

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Education Sunday
September 27, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Linda Headings

Prelude “Lord of the Dance” arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

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

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 124

L: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us,

C: then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

L: then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;

C: then over us would have gone the raging waters.

L: Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth!

C: We have escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Special Music “Here is the Church” Traditional
Cherub Choir, directed by Laura Hartzler

Time with Children

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

Conversation Greg Ring

Hymn “I want to walk as a child of the light” STJ 95
(Sing vs. 3 for returning)

Pastoral Prayer Steven Yoder

Musical Offering “Lord for Thy Tender Mercy’s Sake” Richard Farrant
Chancel Choir

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Mark 9:38-50

Sermon “Precious Little Ones” Lavon Welty

***Hymn** “When cross the crowded ways” HWB 13

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Gigue” arr. Douglas E. Wagner

***Hymn of Dedication** “God, whose giving” HWB 405
(Sing vs. 2)

***Prayer of Dedication**

Release and Blessing of Lavon Welty

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “The Lord lift you up” STJ 73

***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

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, Mary Steiner, Gayle Trollinger

HOST: Kay and Mark Weidner

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS -- Shelby Cluts, Ruth Naylor

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

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: Ken Shenk, Tig Intagliata

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

SOUND SYSTEM: Walt Paquin

CHANCEL: Heather Theis

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	271
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	8
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	73
Spending plan giving Sept. 20, 2015	\$5,099.22
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
The offering September 20 totaled \$5,754.38.56. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$625.41, Kitchen Service \$15.25, Capital Campaign - \$80, Habitat for Humanity - \$120, Mennonite Women (School kits) - \$377.	

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



demands, ringing phones, and hectic schedules! Lodging and scrapbooking will be in Lakeview Lodge, and there will be plenty of time to scrapbook, relax, hike and enjoy the Peaceful Woods. Weekend includes lodging and five meals and costs \$130.

Everence is holding a video contest about young people's views on money and will begin receiving entries on Oct. 1. The Everence Money Talks video contest is open to anyone 15 to 25; the top award of \$2,000 will be split between the winner and a selected charity. Awards also will be given to second- and third-place finishers and their selected charities. Learn more at <http://www.everence.com/moneytalks>.

Mennonite Women USA resources and materials are now available on their online shop. Visitors to the site can purchase Women's Bible study guides, Sister Care materials, MW USA merchandise and back issues of *Timbrel* at <https://www.mennonitewomenusa.org/shop>.

In August 2014, Detroit, MI, experienced record breaking rainfall causing widespread flooding. The flood was the largest FEMA declared disaster in 2014.

- (Phase 1) MDS's Region II opened a response in Detroit in November 2014 and 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 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 volunteer, contact Lawrence at detroit@mds.mennonite.net or call 419-303-8056.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Mary Yoder, 92, October 4.

Thank you First Mennonite Church members and friends for all the cards, messages and well wishes during Steve's recent hospitalization. We appreciate our church family very much and the support we received was so helpful. -- *Steve and Janet Yoder*

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 27, 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

THIS WEEK

Monday (9/28) Our Daily Bread volunteers leave for Lima, 9:30 a.m., parking lot
Tuesday (9/29) Morning prayers, 7:00 a.m., Sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9:00 a.m., Parlor
Wednesday (9/30) 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 (10/1) MPS, 8 a.m., Parlor
Worship, 7 p.m., Parlor

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 – Installation of Wanda Stopher as lead pastor,
Lois Johns Kaufmann preaching, service will include communion
Scripture: Job 1:1; 2:1-10, Psalm 26,
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16
Noon All-church potluck

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 is Lavon Welty's final worship service as interim lead pastor, but he will be in the office through September 30. We thank him for his generous and caring service as we transition to the new pastoral team.

Following today's worship service, 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

PHOTO TIME: Following the worship service today and again on Sunday, Oct. 11, Fred Steiner will be taking photographs in the parlor. This is for new members and for individuals/couples/families who would like to have a replacement photo on the large bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We will schedule a third Sunday for photos in the near future.

Wanda Stopher will be installed as our new lead pastor during the October 4 worship service. Lois Johns Kaufmann, Central District pastor, will be 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 meal in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to bring food to share and table service for your family.

Our Daily Bread: Volunteers are needed to help with the noon meal Monday, Sept. 28, at Our Daily Bread soup kitchen in Lima. Because several of the regular volunteers are unable to help this month, The group will car pool from FMC at 9:30 a.m. and should be back by 12:30-1 p.m. Contact John Rich if you are willing to help.

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

School kits: We have 196 complete kits. There is enough fabric already cut (and more to be cut) for at least 60 bags. We really need people to sew them. There is also string in the quilt room.
-- Ginger Theis

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bluffton Release Time/Weekday Christian Education, a program supported by 19 area churches, encourages the growth and development of those Bluffton elementary and middle school students who choose to attend. Cost of the program is \$25 per child in grades 1-5 and \$15 for grade 6. There is no cost to 7th and 8th graders, as they are taught by Campus Life staff not paid by WCE. Scholarship money is available for those unable to pay the tuition. In the 2014-15 year, 576 students participated. Teachers include Jodi Conley (first grade), Mary Ina Hooley (second and third grades), Janie Basinger (fourth-fifth-sixth grades) and Hannah Slechter (7th and 8th.) The board is made up of teachers and church representatives. Board officers include Mark Yoder, president; Gary Bishop, treasurer; and Joyce Smith, secretary. We encourage your continued support, whether through tuition or other monetary support, coordinating walkers and serving as a walker. Contact Mark Yoder at 419-358-8180 or Mary Ina Hooley at 419-358-4040.

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 November 24 until the performance, set for 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, in Founders Hall. For more information, contact the conductor, Dr. Mark J. Suderman, a Bluffton professor of music, at sudermanm@bluffton.edu or 419-358-3364.

Fred Suter of Columbus, Ohio, 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 be the guests of Grace Mennonite for this occasion. An offering will be taken to support Fred's work through Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission.

Camp Friedenswald: The Fall Scrapbook Retreat will be held Oct. 16-18 at Camp Friedenswald. Experience the wonders of God, camp, and nature--a refuge from daily