

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2015

10:30 a.m.

— **GATHERING** —

Chimes call us to worship

Lucia Unrau

Call to Worship, Announcements, Introductions

Kendra Nickel

— **PRAISING** —

Invocation

Opening Hymns

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes and
Swiss Mennonite 175 Choir

***Responsive Reading**

Psalm 84: 1-2, 8-12

L: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

C: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

L: O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*

C: Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

L: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

C: For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

All: **O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

Time with Children

Hymn

“Lord, we bring to you our children” STJ 90
(Sing vs. 1 for coming forward)

Conversation

Jo Pannabecker and Ana Neufeld-Weaver

Hymn

“Lord, we bring to you our children” STJ 90
(Sing vs. 2 for returning)

Special Music

“O Gott Vater, wir loben dich” Leenaerdt Clock
Swiss Mennonite 175 Choir, directed by Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

Pastoral Prayer

Steven Yoder

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Now the Silence”

Charles W. Ore

— **PROCLAIMING** —

Scripture

John 6:56-69

Sermon

“Invited to Eat”

Lavon Welty

***Hymn**

“I am the Bread of life”

HWB 472

— **RESPONDING** —

Communion

The Invitation

Prayer of Confession (*read in unison*)

Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have offended you and your laws. We have neglected our duties, and committed evil against you and others. Lord have mercy on us. Fulfill the promise that if we confess our sins you are faithful and just and will forgive our sins. Grant us a godly, righteous and radiant life. As we partake of these elements, may we be filled with the fullness of Jesus Christ and grow into his likeness. Amen

Sharing the Bread

Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

— **SENDING** —

***Hymn**

“Sent forth by God's blessing”

HWB 478

***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

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

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

Director of Youth Ministries: 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: Janine Paul, Cheri Slotter, Larry Diller

HOST: Ernie Porzelius

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS –Tig Intagliata, Joyce Hostetler

Worship –Carrie Mast, Karen McCullough, Jacob Biesecker-Mast

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Darby and Jen Benroth

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Ana Neufeld-Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Heather Theis

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 245

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD) 8

Sunday school attendance last Sunday NA

Spending plan giving Aug. 16, 2015 \$5,339.00

2015 Proposed spending plan \$419,469.00

Weekly offering needed for spending plan \$7,663.46

The offering August 16 totaled \$7,056.75. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$215,

Capital Campaign - \$370, Adult Bible Study - \$9, College Scholarships - \$20, VS Fund - \$1,250,

MDS - \$50, Kitchen Service - \$1.75.

CHURCH STAFF

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

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

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

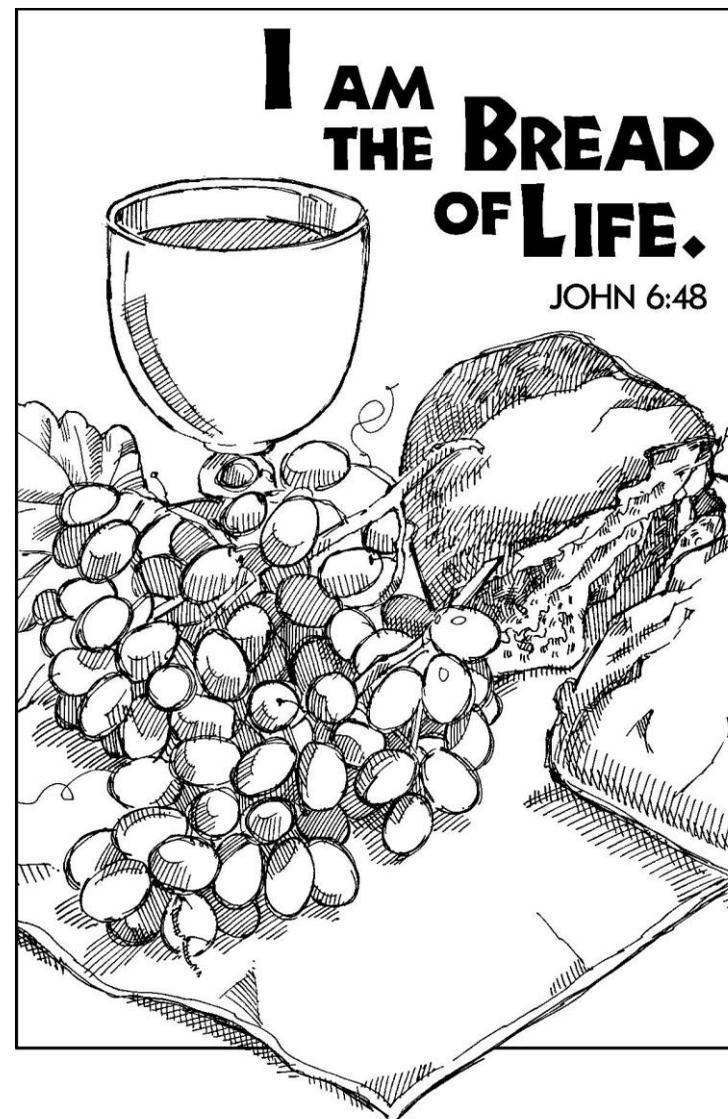
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – shannonthiebeau@gmail.com

