

**Third Sunday after Pentecost  
June 14, 2015  
10:30 a.m.**

**— GATHERING —**

**Chimes call us to worship**

Lucia Unrau, organist

**Call to Worship, Announcements, Introductions**

Gayle Trollinger

**Invocation**

**— PRAISING —**

**Opening Hymns**

Laura Hartzler and youth

**\*Responsive Reading**

Psalm 20

L: The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

**C: May he send you help from the sanctuary, and give you support from Zion.**

L: May he remember all your offerings, and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices.

**C: May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans.**

L: May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.

**C: Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand.**

L: Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.

**C: They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright.**

**All: Give victory to the king, O Lord; answer us when we call.**

**Time with Children**

**Hymn**

“God who touches earth” HWB 511  
(Sing vs. 1 and 2 for coming forward)

**Conversation**

Jo Pannabecker and Ana Neufeld-Weaver

**Hymn**

“God who touches earth” HWB 511  
(Sing vs. 3 and 4 for returning)

**Commissioning of Director of Youth Ministry**

(See litany insert in bulletin)

Shannon Thiebeau

**Pastoral Prayer**

Steven Yoder

**Hymn**

“The Lord's Prayer”  
(Inside back cover of hymnal)

James W. Bixel

**— PROCLAIMING —**

**\*Scripture**

Mark 4:26-36

**Sermon**

“In Parables”

Alex Sider

**\*Hymn**

“Ask ye what great thing I know”

HWB 337

**— RESPONDING —**

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“Intermezzo”

Brahms

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

“Praise God from whom” (vs A)

HWB 119

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**— SENDING —**

**\*Hymn**

“I want to walk as a child of the light”

STJ 95

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*\*Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.*

*HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story STJ – Sing the Journey*

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: [fmclubluffton.org](http://fmclubluffton.org)

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

Christian Education Coordinator: Tuesday 9 a.m. - noon, Thursday Noon - 3 p.m.

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:** Lori and Daryl Nester, Todd Rainey, Andrew, Ray and Beth Raeburn

**HOST:** Jo and Bill Croft

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS - Tim and Jo Pannabecker

*Worship* - Phil Blount, Amy Blount, Douglas Nester

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** SS - Darby and Jen Benroth

*Worship* - Annette Heslep, Amelia Heslep, Christopher Harnish

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Art Shelly

**CHANCEL:** Bev Simon

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

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	274
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	11
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	55
Spending plan giving June 7, 2015	\$4,710.00
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
Weekly offering needed for spending plan	\$7,663.46
The offering June 7 totaled \$9,275.13. Money was received for these special funds: Sunday school-\$13.75, Capital Campaign-\$295, Habitat-\$20, College Scholarships-\$25, Dare to Dream-\$274, Camperships-\$290.	

### 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)

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)

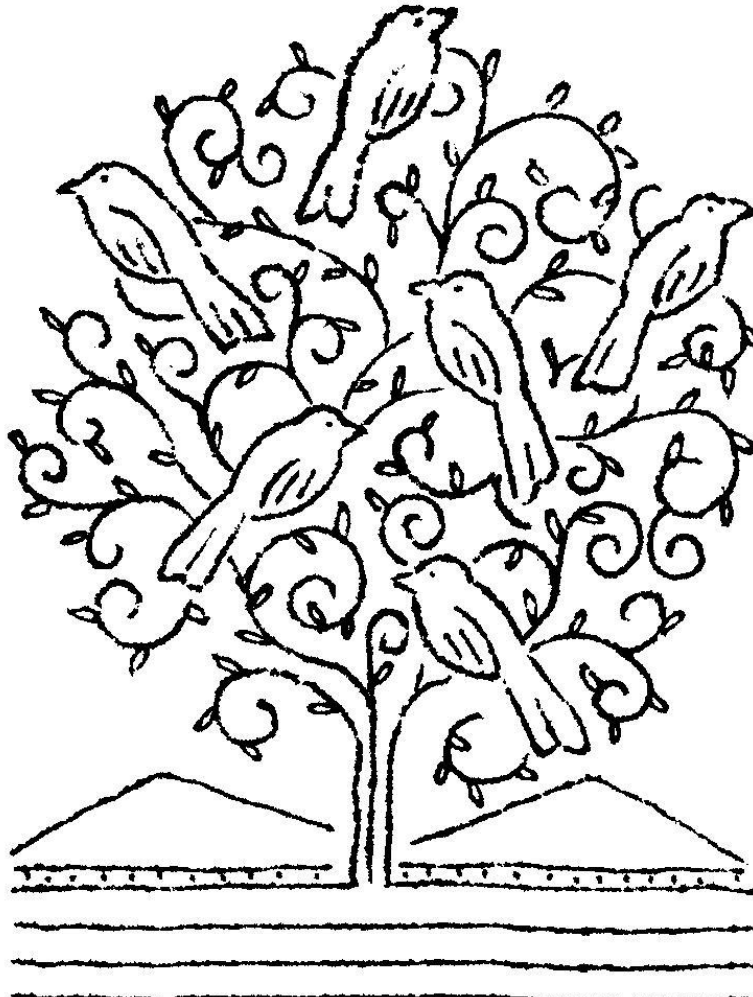
Director of Music - Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator - Lucia Unrau

