

14th Sunday after Pentecost
August 30, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau

Call to Worship, Announcements, Introductions Gerald Mast

— PRAISING —

Invocation

Opening Hymns Marlyce and Jeff Gundy

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

L: My heart overflows with a goodly theme; I address my verses to the king;
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

**C: You are the fairest of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips;
therefore God has blessed you forever.**

L: Your divine throne endures for ever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of
equity;

**C: you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has
anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows;**

L: your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.
From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

**All: daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

Time with Children

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

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

Special Music “Psalm 23” Colin Mawby
Marlyce Gundy, vocalist; Lucia Unrau, organist

Pastoral Prayer Gloria Hernandez Bucher

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Isaiah 40:3-5

Sermon “Living in New Ways” JP Schumacher

***Hymn** “The love of God” STJ 44
(vs. 1 and 3)

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “The Gift of Love” arr. John Carter

***Hymn of Dedication** “Lord of all Good” STJ 60

***Prayer of Dedication**

Release and Blessing of Gloria Hernandez Bucher

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “Love divine all loves excelling” HWB 592

***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: fmclubluffton.org

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

Interim Pastors: Gloria – Mon 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, Mary and Fred Steiner

HOST: Ernie Porzelius

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Darby and Jen Benroth

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

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Monica Harnish, Elaine Suderman

Worship – John Mackey, Julie Mackey, Grace Paquin

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Heather Theis

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, www.fmclubluffton.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	257
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	11
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	12
Spending plan giving Aug. 23, 2015	\$4,181.00
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
Weekly offering needed for spending plan	\$7,663.46

The offering August 23 totaled \$5,790.68. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$5.10, Capital Campaign - \$311, SHYF – 361.58, College Scholarships - \$50, VS Fund - \$80, Kitchen Service - \$10.40, Deacons Benevolent - \$503, School kits - \$50, Irene Hamman memorials (kitchen fund) - \$180.

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



Love ...
in truth
and action.

1 JOHN 3:18, NRSV

Brazo en Brazo: On Aug. 20, Ann received a call from Marta Carguen of Santiago Chile. During the summer of 2005, Marta came limping with a sprained ankle across the parking lot at Lima Mennonite Church. Her family came later that year and was here for two years. How good to renew contact with her! Remember FIESTA FAMILIAR, Sunday, Sept. 20, from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church.

-- Paul and Ann Conrad

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, 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 tuna, chicken, beef, turkey, pork, cereal, paper products – toilet paper, tissue, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, baby products, shampoos, soaps. Items should be dropped off at St. John's United Church of Christ.

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.

All are invited to the Menno-Hof Singspiration Sunday, Sept. 13, at 5 p.m. Enjoy hymn singing, ice cream and pretzels. Bring lawn chairs for seating. Rain location: Farmstead Inn pavilion, Shippshewana.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

A memorial service for Dave Hooley will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 5 in the sanctuary. Visitation is planned from 9-11 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Following the service, a light lunch will be served in the fellowship hall.

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

Congratulations to Tara and Kyle Miller on the birth of their daughter, Vivian Rose, born August 21 at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay. Vivian's brothers are Everett and Isaac.

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 30, 2015

9:00 a.m. Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m. Sunday school classes for children and youth; Commissions organizational meeting, FH; Adult fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, JP Schumacher preaching
3-8 p.m. Swiss Mennonite 175 celebration, Putnam County Road 4

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (9/1) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., Sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Parlor
Wednesday (9/2) Cherub choir and adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (9/3) Mission, Peace and Service, 8 a.m.
Nurture, 7 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:00 a.m. Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m. Christian Education; Adult Fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Steven Yoder
7 p.m. SHYF/JHYF Kick-off
Scripture: I Kings 8:22-30; 41-43, Psalm 84, Ephesians 6:10-20, John 6:56-69

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

We welcome JP Schumacher to our pulpit today. JP, director of Bluffton University's Institute for Learning in Retirement, recently began her first semester as a Master of Divinity student at Methodist Theological School of Ohio, Delaware, Ohio.

Today is Gloria Hernandez Bucher's final Sunday to serve as an interim pastor at First Mennonite Church. One year ago Gloria began to serve this congregation with responsibilities including pastoral care, preaching, visitation at Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio, First Night coordination and staff rep to Senior Concerns Committee among other activities. Gloria's gifts in ministry, personality and humor have added greatly to the pastoral team in the past year. We will recognize her service in the worship time today and give her our words of appreciation and blessing. After the service Gloria will greet people in the fellowship hall.

There will be a resourcing workshop on Sunday, Sept. 20 for anyone involved with or interested in doing the Children's Time. If you would like to get new planning ideas, learn different ways to read a story, or how to make the scripture/theme relevant, this is for you! The workshop will begin immediately after the college student potluck. Please RSVP to Steve Yoder for planning purposes.

David Hooley arrived safely in Nairobi, Kenya, August 27, following a week of orientation in Akron, PA. He will be in Nairobi for further orientation before traveling to the town of Songhor, to begin his one year SALT assignment. You may read his blog at davidhooleykenya.wordpress.com.

There are extra copies of the fall issue of *Rejoice*, a daily devotional guide, in the literature rack. The daily readings and prayers cover September through November.

One or two Sunday morning bus drivers are needed for the months of July and August of 2016. Bus assistants are needed for September 6, October 11, and the months of March, July, and August. Volunteers work from 9:30-10:30 a.m., and again after the worship service, transporting members to and from FMC. Currently, eight elders are being served. A sign-up sheet is available this morning outside the church office.

Mary Amstutz and Barb Stettler have asked to be relieved of their duties as First Night coordinators after many years of service. Unfortunately, the Nurture Commission has been unable to find a replacement for them. As a result, First Night will not be

scheduled this fall. We will continue to look for a coordinator for spring. If you are interested in talking about the coordinator position, or know someone who would be a good fit for the position, please contact any member of the Nurture Commission.

Music Ensemble Rehearsals: Please consider sharing your musical gifts with one or more of our musical groups. We welcome new additions to the ensembles and appreciate the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) begins this Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. (Mark Suderman, director) – sanctuary
- Adult and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin this Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively (Ray Raeburn, director) – assembly room
- Cherub Choir (ages 3-grade 1) will begin this Wednesday, Sept. 2 from 6-6:30 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 this Wednesday, Sept. 2 from 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

Today a celebration of 175 years since the first church was begun in the local Swiss community will be held at the site of the original building, near 17876 Road 4, Pandora, with a worship service, lectures, displays, hymns, and a traditional Swiss meal. Myron Augsburg, revival preacher and expert on Swiss Mennonite history, is the featured speaker. Historical and devotional books, art cards, T-shirts and program booklets will be sold at an on-site store. Remaining tickets for the meal will be sold on a first come, first served basis, beginning at 3 p.m. Aside from the meal, there is no charge for the event and free parking is available. Golf carts will be used to aid elderly and/or those needing handicapped accessibility. Rain location is Ebenezer Mennonite Church, 8905 Columbus Grove Road, Bluffton.

Bluffton University will host a conference on "Mennonite Education: Past, Present and Future" Oct. 16-18. Open to the public, the conference will celebrate the publication of "Peace, Progress and the Professor: The Mennonite History of C. Henry Smith," by Dr. Perry Bush, a Bluffton professor of history who will be among the conference's three keynote speakers. About 50 workshops and panel and roundtable discussions on Mennonite education topics are also planned. The registration fee is \$65 before Sept. 30 and \$75 thereafter; meals are extra. Go to www.bluffton.edu/conference/ for more information and to register.