

**It's Not Too Late  
First Mennonite Church  
October 14, 2018**

Procession

Welcome and Call to Worship

Everett Collier

\*Opening Hymn

“Worship the Lord in the beauty”

HWB 220  
LuAnn Stuckey

\*Invocation

\*Responsive Reading

Micah 6:6-8

L: With what shall we come before the Lord, and bow ourselves before God on high?

**P: Shall we come with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?**

L: Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten-thousands of rivers of oil?

**P: Shall we give our firstborn for our transgressions, the fruit of our bodies for the sin of our souls?”**

L: Listen, O mortals, to what is good; and what does God require of you

**ALL: but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?**

Scripture

Genesis 18:9-15

Shelby and Kevin Cluts

Special Music

“Jubilate Deo”

Jacques Berthier

Conversation with Friends

“Jesus loves me” (coming forward and returning)

Amber Shelly  
HWB 341

Conversation

Community Prayer

Theda Good

Scripture

Genesis 18:16-33  
Genesis 22:1-14

Shelby and Kevin Cluts  
Walt Paquin

Sermon

“This is a test”

Wanda Stopher

\*Hymn of Response

“Beauty for brokenness”

STS 115

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Adorn Thyself with Gladness”

J.G. Walther

\*Hymn of Dedication

“Lord of all good”

STJ 60

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn of Sending

“For me to live is Christ”

STS 111

\*Benediction

Postlude

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

R. Hillert

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

*Please ask an usher for assistance in locating large print hymnals.*

**First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817**  
**419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday**

**Church Staff**

- Pastor Wanda Stopher -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079 (cell); fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastor Theda Good -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); fmc.thed@bluffton.edu
- Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-10 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

**Host:** Amy Freeman | **Greeter:** Jean Miller | **Sound:** Art Shelly | **Chancel:** Bev Simon

**Nursery today: SS** – Judy Diller and Carmen Moser

**Worship** – Melinda, Patrick, and Rebecca Estell; Jason Diller

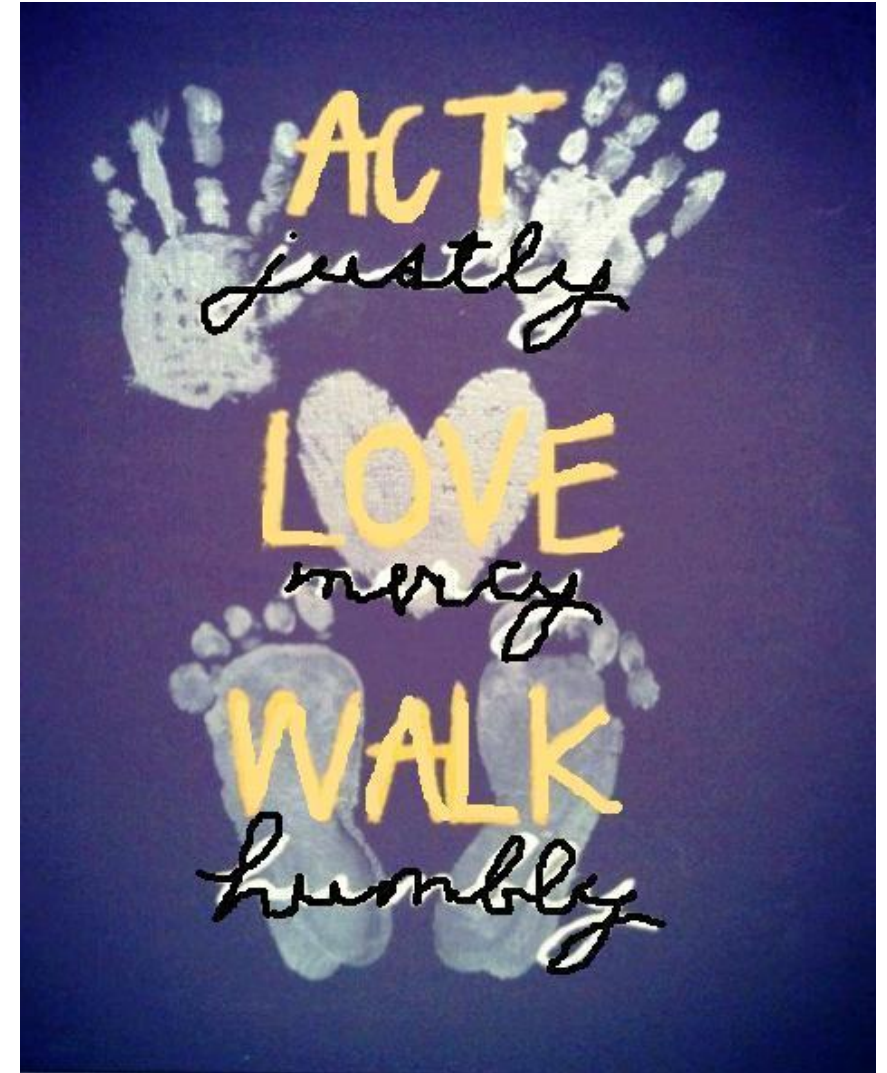
**Nursery next week: SS** – Elaine Suderman and Judy Buller