Custodian - Mick Hardy

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

you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows  
and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches  
that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.



The kingdom of God... is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed

M a r k 4 : 3 0 - 3 2

**Delegates to MC USA** assembly in Kansas City are Melissa Friesen, George Lehman, Wendy Chappell-Dick, Perry Bush, Steve Harnish and Hannah Chappell-Dick. A meeting to discuss the resolutions to be presented at the assembly will be held in the FMC fellowship hall on Wednesday, June 17, at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend this gathering. Information about MC USA can be found at <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/>

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Brazo en Brazo update:** Three Christian brothers from Archbold who share the same last name, Tijerina, but not the same set of parents, led the Brazo en Brazo service this past Sunday. Samuel played the piano. Jacobo played the guitar and taught the children some songs. David led the singing and preached on the theme Andar en amor (To Walk in Love). Genaro Hernández commented that the sermon was practical and focused, and said it was the way people interacted when he first visited a Fiesta Familiar that drew him to visit a service and continue as he has for six years. -- *Paul and Ann Conrad*

**The Swiss Community Historical Society** invites the public to attend the annual Swiss Day potluck, at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, June 28, at Ebenezer Mennonite Church, 8905 Columbus Grove Rd, Bluffton. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share. Background music will be provided by the band "Silver Threads among the Gold." The program will include the Swiss National Anthem, an update on Phase II of the Capital Campaign "Bringing alive the past by building for the future" and plans for the 175th anniversary celebration of the first Mennonite Church in the Bluffton-Pandora area. -- *Rich Bucher, for the Swiss Community Historical Society*

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy Birthday** to Wanda Pannabecker, 93, June 18; Marilyn Diller, 84, June 21.

**Happy Anniversary** to Alice Ruth and Robert Ramseyer, 64, June 16; Len and Lois Smucker, 64, June 17.

**We wish to thank** the members and friends of our congregation for the many prayers, cards, and notes received during Norman's illness and passing. We also appreciated the pastoral visits during this time. We are thankful for our caring congregation. Blessings on each of you. -- *Mary Lou Vercler and family*

*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, June 14, 2015

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, Alex Sider preaching
Noon	Sojourners/Freudige class potlucks

## THIS WEEK

Monday (15)	SEMILLA Presentation, Jerry and Leonor Kennell, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (16)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Thursday (18)	Church Council, 7:30 p.m., AR
Fri-Sat (19-20)	Black Swamp Benefit, Fulton County Fairgrounds

## 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 <b>1 Samuel 15:34-16:13, Psalm 20, 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17, Mark 4:26-34</b>

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 Dr. Alex Sider, PhD**, to our pulpit today. He is an Associate Professor of Religion, the Harry and Jean Yoder Scholar in Bible and Religion Director of Peace and Conflict Studies at Bluffton University.

**Today we commission** Shannon Thiebeau as our Director of Youth Ministry. Shannon graduated from Bluffton University in May, as a religion major with a youth ministry concentration. She has been attending First Mennonite for several years. You'll find more information about Shannon in the June issue of the Menno-Life.

