

**16th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 13, 2015**  
**10:30 a.m.**

— **GATHERING** —

**Chimes call us to worship** Lucia Unrau  
**Call to Worship, Announcements, Introductions** Darryl Nester  
**Prelude** “Ellacombe” arr. J. Wayne Kerr

— **PRAISING** —

**Invocation**  
**Opening Hymn** “I sing the mighty power of God” HWB 110  
**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 19  
L: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.  
**C: Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**  
L: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;  
**C: yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**  
**All: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

**Special Music** “Saints Bound For Heaven” arr. by Parker/Shaw  
*Chancel Choir*

**Time with Children**  
**Hymn** “I want to walk as a child of the light” STJ 95  
**Conversation** Jonathan Andreas  
**Hymn** “I want to walk as a child of the light” STJ 95  
*(Sing vs. 3 for returning)*

**Sharing and Blessing** Royce and Stephanie Van Atta

**Pastoral Prayer** Lavon Welty

— **PROCLAIMING** —

**Scripture** Mark 8:27-38

**Sermon** “Extreme Makeover” Lavon Welty

**\*Hymn** “Lord, I am fondly, earnestly” HWB514

— **RESPONDING** —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Ash Grove” arr. Lloyd Larson

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “God, whose giving” HWB 383  
*(Sing vs. 3)*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— **SENDING** —

**\*Hymn** “Blest are they” STJ 94

**\*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

Interim Pastor -- Lavon -- Tues, 8-noon, Wed 9-4, Thurs, Noon-5

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:** Karen McCullough, Dave Moser,

**HOST:** Kay Weidner

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – Judy Diller, Shelby Cluts

*Worship* – Kevin Cluts, Meghan Coffman, Ellie Nickel

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** SS – Lori Nester, Elaine Suderman

*Worship* – Tim and Jo Pannabecker, Sunita Hooley

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Moser

**CHANCEL:** Heidrun Awad

*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	271
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	9
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	63
Spending plan giving Sept. 6, 2015	\$5,903.00
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
Spending Plan Receipts Through August 31, 2015	\$236,122.00
Spending Plan Disbursements Through August 31, 2015	\$254,586.00
The offering Sept. 6 totaled \$10,544.00. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$35, Audio-visual - \$25, School kits - \$100, Kitchen service - \$12.75, Capital Campaign - \$865, SHYF – 361.58, College Scholarships - \$550, Deacons Benevolent - \$15, VS Fund - \$500, Kitchen Service - \$7.00, Irene Hamman memorial - \$70, Habitat - \$140.	

### CHURCH STAFF

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

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)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

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



this year. See the publicity poster on the pillar in the fellowship hall for more information.

-- Judy Kingsley

**Tickets are still available** for the Bluffton University Artist Series performance by Apollo's Fire, a baroque chamber ensemble, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in Yoder Recital Hall. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens and non-Bluffton students and \$10 for children ages 6-13. Children ages 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu>, [boxoffice@bluffton.edu](mailto:boxoffice@bluffton.edu) or 419-358-3239.

**On August 11, 2014**, the Detroit metro area experienced record breaking rainfall causing homes and roadways to become overwhelmed with flood waters. In addition, more than 129,000 home owners with flooded basements from backup registered with FEMA for assistance. The flood was the largest FEMA declared disaster in 2014, yet it has been largely forgotten - except by those still dealing with its aftermath.

- (Phase 1) MDS's Region II opened a response in Detroit in November 2014, and through February worked with All Hands Volunteers in cleaning out over 200 basements.
- (Phase 2) Region II reopened the project in May and to date we have cleaned out more than 35 basements, with many more scheduled. Phase 2 will continue through October 9.
- (Phase 3) MDS will open a traditional response with long-term volunteers (i.e., project director, office manager, cook, crew leaders, etc.) and weekly volunteers needed. Phase 3 begins on October 18 and will include continuation of cleaning basements but also rebuilding in some basements and related projects. Lawrence Matthews will continue to serve as Project Coordinator during Phase 3. To learn more about this response and to volunteer, contact Lawrence Matthews, email: [detroit@mds.mennonite.net](mailto:detroit@mds.mennonite.net) or call 419-303-8056.

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday** to Christine Purves, 96, Sept. 14; Margaret Bixler, 98, Sept. 15.

**At the time** of the bulletin printing, Steve Yoder was still hospitalized at the Cleveland Clinic. Prayers are appreciated.

**Wanda Pannabecker** continues rehab for a broken pelvis at the Mennonite Memorial Home. Your prayers, visits and cards are much appreciated! She is in room 209.

*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, September 13, 2015

9:00 a.m. Coffee time, FH  
9:15 a.m. Christian Education; Adult fellowship, FH  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Lavon Welty preaching  
Noon Sojourners/Freudige potluck

## THIS WEEK

Monday (9/14) Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH  
Library Committee, 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday (9/15) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., Sanctuary  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Parlor  
Education, 7 p.m., Parlor  
Wednesday (9/16) Cherub choir and adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.;  
Chancel choir and youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (9/17) Church Council, 7:30 p.m.

## NEXT WEEK, EDUCATION 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  
Noon College Sunday potluck, FH  
**Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31, Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37**

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

**Today we offer a prayer blessing** for Royce and Stephanie Van Atta, who with their son, Nilsson, are making some life changes. They will also share a bit about their plans. Stephanie and Royce joined First Mennonite on May 24; at that time they provided this information. “We are married with an eight-month-old son, Nilsson. He is the light of our life! Royce's passion is art and he has spent years studying it. He looks forward to gaining a career revolving around art. Stephanie spends her days taking care of Nilsson. She also teaches people how to make over their medicine cabinets with natural solutions. We have spent a good deal of time investigating what faith/denomination best aligns with our beliefs. The Mennonite faith of this church largely aligns with our beliefs. We believe in putting God first, non-violence, family, service, and simplicity. We look forward to being of service within the church, getting to know fellow members, and partaking in church activities.”

**Sharing a meal together** is one way our church family provides hospitality and fellowship. We will hold a potluck meal in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 20 to welcome Bluffton University students. Please bring plenty of food to share and your own table service. College students will be our honored guests: food, drink and table service will be provided for them. Everyone is welcome.

**Following the worship service** on September 28, there will be a brief congregational meeting to confirm two positions on Church Council: Alice Lora as secretary and LuAnn Stuckey as member-at-large. (These names were not available at the time of the August meeting, but our constitution specifies that these positions should be elected by the congregation.)  
-- Darryl Nester

**We have a terrible/wonderful** problem in the nursery. Due to the addition of several new little faces to the congregation, we are in desperate need of more helpers. Volunteering even once a quarter during Sunday school or church would be helpful. We need to provide childcare if we want our young families to be involved in the church. Please contact Jen Benroth if you are willing to help at [jesommer2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jesommer2000@yahoo.com).

**Mennonite Women -- 2015-2016 year begins!** Rediscover the joys of being created in God's image and nurture your own creative Spirit. “Spark: Igniting Your God-Given Creativity,” this year's devotional book by April Yamasaki, brings a down-to-earth look

at our perceptions of creativity and ourselves. We welcome women of all ages to attend MW on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Program guides for the year are in your church mail box. The first program will be Monday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Anita Lehman will introduce this year's theme of creativity. Anne Buller will lead devotions, and refreshments will be provided by Joan Diller and Joyce Hostetler. The devotional book will be available for purchase at this meeting for \$10. You may also reserve your copy by contacting Barb Stettler at [419 358 5252](tel:4193585252) or [stettlermb@bulffton.edu](mailto:stettlermb@bulffton.edu).

**The Service Group** of Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will hold their annual fall festival bake sale from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Sept. 25-26 in the lobby of the Mennonite Memorial Home. The bake sale will feature a variety of home-baked items, including cinnamon rolls, cakes, pies, noodles and breads.

**School kits:** More bags are needed for school kits; there is fabric in a labeled plastic tub in the quilt room. We have many supplies on hand, but need much more! We have only until the end of September to meet our goal of 200.  
-- Ginger Theis

**There will be a resourcing workshop** on Sunday, Sept. 20 for anyone involved with or interested in doing the Children's Time. This will focus on new planning ideas, different ways to read a story, and how to make the scripture/theme relevant. The workshop will begin immediately after the college student potluck. Please RSVP to the church office for planning purposes.

**If you're interested in making** a comforter top for the November knotting days, there are some kits (some with backing included) are on the table next to quilting frames in the quilt room. Fabrics for piecing and borders are in bins on the shelves, but you may also use fabrics from your own stash. Completed tops go in the bin on a shelf behind the kits table. Thank you for your help.  
-- Pat Sheidler and Sarah Basinger

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Elaine Rich's family** has offered church members an opportunity to choose from items they have stored in the garage at 327 S Jackson St. All items are free. These include tables, chairs, desks, blankets, a bike, kitchen things, and other household items. The garage is unlocked so church members may stop by and take items as they wish.

**Brazo en Brazo:** All are invited to our annual Fiesta Familiar (Family Festival), September 20, from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. Grilled meat will be provided, but guests are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. FMC will provide beverages