hymn “Jesus love me” HWB 341

Pastoral Prayer Wanda Stopher

— PROCLAIMING —

Sermon “Pay Day Surprise” George O’Reilly

***Hymn** “Slowly turning, ever turning” STJ 23

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Reflection” arr. Douglas Wagner

***Hymn of Dedication** “Praise God from whom” (verse A)” HWB 119

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “Beyond a dying sun” HWB 323

***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 and bulletins are available on the cabinet next to the parlor.
Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

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.-3 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

GREETERS: Todd Rainey, Carlin and Sharon Carpenter, Walt Paquin

HOST: Joan Diller

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Gerald Mast, Judy Diller, Mary Pannabecker

Worship – Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Rachel Diller

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Greg and Laura Hartzler, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Christopher Harnish

SOUND SYSTEM: Don Pannabecker

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

Worship attendance last Sunday (Community Worship Service) 242

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday 4

Spending plan giving August 21, 2016 \$3,521.00

2016 Proposed spending plan \$418,276.00

The offering August 28 totaled \$4,134.66. Money was received for these special funds: K-5th - \$6.66,

Syrian student - \$100, SHYF - \$125, deacons' benevolent - \$140, Mennonite subscriptions - \$222.

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

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

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

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.



Brazo en Brazo's Fiesta Familiar will be held Sunday, Sept 18 from 4:30-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. We have been asked to provide at least 25 dozen cookies. Those willing to provide cookies should sign up on the sheet posted next to the office. Cookies should be placed in the FMC kitchen by 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 18. Please label them "For Fiesta Familia." Direct all questions to Judy Kingsley.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Register now for Camp Friedenswald's Women's Retreat scheduled for September 16-18. Katie Kuntz-Wineland, a seminarian and student minister, and Beth Kuntz-Wineland, certified plant-based chef, will lead discussion about holistic wellness as a spiritual practice. ***Those interested in carpooling to the retreat should indicate their interest on the sign-up sheet located on the MW pillar in the fellowship hall.**

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

As people of FMC identify concerns for prayer or expressions of gratitude for kindnesses, we list those here. Please let us know what we may share for you. —FMC staff

We offer condolences to the family of J. Richard Weaver, who died August 19 at the Mennonite Memorial Home. A memorial service will be held in the FMC sanctuary on Monday, Sept. 5 at 4 p.m. Visitation will be held in the fellowship hall from 2-3:30 p.m. All are invited to a fellowship dinner and time of sharing following the service.

We extend condolences to Paul and Lavonne Klassen and their family. Paul's brother, Herbert Klassen, died Aug. 26 in California.

Adan Ortiz is facing ongoing health concerns and testing and appreciates your prayers. Individuals willing to transport him should contact Adan.

Please pray for Toru Matsuo and his family as they work at completing Visa interviews. It is a time of significant transition.

Helen Winkler has moved to Mennonite Memorial Home, apartment 310. Her new phone number is 419-369-4630.

Some of you will remember Mike, Char, Matt, Amy and Abby Smith, FMC members who now live in New Mexico. Mike will be 70 on September 9, so Char is planning a card shower for him. Please send cards to Mike at 316 S. James St., Carlsbad, NM 88220.

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, Sept. 4, 2016

9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching
Noon	Connections class potluck, FH

THIS WEEK

Monday	Labor Day, Office closed Memorial service for Richard Weaver, 4 p.m., sanctuary; fellowship dinner to follow, FH
Tuesday (9-6)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor MPS, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (9-7)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (9-8)	Senior concerns, 2 p.m., AR Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching

Next week -- free items: Over the summer, the staff and commissions have been diligently cleaning out drawers, cupboards, files, and nooks and crannies in the building. Now it's your turn to help. On Sunday, Sept. 11, we will have tables in the fellowship hall filled with items we no longer need. Please take time to look through these items and take what you want. All items not removed by Monday, Sept. 12, will be donated or recycled.

