

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Education Sunday**  
**September 20, 2015**  
**10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

**Chimes call us to worship** Lucia Unrau

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Pastor Steven Yoder

**Prelude** “Come, Thou Found of Every Blessing” arr. Joel Raney

**Call to Worship**

**\*Invocation**

— PRAISING —

**\*Opening Hymn** “What is this place” HWB 1

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 1

**L:** Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**C:** **but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

**L:** They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

**C:** **The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

**L:** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**All:** **for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Special Music** “Long before my journey's start” (STJ 36) by Leslie Barnhart  
*Jubilate Choir*

**Time with Children**

**Hymn** “I want to walk as a child of the light” STJ 95  
*(Sing vs. 1 for coming up)*

**Conversation** Judy Steiner  
**Presentation of Bibles to Third Graders** Steven Yoder

**Hymn** “I want to walk as a child of the light” STJ 95  
*(Sing vs. 2 for returning)*

**Pastoral Prayer** Steven Yoder

— PROCLAIMING —

**Musical Offering** “God Here Is My Life and My Will” by Jeremy Young  
*Chancel Choir*

**Scripture** Isaiah 46:9-11 Greg Ring

**Sermon** Janeth Magiri

**\*Hymn** “Teach me, O Lord” HWB 487

— RESPONDING —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Pass It On” arr. Mark Hayes

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “God, whose giving” HWB 383  
*(Sing vs. 1)*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn** “Joy to the world” HWB 318

**\*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

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**GREETERS:** Karen McCullough, Mark Weidner, Gayle Trollinger

**HOST:** Kay Weidner

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS -- Lori Nester, Elaine Suderman

*Worship* -- Tim and Jo Pannabecker, Sunita Hooley

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** SS -- Gerald Mast, Ruth Naylor

*Worship* -- Phil Blount, Amy Blount, Anna Biesecker-Mast

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Walt Paquin

**CHANCEL:**

*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	226
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	5
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	74
Spending plan giving Sept. 13, 2015	\$6,065.01
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 September 13 totaled \$8,017.56. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$84.55, Kitchen Service (Mem. Lunch) - \$100, Casket Fund - \$100, Capital Campaign - \$1,218, College Scholarships - \$100, Deacons Benevolent - \$50, Irene Hamman memorial - \$100, Building Use - \$50, Habitat for Humanity - \$150, Mennonite Women (MCC Projects) - \$50.	

### 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)

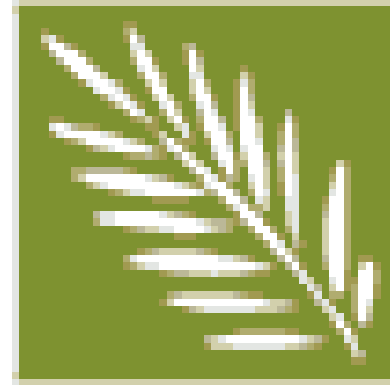
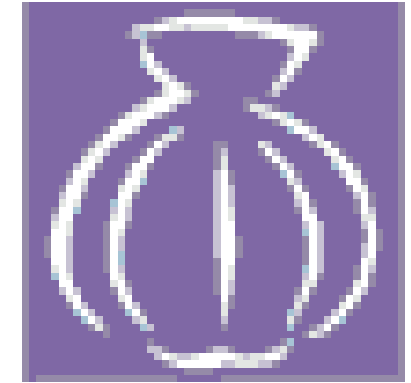
Youth Ministry Director -- Shannon Thiebeau -- [shannonthiebeau@gmail.com](mailto:shannonthiebeau@gmail.com)

Director of Music -- Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator -- Lucia Unrau

Custodian -- Mick Hardy

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



CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

**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** Elfrieda Ramseyer - 81, September 21; Willadene Keeney - 91 September 24, Joanne Niswander – 86 September 24.

**Happy Anniversary to** Ruth & Stan Naylor – 61 September 25.

**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.

**To the friends of First Mennonite Church.** Please know how grateful I am for all the cards and flowers I have received for my 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. I am humbled by the love and caring shown.  
~ Christine Purves

*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 20, 2015

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Janeth Magiri preaching
Noon	College Sunday potluck, FH

## THIS WEEK

Tuesday (9/22)	Morning prayers, 7:00 a.m., Sanctuary Staff meeting, 9:00 a.m., Parlor Staff Relations Committee, 7:00 p.m., Parlor
Wednesday (9/23)	Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6:00 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday (9/24)	Deacons Commission, 7:30 p.m. Parlor

## 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 – Lavon Welty preaching
	<b>Scripture: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22, Psalm 124, James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50</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

**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 today, 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 27, 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

**Wanda Stopher will be installed as our new lead pastor** during the October 4 worship service. The celebration will continue after church with a potluck meal in Fellowship Hall.

**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 7:00 p.m.

**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).

**The Service Group** of Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will hold their annual fall festival bake sale from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 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 today** 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 are 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

**Camp Friedenswald's annual Women's Retreat** will be held September 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](http://www.friedenswald.org/programs_womens/retreat).

**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 4:00 -7:00 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 this year. See the publicity poster on the pillar in the fellowship hall for more information.  
~ Judy Kingsley