

**Me & You & the Generations After You**  
**Lent Two**  
**February 18, 2018**

<b>Chimes call us to worship</b>		Deb Niswander
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Lois Wetherill
<b>Prelude</b>	“Jesus in the Morning” <i>Cherub Choir</i>	Traditional
<b>Call to Worship</b>		
<b>Invocation</b>		
<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	“The God of Abraham praise”	HWB 162
<b>*Confession</b>		See insert
<b>*Words of Assurance</b>		See insert
<b>Special Music</b>	“Inception” <i>Youth Bells</i>	Jason W. Krug
<b>Gospel Reading</b>	Mark 8:31-38	Jan Wiebe
<b>Special Music</b>	“Who Now Would Follow Christ” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Lee Dengler
<b>Old Testament Reading</b>	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Lois Wetherill

**Conversation with Friends**

<b>Hymn</b>	“Between Me and You”	Insert
<b>Conversation</b>		Amber Shelly
<b>Hymn</b>	“Between Me and You”	Insert

*(Accompaniment by Harnish family)*

**Pastoral Prayer**

Tim Schumacher

**Epistle Reading**

Romans 4:13-25

Bruce Steingass

**Sermon**

“Gift of Trust”

Theda Good

**\*Hymn of Response**

“We walk by faith”

HWB 570

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

<b>Offertory</b>	“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”	traditional/Page
<b>*Hymn of Dedication</b>	“We give thee but thine own” (vs. 1-3)	HWB 384
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		

**\*Hymn of Sending**

“Be thou my vision”

HWB 545

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Postlude on "Leoni”

Michael Burkhardt

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

*\*Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*

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

*Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.*

## 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

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

Pastor – Theda – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Custodian's schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

**HOST:** Jake Suter

**GREETERS:** Ana Neufeld-Weaver, Sophia Gott

**NURSERY TODAY: SS** – Wendy Chappell-Dick, Bobbie Chappell, Victoria Woods-Yee

**Worship** – Sue and Tom Schaaf, Christopher Harnish

**NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS** – Shelby Cluts, Monica Harnish, Alice Ruth Ramseyer

**Worship** – Annette Heslep, Kristen Niekamp, Sunita Hooley

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Art Shelly

**CHANCEL:** Amber Shelly

*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	FMC-178, MC-7
Spending plan giving Feb. 18, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$3,684.00
Special fund giving Feb. 18, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Sojourners-\$9; Faithful Living-\$3</i>	<u>\$1,675.58</u>
<i>Freudige-\$40; Faith and Life-\$9; SHYF-\$527.30; Kitchen-\$10.50; MW-\$276; Capital campaign-\$515; Nataly Chavez, school-\$250; Reimbursement-\$35.78</i>	
Total giving Feb. 18, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$5,359.58
Total spending plan receipts as of January 31, 2017	\$42,545.67
Spending plan expenses as of January 31, 2017	\$26,805.89
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)

Pastor Theda Good – 419-549-2417 (cell) -- [fmc.theda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.theda@bluffton.edu)

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman – [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)

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

Custodian – Mick Hardy

*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.*



**Electronic Giving is an option** for giving in support of First Mennonite Church. There is a link, "ONLINE GIVING," at the far right of the red navigation bar on the FMC website. To register, you will need your bank routing and checking account numbers. You'll choose a starting date, as well as frequency. All forms of donations are still appreciated, whether by cash, check or e-giving.

**Dr. Michelle Loyd-Paige**, executive associate to the president for diversity and inclusion at Calvin College, along with Kevin Williams, director of residence life at Bluffton University, will present "'Diversity Matters': From the Authors' Point of View," at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27 in Yoder Recital Hall. Loyd-Paige and Williams are two of the authors included in "Diversity Matters: Race, Ethnicity and the Future of Christian Higher Education." During the presentation, they will discuss insights from their work as professionals in Christian higher education.

**Bluffton University senior artists and graphic designers** will show their work in an exhibit "Branching Off" March 1-28 in the Grace Albrecht Gallery of Sauder Visual Arts Center. Artists include Amanda Diller, Bluffton; Miriam Fike, Lima; Tyler Frank, Maumee; Alissa Hauke, Leesburg, and Chase King, Cairo. Each collection includes digital prints, sculpture, painting, drawing and photography. The artists will discuss their work during a reception 1-3 p.m. Sunday, March 11 at Sauder. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F and 1-5 p.m. S-S.

**Grace Mennonite Church**, Pandora, will be having an all-day comforter knotting on Thursday, March 8, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Consider joining them for knotting, fellowship and lunch. Please RSVP to Cindy Luginbill, [lucg@watchtv.net](mailto:lucg@watchtv.net).