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 downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHYF: Thank you to everyone who supported the SHYF and helped us make pancakes this past Sunday! Because of you, we were able to raise \$743 toward the 2017 Orlando youth convention costs. We really appreciate your generosity. **Note that the SHYF is still collecting receipts from the Community Market, so please place your receipts in the horizontal box at the top of the mailboxes.**

Several ushering positions are still open this fall. We especially need ushers for Team A (who serve on the 2nd and 4th weeks of odd months--September, November, January,...). If you have interest in serving FMC worship in this way, please contact Jon Diller, Dave Moser or Dick Ramseyer for more information.

Consider beginning your year with Mennonite Women, Monday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. In our devotional, *Faith Travels: Trusting God in Life's Transitions*, Marlene Kropf uses stories and prayers from the Celtic Christian tradition that connect with or illuminate the biblical story. To tie in with this theme, Lu Ann Stuckey will share with us from her Celtic pilgrimage experience, during our program for the evening. Devotions will be led by Lori Nester. Barb Stettler and Ginger Theis will provide refreshments. This year's devotional book is available for purchase before and at our first meeting for \$10. If you would like your own copy, there is an order sheet along with a copy of the book in the fellowship hall. A devotional book will also be placed in the church library for use during the year. Program guides are in mailboxes today.

Sharing a meal together is one way our church family provides hospitality and fellowship. We are hosting a carry-in meal at noon in Fellowship Hall following the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 18 to welcome Bluffton University students. Please bring plenty of food to share and your own table service. Students will be our honored guests: food, drink and table service will be provided for them. Everyone is welcome.

Safe Sanctuary Training will be held in the fellowship hall September 11 during the Sunday school hour for all those who work with our children and youth. We will have more details next week.

In 1981, the current carpet was installed in our sanctuary. After 35 years of use, it has become apparent that we need to install new flooring. The Trustees asked the church to

form a sanctuary flooring committee. The flooring committee first met August 19. Members are Mary Amstutz, Rachel Diller, Mike Edmiston, Ray Raeburn, Wanda Stopher and Mark Suderman. The committee will do substantial legwork, gathering information surrounding the needs of enhancing worship in our space. At this point the committee requests two things: any memories of the church sanctuary prior to the carpet installation in 1981 and any other thoughts regarding this process. The committee will eventually give a recommendation to the Trustees, who will then submit a formal proposal to the Church Council. Following that process, there will be opportunity for more congregational involvement. We are grateful for any information or ideas that you wish to share. Please feel free to contact any of the committee members.

Deadline for *The Mennonite* subscriptions: Our group subscription plan for *The Mennonite* is up for renewal. Those who subscribe to *The Mennonite* through the church subscription plan will find renewal information in their mailboxes. Please complete the renewal form and return with your payment of \$37 to the church office by Sunday, Sept. 18. If we do not receive your form and payment by the deadline, we will assume you do not plan to renew. **New subscribers are welcome but must also pay the \$37 fee and complete a form in the office.**

Music ensemble rehearsals begin Sept. 7. *We welcome new additions to the ensembles and greatly enjoy the return of former members.*

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 7-8 p.m., sanctuary (Mark Suderman, director)
- Adult and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, assembly room (Ray Raeburn, director)
- Cherub Choir (ages 3-grade 1) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6-6:30 p.m., children's choir room. (Laura Hartzler, director) *Parents of 3-year-olds are encouraged to come to the first few rehearsals.*
- Jubilate (Grades 2 - 5) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6:45-7:30 p.m., children's choir room (Laura Hartzler, director)
- Youth choir (6th grade and up) will begin on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 8:30-9:15 a.m., children's choir room (Laura Hartzler, director)

School kits and supplies are coming in. We have about 70 completed kits, and supplies for about 20 more. Can we double that amount? Supply lists and bags are by the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. (The bag supply is down somewhat, so we could use more bag sewers. Some pre-cut kits are available, along with some donated fabric.) ***A reminder – rulers need to be flexible (bendable, without breaking in shipping.)**

-- Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf