

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 2, 2015**

**10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

**Chimes call us to worship**

Laura Hartzler

**Call to Worship, Announcements, Introductions**

Landon Cluts

— PRAISING —

**Invocation**

**Opening Hymns**

Gerald Mast

**\*Responsive Reading**

Psalm 51:1-2, 6-12

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**C: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

L: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**C: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

L: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

**C: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**C: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

**All: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

**Time with Children**

**Hymn**

“Lord we bring to you our children”  
(Sing vs. 1 for coming forward)

STJ 90

**Conversation**

Chris Gott

**Hymn**

“Lord we bring to you our children”  
(Sing vs. 2 for returning)

STJ 90

**Recognition of Greg Hartzler, Youth Coordinator**

**Special Music**

“Andecy”  
*Lucas Harnish*

Andrew York

**Pastoral Prayer**

Steven Yoder

— PROCLAIMING —

**Scripture**

John 6:24-35

**Sermon**

“Soul Food”

Steven Yoder

**\*Hymn**

“I hunger and I thirst”

HWB 474

— RESPONDING —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“It is Well”  
Piano, Laura Hartzler; Violin-Ashton Cluts; Flute-Sara Chappell-Dick

Lorie Line

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

“Lord of all good”

STJ 60

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn**

“Guide me o thou great Jehovah”

HWB 582

**\*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: [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org)

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Christian Education Coordinator: Monday, Wednesday 9 a.m.-noon

Youth Coordinator: Sunday 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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

Interim Pastors: Gloria – Mon & Fri 9-4, Tues 8-noon; Lavon – Tues, 8-noon, Wed 9-4, Thurs, Noon-5  
Monday – Steve's day off

**GREETERS:** Karen McCullough, Fred and Mary Steiner, Doug Luginbill

**HOST:** Shannon Thiebeau

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – Monica Harnish and Jen Benroth

*Worship* – Phil Blount, Amy Blount, Sunita Hooley

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** No SS – International potluck brunch

*Worship* – Jen and Darby Benroth, Douglas Nester

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Kevin Cluts

**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 NA

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD) NA

Sunday school attendance last Sunday NA

Spending plan giving July 26, 2015 \$750.00

2015 Proposed spending plan \$419,469.00

Weekly offering needed for spending plan \$7,663.46

The offering July 26 totaled \$775. Money was received for these special funds: Casket committee-\$25.

### CHURCH STAFF

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder –419-369-4753 (h) - [fmc.steve@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.steve@bluffton.edu)

Interim Pastor – Gloria Hernandez Bucher – 419-429-2621 (h) – [gloriaferdin1946@gmail.com](mailto:gloriaferdin1946@gmail.com)

Interim Pastor – Lavon Welty –419- 222-6102 (h) - [lavonw@wcoil.com](mailto:lavonw@wcoil.com)

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [shannonthiebeau@gmail.com](mailto:shannonthiebeau@gmail.com)

Coordinator of Christian Education – Melinda Estell – [fmc.melinda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.melinda@bluffton.edu)

Youth Coordinator – Greg Hartzler – [gregphartzler@gmail.com](mailto:gregphartzler@gmail.com)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)



**Brazo en Brazo:** On Sunday, Aug. 9, Brazo en Brazo will hold a baptism for Alex Hernández at 5 p.m. at Lima Mennonite and then the group will move to Ottawa Metro Park Beach for the baptism at 6:30. All are welcome to attend the service, baptism and carry-in picnic to follow.

**Brazo en Brazo:** "...encourage each other..." I Thessalonians 5:11, is the theme for the Fiesta Familiar on Sunday, Sept. 20, from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. All are invited to celebrate this ministry supported by Bluffton, Lima, Pike and Salem Mennonite churches.  
-- Paul and Ann Conrad

**Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio** wishes to increase its pool of volunteer drivers, specifically for medical trips for elders of Mennonite Memorial Home, Willow Ridge, and Maple Crest. Volunteer drivers will not be asked to transfer or lift an elder, assist an elder in the restroom, nor go into the exam room. Please see Pastor Gloria to volunteer or for more information.

**The Swiss Community** Historical Society is planning a celebration of the first church in the Swiss Community, 175 years ago. Each Mennonite church has been asked to provide eight volunteers and 20 pies to help with the meal and other activities. We are also looking for items representative of First Mennonite's history to use in a tabletop display at the event. Please contact [wendy@mennofolk.org](mailto:wendy@mennofolk.org) if you wish to lend items for the display and/or if you are willing to help. --

*Wendy Chappell-Dick*

**Mennonite Disaster Service** continues its work in Detroit, in response to flooding that occurred in August 2014. MDS and other volunteer agencies have cleaned out hundreds of basements. There are still homes that have not been cleaned, including homes of elderly, disabled, those with special needs and without resources. Volunteers are invited to work two or more days at a time. The MDS website ([www.mds.mennonite.net](http://www.mds.mennonite.net)) includes a link to a short video of the MDS response in Detroit. E-mail Lawrence Matthews at [Detroit@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:Detroit@mds.mennonite.net) or call 419-303-8056 to schedule.

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy Anniversary** to Treva and Robert Stratton, 62, August 9.

**Keep Stan and Ruth Naylor** in your prayers, as Stan has been in the hospital this week to work on pain management. He is receiving palliative care and was dismissed to MMH rehab Friday afternoon.