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Mennonite Disaster Service** has workers in more than 18 locations in Canada and the U.S. Please pray for MDS volunteers as they travel to and from locations, handle tools, repair and build homes and bring hope to disaster survivors. - *MDS*

**Linda Oyer of Mennonite Mission Network** is bringing closure to her 30-year ministry in France. Pray that the seeds she planted through teaching and mentoring will continue to bear fruit. Pray also that she will find joy in writing more of the books that have been percolating in her spirit. -- *MMN*

### Welcoming Statement

*In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.*

### TODAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Theda Good preaching
2 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF, game day, Maple Crest patio room

### THIS WEEK

Monday (2-26)	Our Daily Bread, volunteers leave FMC, 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday (2-27)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (2-28)	Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (3-1)	Worship, parlor, 7 p.m.

### NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

**Weather-related cancellations: If it becomes necessary to cancel a function at FMC, cancellations will be posted on the church website, on the Bluffton Icon, Lima FOX-WLIO, The Findlay Courier, WFIN, WKXA and 106.3 FOX. Cancellations will also be noted on the church answering machine.**

Welcome to our worship service today. If you are a visitor, please sign one of our guest books located at the entrances to the sanctuary. 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 downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Easter flowers:** We are taking orders for Easter flowers. If you wish to order flowers in honor or memory of someone, complete the order form on the insert included with this bulletin. **Orders must be submitted by Sunday, March 4.** All flowers ordered will be placed in the chancel on Easter Sunday morning. Plan to pick up your flowers after worship on Easter.

**We will gather on Wednesday, March 7** at 8 p.m. for a Lenten Evening Song and Prayer. This particular evening we will have a focus on healing. We will pause, pray, sing, and offer a few rituals to enter into this service of healing and hope. Oil, candles, and water will be available for this service. You are welcome to participate as little or much as you desire.

**Pastor Wanda is visiting** family through Monday. Please contact Pastor Theda for pastoral care.

**SHYF/JHYF:** The youth groups will have a game day with Maple Crest residents from 2-3 p.m. today in the MC patio room.

**Reminder:** The deadline for submitting items for the Sunday bulletin is noon on Thursdays.

### **Pastors' Office Hours and contact information:**

**Wanda** -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu); 419-551-1079

**Theda** – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; [fmc.theda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.theda@bluffton.edu); 419-549-2417

Please contact a pastor by e-mail or phone to schedule an appointment. Calling ahead is strongly encouraged. **Wanda** takes Friday as a Sabbath rest from work – including emails. She responds only in emergencies on Friday. **Theda** takes Monday as a Sabbath rest from work – including emails. She responds only in emergencies on Monday.

**The Young Adult Sunday school** class has renamed itself “Faithful Living” and invites any interested persons to join them at their 9:15 a.m. class. This week they will begin studying Lynn Miller’s book, “The Power of Enough.” The class meets in the room across from the nursery downstairs. Greg Ring is the class contact and may be reached at 567-204-7283 or by email at [gregring@roadrunner.com](mailto:gregring@roadrunner.com).

**Families with children:** It’s not too late to start Lent family worship. Just go to [www.anabaptistfaithformation.org](http://www.anabaptistfaithformation.org) and download “Between You and Me,” a free, guide for family worship for now through April 1.

**Our new First Mennonite Church pictorial directories are here!** It is our hope that these directories will help us learn to know each other, connect with one another, and provide a resource to those who join us in the months ahead. You will find a directory in your church mailbox. If you don’t have a church mailbox, request a directory and a mailbox from the church office.

**Discovery: A Comic Lament** will be presented at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 3 at Lima Mennonite Church, 1318 N. Main St., Lima. FMC joins Lima, Grace and Salem Mennonite Churches in sponsoring the event, which is free. The play, starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne, and produced by Ted & Co, is about the Doctrine of Discovery, the legal framework that justifies theft of land and oppression of Indigenous Peoples. It finds unexpected humor at the crossroads of justice and land use, offering both comic and challenging glimpses into the absurdity of white settler oppression of Indigenous Peoples and the land we live on. A show about love and loss of land, Discovery nudges its audience to question its stories with honesty and integrity.

**Hygiene Kits** - MCC has made an urgent call for hygiene kits and relief kits, and we will be collecting kits for a few months. MCC has recently added a comb to the hygiene kit list, so be sure to check the content list carefully.

Hygiene Kit Contents – Only NEW items, in original packaging

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer’s packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6–8 in)

Please limit your generosity to the items listed. Bags and content lists are on the table and bulletin board near the church library. We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of fellowship hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. **\*Relief Kits:** *These kits are larger and more expensive to complete, but are also desperately needed. They would be a good project for Sunday school classes or small groups. Relief kit lists are also on the bulletin board. Just pack all items into a box, label it “Relief Kit,” and place in the quilt room. We will send these to MCC where the items will be placed into a new plastic pail with a lid.*

**A friend of our congregation** is in urgent need of an inexpensive, but reliable car. If you have any leads, please contact John Rich, 419-358-5405.