

19th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— **GATHERING** —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Elizabeth Kelly

Prelude “Alleluia”
Adult Bell Choir, Ray Raeburn directing

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— **PRAISING** —

***Opening Hymn** “Sing praise to God who reigns” HWB 59

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 100 HWB 821

Special Music “How Can I Say?” J. Michael McKay
Cherub Choir, directed by Laura Hartzler

Time with Children
Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341
(Sing once for coming forward)

Conversation Rhonda Winstead

Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341
(Sing once for returning)

Pastoral Prayer Steven Yoder

— **PROCLAIMING** —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Share His Love with all the World” Trenton Watkins

Scripture Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5
Shannon Thiebeau, Youth Ministry Director

Sermon “Abounding in love – Abiding in Grace”
Lois Johns Kaufmann, Central District Conference Minister

***Hymn** “Seed scattered and sown” HWB 454

Installation of Wanda Stopher

Congregation’s Response

The charge to you becomes a charge to all of us, for we are all members one of another. As you exercise your gifts in equipping us for the work of ministry, we also will exercise our Spirit-given gifts. They are God’s to use even as your gifts are at God’s disposal. As servants of Jesus Christ with you, we affirm the exercise of leadership ministry committed to you. We earnestly desire that for us and for all whom you will serve, you will be a faithful minister of Jesus Christ.

— **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** “New earth, heavens new” HWB 299

***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

Pastor -- Wanda -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday

Associate Pastor -- Steve -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries -- Shannon -- 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: Jon Diller, Rich and Gloria Bucher

HOST: Amy Freeman

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS -- Ken Shenk, Amy Blount

Worship -- Annette Heslep, Amelia Heslep, Elizabeth Nisly, Annalise Nisly

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS -- Kevin and Alison King

Worship -- Kevin King, Alison King, Kate Pannabecker

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL:

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	228
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	0
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	85
Spending plan giving Sept. 20, 2015	\$5,789.17
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
The offering September 27 totaled \$7,953.20. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$24.03, Kitchen Service \$8, Capital Campaign - \$310, Casket Fund - \$510, College Scholarships - \$525, Polly Bauman memorial - \$445; Irene Hamman memorial - \$190, Funeral Fund - \$102, The Mennonite - \$245, Rejoice - \$35.	

CHURCH STAFF

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

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



*He is the reflection of God's glory
and the exact imprint of
God's very being*

Hebrews 1:3, NRSV

and the Concert Band, conducted by Dr. Roy Couch. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be taken for music scholarships.

Fred Suter of Columbus, will give an update on the Congo Water Project at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11 at Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora. The presentation will include pictures from his most recent trip to Congo. Interested persons from First Mennonite Church are invited to attend. An offering will be taken to support Fred's work through Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission.

The Mennonite Memorial Home has an increased need for volunteers in the following positions: beauty shop transporter on Thursdays at 8:45 a.m.; barber shop transporter on Mondays at 1 p.m.; mobile meal drivers once monthly on a Tuesday or Friday; deliver water to elders once weekly on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday (takes 30 minutes); deliver evening snacks to elders once a month at 7:30 p.m.; lead worship on Sunday once a quarter at 9:30 a.m. help elders to worship on the first and fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.; help elders to worship on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.; transport elders to medical appointments (driver clearance and training is required.) Interested volunteers should contact Mary Ann Ring, volunteer coordinator, at 419.358.1015, extension 248.

The Bluffton Food Pantry is collecting the following during October: canned peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, applesauce, mixed fruit, canned meals, pasta and pasta sauces, baked beans, chili beans and sauces, Hamburger helper, Chicken helper, Tuna helper, prepared canned chunky soups, canned vegetables (no corn or green beans are needed), catsup and mustard, sandwich mixes, canned meats, cereals and breakfast items, toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, shampoos, soaps. **Not needed at this time: macaroni and cheese or Ramen noodles, canned corn or green beans, water-added soups, garbanzo beans, chick peas, navy beans, black beans, northern beans.** Please deliver donations to St. John's UCC, 223 W. College Ave.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Mary Yoder, 92, October 4.

We express our sympathy to Hans and Linda Houshower, on the death of Hans' mother, Margaret Houshower. Margaret died September 23 at the Mennonite Memorial Home. A family and friends celebration of Margaret's life is planned for a future date.

Thank you for your support during Dave's illness. Your loving care has meant so much to us. Truly, you are the body of Christ to us.