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

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



Anita Lehman has done a series of paintings about the changing worlds of both those who suffer cognitive loss and those who care for them, depicting the emotions, concerns and challenges facing caretakers. Anita's brother-in-law has early-onset dementia and his wife has opened her journal of this journey that the two of them are sharing. Anita's art captures the wide range of emotions that her sister-in-law is experiencing as she cares for her husband. This art will be on display at Mennonite Memorial Home until the end of August. The display is located on the third floor opposite the elevator. We would welcome all to visit and enjoy this beautiful interpretation.

-- Mary Ann Ring, MMH volunteer coordinator

Camp Friedenswald's annual Women's Retreat will be held Sept. 25-28, with a theme of "Women Rising: Naming, Claiming, Transforming." Biblical scholar and chaplain Laura Brenneman will be the speaker. She will draw upon the key scriptural imagery of trees to engage participants in dialogue about the meaning of authenticity, leadership and wholeness in a broken world. Check the Mennonite Women pillar for additional information or http://www.friedenswald.org/programs_womens/retreat.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy Birthday to James Oberly, 94, Aug. 27; Richard Weaver, 95, Sept. 3; and Ruth Naylor, 81, Sept. 3.

Happy Anniversary to Dwight and Trella Kauffman, 50, Aug. 20; Burton and Elnore Yost, 66, Aug. 21; LaVonne and Paul Klassen, 68, Aug. 23, and Elfrieda and Richard Ramseyer, 57, Aug. 30.

We offer condolences to Jane Hooley and Don and Mary Ina Hooley and their families, as they mourn the loss of Jane's husband and Don's brother, Dave Hooley. Dave died August 18 at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, at FMC. The family will greet friends and family from 9-11 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Continuing prayers for Stan Naylor are much appreciated. He is in hospice care at the Mennonite Memorial Home.

Thanks to all of you for the wonderful goodbye celebration for our mom, Elaine, on July 25. She really enjoyed it and the many cards she received. Special thanks for Heidrun and Ginger for taking care of the snacks. — Andy Rich and family

Congratulations to Erin and Jason Kerns, on the birth of their son, Logan Clark Kerns, born August 17. Logan is the grandson of Paul and Laurel Neufeld Weaver and the great-grandson of Richard and Margaret Weaver.

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 23, 2015

9:00 a.m. Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m. Sunday school classes for children and junior high youth
Congregational Meeting, sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Lavon Welty preaching
Communion
Noon Church picnic, Bluffton Village Park

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (18) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., Sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Parlor
Wednesday (19) Swiss Mennonite 175 Choir rehearsal, 7 p.m., Choir room

NEXT WEEK

9:00 a.m. Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m. Christian Education; Adult Fellowship, FH
Commission Retreat, FH
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, JP Schumacher preaching
3-8 p.m. Swiss Mennonite 175 celebration, Putnam County Road 4
Scripture: I Kings 8:22-30; 41-43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

CHURCH PICNIC TODAY

The Annual Church Picnic will be held at noon today at the Bluffton Village Park. Please bring a hot and cold dish to share, as well as table service for your family. Beverages will be provided.