**To First Mennonite Church:** Thank you so much for your generosity in hosting us. A special thanks to those who prepared the delicious lasagna meal. It has been an honor to share the Fuller Center for Housing vision with you. May the Lord bless you as you work for the Kingdom in this part of the world. -- *Blessings, Fuller Center Bike Adventure*

*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, August 2, 2015

9:00 a.m. Coffee time, FH  
9:15 a.m. Sunday school classes for children and youth, Adult Bible study AR, Reporting on MC USA and Mennonite World Conference, FH  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Steven Yoder preaching  
Recognition of Greg Hartzler  
Noon Connections class potluck

## THIS WEEK

Tuesday (4) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., Sanctuary  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Parlor  
Thursday (6) MPS, 8 a.m., Parlor  
Worship, 7 p.m., Parlor

## NEXT WEEK

9:00 a.m. Coffee time, FH  
9:15 a.m. Sunday school classes for children and youth, Adult Bible study AR, fellowship time. FH  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Lavon Welty preaching  
Recognition of Melinda Estell  
Noon Freudige/Sojourners potlucks  
**Scripture: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33, Psalm 130, Ephesians 4:25-5:2, John 6:35; 41-51**

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

**STAFF:** Lavon Welty is returning from vacation in Alaska on Tuesday, Aug. 4. Gloria Hernandez Bucher is gone this weekend, attending a family reunion.

**Lily Schumacher** has been accepted into the Service Venture Program (Mennonite Mission Network). She will serve in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the next 10 months. Her work assignment will take place at an art center along with serving at a thrift store. Lily is flying to Albuquerque on Wednesday, Aug. 5, to begin her term of voluntary service. Let's remember her in our prayers.

**Elaine Rich has a new address.** (Note that this is a different address from the one we printed in several July bulletins and the Menno-Life.) Her address is: Elaine Rich, Timbercrest, Box 501, North Manchester, IN 46962.

**The congregation is invited** to share in an international breakfast potluck on Sunday, Aug. 9, at 9:15 a.m. to celebrate our international Sunday school theme and Mennonite World Conference. Please bring a main dish, fruits, breads or cheeses from other countries, as well as your own table service. The recipe book "Extending the Table" has many international recipes. Traditional American breakfast foods and gluten free foods are also welcome. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. We encourage you to wear clothing from other countries for this event. -- *Christian Education Commission*

**On Sunday, Aug. 16,** Megan Coffman will lead our annual Safe Sanctuary training in the sanctuary during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15). All who work in the nursery or with our children and youth programs are required to come to this session to learn about our Safe Sanctuary policy and to hear Megan talk about issues relating to keeping our children and youth in a safe environment here at First Mennonite Church.

**First Mennonite Church** is committed to supporting our young adults who commit to spend at least 10 months to a voluntary service assignment. Our financial support is available to those who choose an Anabaptist/Mennonite based organization. This year we have four Voluntary Service workers. Jackson Bush will serve with the Pittsburgh PULSE program, Jennifer Steinmetz, Mennonite Voluntary Service (Seattle), David Hooley, MCC SALT program (Kenya), and Lily Schumacher, Service Venture Program (MNN), Albuquerque. Funds available in the MVS Fund are not sufficient to cover their costs of participation (\$1,500 each). Please consider whether you can contribute financially to this program. If you are able to contribute, make your check out to *First Mennonite Church* with *VS Fund* written on the memo line. Thank you for your support!

**First Mennonite Church** will host Shizuo Tachibana of Japan on Sunday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. in fellowship hall. Shizuo (the first member of the Hiroshima Mennonite Church) will speak about the effects of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in August of 1945. He will share stories of hibakusha (survivors of the A-bomb). He teaches in a private pre-school based on the Steiner method. Bob and Alice Ruth Ramseyer will host Shizuo during his stay in Bluffton. All are welcome.

**Do you have an interest** in our youth ministry but don't know how to get involved? Consider being a youth sponsor! We need sponsors for both middle school and high school youth fellowships. If you feel led to work with the young people in our congregation, please contact Shannon Thiebeau at 419-773-9446 or at [shannonthiebeau@gmail.com](mailto:shannonthiebeau@gmail.com) for more information.

**Youth Event:** The Storm Conference is a one-day interdenominational "mini-convention" taking place Saturday Aug. 22 in Continental, Ohio. The tickets are only available in advance at \$35/person which includes meals, games, speakers, worship, and a concert by Hawk Nelson in the evening. For more details, please contact Shannon Thiebeau at 419-773-9446 or at [shannonthiebeau@gmail.com](mailto:shannonthiebeau@gmail.com)

**It's school kit time!** Supplies are discounted now through September. You may fill a bag(s), donate money for supplies, donate fabric or make bags. Checks should be written to FMC with "MW school kits" on the memo line. Cards with a list of supplies and instructions for making bags are on the bulletin cupboard in fellowship hall. Boxes for complete kits, supplies for kits, and a box for empty bags are on the pew in the fellowship hall. Bags must be made with sturdy fabric.

-- *Ginger Theis*

**Our supply of quilts, comforters, and afghans** for child dedications must be replenished. Interested persons may knit, crochet, quilt, or contribute a purchased item. Suggested ranges for these items are 32 to 38 inches in width by 38 to 44 inches in length. Some common sizes in catalogs and kits are 32 inches by 38 inches and 34 inches by 40 inches. A small supply of woven cotton and flannel suitable for baby quilt backings is in the quilt room in a box labeled Fabrics for Baby Quilts. Quilts may be machine- or hand-quilted. For knotted comforters, using two "down-ups" with the needle before knotting the ends results in a more secure knot. Finished items should be put in the quilt room in the box labeled Child Dedication Items. Questions may be directed to Sarah Basinger. Thank you for your contributions!

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Speaking Swiss:** Those who would like an opportunity to speak or listen to Swiss are invited to Maple Crest's patio room on Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 7 p.m. -- *Rich Bucher*