– Jane Hooley

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, October 4, 2015

9:00 a.m. Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m. Christian Education; Adult fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Lois Johns Kaufmann preaching
Installation of Wanda Stopher
Noon All-church potluck
5:30 p.m. SHYF leaves church for Suter's Corn Maze

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (10/6) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (10/7) ILR Pies and Pastries, 1:30 p.m., FH kitchen
Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.;
Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10/8) Everence advocates, 7 p.m., AR
Saturday (10/10) Lauren Paul/Joe Roberts wedding reception, 5-7 p.m. FH

NEXT WEEK

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, Wanda Stopher preaching
Scripture: Job 23:1-9, 16-17, Psalm 22:1-15, Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

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

Wanda Stopher will be installed as our new lead pastor during today's worship service. Lois Johns Kaufmann, Central District pastor, is our guest preacher. Communion will be part of the service and an offering will be taken for the Deacons Benevolent Fund. The celebration will continue after church with a potluck in the fellowship hall. Please join us for the potluck.

PHOTO TIME: Following the worship service Sunday, Oct. 11, Fred Steiner will be taking photographs in the parlor. This is for new members and for all who would like to have a new or replacement photo taken for the large bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

JHYF: JHYF meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the Junior High youth room.

SHYF: SHYF meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 7-8 p.m. in the youth room, except when noted otherwise, as follows. On **Sunday, October 4:** Suter's Corn Maze. SHYF will meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to leave for Pandora and will return to church around 8 p.m. Admission is \$4 for students and \$5 for adults. On Sunday, Oct. 25, SHYF will hold a spaghetti fundraiser lunch after the worship service. The lunch will raise money for this summer's service trip.

JHYF, SHYF and Venture Club will hold a combined Friedenswald campfire on Sunday, October 11. Join us for camp songs and popcorn at the Village Park Shelter House at 6:30 p.m. Naomi and Kevin Leary, the new program and assistant program directors at Camp Friedenswald, will attend worship that morning and the campfire, where they will speak about the past summer as well as some of Camp's plans for the future. Some of our children, youth, and families will share about their experiences this past summer. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets. Rain location will be the Fellowship Hall.

Looking for a way to regularly deepen your spiritual life? Each Tuesday at 7 a.m. First Mennonite has a service of "Lectio Divina," an ancient prayer practice that involves listening to the reading of the lectionary text for that week, and then listening for four or five minutes in silence for God to speak. The 30-minute service takes place in the darkened sanctuary and ends with a pastoral prayer and the Lord's Prayer said in unison. Following the benediction there is a light breakfast and lots of conversation around the table in the fellowship hall.

Are you interested in subscribing to *The Mennonite*? This monthly periodical gives current Mennonite Church USA news along with editorials, opinion pages, and well written articles.

Because we are on a group plan we receive a discount on the price of a subscription. The cost per year is \$35. **If you have not subscribed before please write a check to First Mennonite Church and write The Mennonite on the memo line.** Include your current address and turn this in to the church office. **Current subscribers** will have a notice in their church boxes. The deadline for subscriptions is October 10.

The congregation is invited to join us for a wedding reception in celebration of the marriage of Lauren Paul and Joe Roberts. The reception will take place in the fellowship hall on Saturday, October 10, from 5-7 p.m. Please come and go as you wish. A light supper will be provided.
-- Chad and Janine Paul

Mennonite Women will gather for the November program in the Fellowship Hall, **Monday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m.** "Created in the Image of God Means Being Created to Create" will be presented by Susie Stratton, owner of Stratton's Greenhouse. She plans to have us participate in creating something with plants. Elfrieda Ramseyer will share a devotional with us from April Yamasaki's book, "*Spark: Igniting Your God-Given Creativity.*" Judy Diller and Jane Weaver will provide refreshments.

School kits: There is still fabric already cut (and more to be cut) for school kit bags. We really need people to sew them. There is also string in the quilt room. -- *Ginger Theis*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brazo en Brazo: A huge "Thank You" from Brazo en Brazo to all the churches and individuals who helped with the Fiesta Familiar -- all who helped with set up and clean up, the ladies who arranged the tables, brought flowers, those who worked with the children, brought the trailer, the chairs, food and the wonderful music -- too much to mention all. It was a big encouragement in keeping with the theme "...encouraging each other..." I Thes. 5:11. The two trees planted, taking root and growing in the soil are to remind us of God's word rooted in our lives so that we are a blessing to the community.
-- *Paul and Ann Conrad*

Rehearsals for Bluffton University's 120th performance of Handel's "Messiah" begin Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the Gilliom Room of Mosiman Hall. Anyone interested in singing, from high school students to adults, is welcome to participate. Rehearsals will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. each Tuesday (except Nov. 24) until the performance, set for 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in Founders Hall. For more information, contact Mark Suderman at sudermanm@bluffton.edu or 419-358-3364.

The Bluffton University Music Department will host a choral and instrumental concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, in Yoder Recital Hall. The concert will feature Camerata Singers and the University Chorale, each conducted by Dr. Mark J. Suderman,