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

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held at 9:15 a.m. today in the sanctuary. There will be no Sunday school or fellowship time for adults and senior high students, but Sunday school for children and junior high youth will continue as scheduled.

A memorial service for Irene Hamman will be held today at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service in the fellowship hall and refreshments will follow the service. Irene died August 6 at Mennonite Memorial Home. Memorial contributions may be made to “Kitchen Services” at First Mennonite Church.

Volunteers needed! Greeters and hosts are needed for Sunday mornings at FMC. Every Sunday, we have a host(s) in the fellowship hall and a greeter(s) at each entrance before Sunday school and before church. If you’d like to volunteer a few Sundays or a full month of Sundays in this capacity, please contact Mary Pannabecker Steiner in the church office, or at fmc@bluffton.edu.

Music Ensemble Rehearsals: Note the dates, times, locations and ages for the church’s music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship for our congregation and encourage others to join. We would gladly welcome new additions to the ensembles and will greatly enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) begins on Wednesday, September 2 at 7:00 p.m. (Mark Suderman, director) – sanctuary
- Adult and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively (Ray Raeburn, director) – assembly room
- Cherub Choir (ages 3-grade 1) will begin on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:00-6:30 p.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children’s choir room. Parents of 3 year olds are encouraged to come to the first few rehearsals.
- Jubilate (Grades 2 - 5) will begin on Wednesday, September 2 at 6:45-7:30 p.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children’s choir room.
- Youth choir (6th grade and up) will meet on Sundays from 8:30-9:15 a.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children’s choir room.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the nineteenth century, a group of Swiss Mennonites, facing religious persecution and economic discrimination, immigrated to the United States, settling in Northwest Ohio. The community built its first church in 1840. This year marks the 175th anniversary of that log structure.

A celebration will be held on Sunday, Aug. 30 at the site of the original building, near 17876 Road 4 in Pandora, with a worship service, lectures, displays, hymns, and a Swiss meal under a big tent. Myron Augsburg, revival preacher and expert on Swiss Mennonite history, is the featured speaker.

“Pages of Piety: An exhibit of rare books reflecting the Swiss Mennonite spiritual heritage,” curated by Carrie Phillips, Bluffton University archivist, will be open to the public at Ebenezer Mennonite Church on Sunday, Aug. 30 from noon-6 p.m. The exhibit will then be on display in Musselman Library Archives and Special Collections (first floor) on Aug. 31-Sept. 11, from 2-4 p.m. and at other times by appointment.

Free parking will be available on site. Golf carts will be used to aid elderly and those needing handicapped accessibility. Ebenezer Mennonite Church, 8905 Columbus Grove Road, Bluffton, will serve as a rain option. The schedule may be found at swissmennonite.wordpress.com/swiss-mennonite-175.

Today is the final day to buy tickets for the meal; a \$7 donation per ticket is suggested. See Wendy Chappell-Dick in the fellowship hall.

The Bluffton Food Pantry is in need of the following supplies during September. Canned peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, applesauce, mixed fruit, canned spaghetti sauces and pasta, ramen noodles; canned meals, pasta dishes, stews, ready-to-heat soups, hamburger helper, chicken helper, tuna helper, canned vegetables (no corn or green beans), ketchup and mustard, prepared sandwich mixes, canned meats -- tuna, chicken, beef, turkey, pork, cereal, paper products – toilet paper, tissue, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, baby products, shampoos, soaps. **NOT NEEDED:** macaroni and cheese, canned corn, green beans, water- added soups, garbanzo beans, chick peas, navy beans, black beans and northern beans. Items should be dropped off at St. John’s United Church of Christ.

The Celebration of Health’s free clinic at the Lima YMCA annex needs a volunteer to greet patients as they arrive and call them in to be seen. The clinic is open most Wednesday evenings during the school year from about 5-7 p.m. The position could be shared. Contact Bobbie Chappell at 419-358-4306 for more information.