**The Mennonite Women** 2014-2015 year concluded June 8 with a breakfast picnic in the church fellowship hall, rather than the Buckeye Park, due to inclement weather. However the food, fellowship, Dottie Long's devotional and Beth Theisen's nature presentation warmed our spirits. The MW planning committee would like to thank each one who participated in our monthly gatherings, whether you presented the program, shared a devotional, prepared refreshments or simply attended. Each woman's presence contributed meaningfully to the theme of the year, "Practicing Companioning Presence." We are already looking forward to next year's theme, "Spark! Igniting your God-Given Creativity," with the devotional written by April Yamasaki. Look for the new program guide to come out in early September. Officers for the new year will remain the same as last year. They are Judy Buller, Chair; Lori Nester, Vice-Chair; Barb Stettler, Treasurer; Mary Ina Hooley, Secretary; Ginger Theis, MCC Kits, and Sarah Basinger and Pat Sheidler, Comforters.  
— Mary Ina Hooley

**Former FMC members** Jerry and Leonor Kennell, now North American ambassadors to SEMILLA, the Latin American Anabaptist Seminary, will speak at 7 p.m. Monday, June 15 at FMC. Learn more about SEMILLA, including information about their unique joint programming relationship with Bluffton University, as well as a Guatemala learning tour.

**FMC high schoolers** attending Camp Friedenswald during the past week included Antony Kingsley, Douglas Nester, Isaac Andreas, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Levi Schumacher, and Christopher Harnish.

**Volunteers are needed** to help out in the nursery during Sunday school and/or church. Interested persons may e-mail Jen Benroth at [jesommer2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jesommer2000@yahoo.com).

**FMC will hold an information/refresher** course on the use of our Automated External Defibrillator. The one-hour program is open to all who would like to learn or review operation of the device. David Maroscher, training officer at Blanchard Valley Hospital, will lead the class at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, in the fellowship hall. -- Bill Swartley

**Judy Kingsley's address** is 812 Red Maple Ct., Bluffton. Her cell phone number is 419-236-5678. Note that these are changes to the address and phone number listed in the November 2014 FMC directory.

**A team is being organized** for the ALS Columbus Walk in honor of Phillip Kingsley. This event takes place on Sunday, September 27. Check in is at 9:30 a.m. and the 1.5 mile walk begins at 11 a.m. If you would like to donate or join the team, you can find more information at ALS Columbus Walk under the Team Name "Fast Talker Kingsley" or call Melanie Lehman at 567-204-4117 for more information. Also, some members of the team are having a bake sale outside of the Citizens National Bank on Saturday, July 18, from 8 a.m. to noon to raise money. If you would like to help or provide a baked good please contact Coral Lamb 419-905-9363 or email at [coralnate@yahoo.com](mailto:coralnate@yahoo.com). Here is the link to donate online:  
[https://secure2.convio.net/alsa/site/SPageServer?pagename=WLK\\_BP\\_walk13\\_pc2&pc2\\_page=center&fr\\_id=10964](https://secure2.convio.net/alsa/site/SPageServer?pagename=WLK_BP_walk13_pc2&pc2_page=center&fr_id=10964)

**Carpooling for Camp Friedenswald:** Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall for parents and caregivers. Please indicate which camp your child/youth is attending, if they need a ride to or from camp and if you can provide transportation to or from camp. A \$20 car pool fee is requested of each child/youth for the driver they are riding with each way. This is to cover the cost of gas, wear and tear on vehicles and travel time. Please contact Melinda Estell with any questions ([fmc.melinda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.melinda@bluffton.edu)).

**This year's Fuller Center** for Housing/Bike Adventure will cover 4,000 miles from San Diego, CA to Portland, ME. They will work on houses along the way, continuing efforts to end poverty housing around the world. **On July 29 we will provide a meal and host them at First Mennonite overnight.** There will be 30-40 bicyclists from all over the United States. I biked with the group last summer and I plan to join them from Bluffton to Portland. Go to [www.fullercenterbikeadventure.org/summer/theriders/](http://www.fullercenterbikeadventure.org/summer/theriders/) and click on "Everett Collier" to donate to the Fuller Center. I have designated two housing sites we worked on last year for donations. More details will be forthcoming. -- Everett Collier