**Worship** – Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Andrea Goings

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-143, MC-7
Spending plan giving Oct. 7, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$7,032.00
Special fund giving Oct. 7, 2018 (includes e-giving): Grades 9-12-\$2.00; Sojourners-\$25	
Freudige-\$1; Faith and Life-\$11; Faithful Living-\$11; Community-\$10;	
Kitchen service-\$9.35; Deacons Benevolent-\$490; MCC-\$1,050; Flooring-\$180	\$1,789.35
Total giving Oct. 7, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$8,821.35
Total spending plan receipts as of September 30, 2018	\$269,777.77
Spending plan expenses as of September 30, 2018	\$296,389.22
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

*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.*



**Reminder: Extra copies of the year-long schedule** for our study of “We Make the Road by Walking” are available on the literature racks on the wall near the door to the fellowship hall. Electronic copies are available from the church office at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu).

**You are invited to Tuesday morning prayers**, a quiet place to listen to the texts for the coming Sunday worship, a time to listen for the still small voice of the Spirit, and an opportunity to offer your own silent prayers of petition, praise, confession, and thanksgiving. Prayers are from 7-7:30 a.m. and are followed by a light breakfast and fellowship.

**Through the proposed merger** of The Mennonite, Inc. and Mennonite World Review, Mennonite Church USA will lose its official media platform (both print and digital) dedicated to MC USA voices and news. The merged organization will function as an independent editorial voice serving a variety of Anabaptist communities including MC USA, but without organizational ties to any particular Anabaptist denomination. Read more background information online at: <http://mennoniteusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Merger-FAQ--Final.pdf>. MC USA constituency are asked to complete the survey at the following link no later than October 29: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMIdissolution>.

**Rehearsals for Bluffton’s** 123rd performance of Handel’s “Messiah” will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 16-Dec. 4 at Mosiman Hall. Those interested in singing (high school and older) are invited to join the chorus, which includes Bluffton students, faculty, staff and community members. The performance will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9, in Yoder Recital Hall. Dr. Bo Young Kang, director of choral activities, will conduct the performance, also featuring regional soloists and an orchestra.

**Bluffton University:**

**October 14** – Concert band performance, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**October 16** – Alumni Forum, 11 a. m., Yoder Recital Hall, Joel Wildermuth, “Beyond the Riley: Why Faith, Travel, and Stories Matter”

**October 19** – Dr. Deanna Barthlow-Potkanowicz, “Trigger Warnings in the Classroom: Seeking Balance between ‘Coddling’ and ‘Caring’”

**October 21** – Fall choral concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Oct. 21-25** – Spiritual Life Week

*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.*

**CALENDAR**

**Today, October 14, 2018**

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Freudige/Sojourner potlucks
1:30 p.m.	SHYF
5:30 p.m.	Learning circle, supper provided, FH

**October 14-20, 2018**

Monday (10-15)	Et Cetera board, 6:30 p.m., AR
Tuesday (10-16)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (10-17)	Worship planning circle, 5 p.m., parlor Adult bells and cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir and youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10-18)	Council, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (10-19)	Menno-Life deadline

**Next Sunday, October 21, 2018**

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

*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 cared for while you worship, our nursery is downstairs in the church. Worship activity bags for children are available.*

### New announcements

**Let's celebrate our advancing years!** Senior citizens are invited to a celebration on Saturday, Oct. 27, in the fellowship hall from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Rich and Gloria Bucher will help us recall favorite Bible stories and characters who shaped our early years. Bus transportation will be available at Mennonite Memorial Home, Maple Crest and Willow Ridge.

**A New Path Together** – Five people joined the GTF meeting on October 9. Questions, ponderings, and insights were exchanged; topics ranged from expectations of commissions, ways to expand communication and conversation across the congregation, to opportunities for navigating this process of change. Copies of the constitution (turquoise cover) are available in literature rack in Fellowship Hall. GTF resources will soon be located on the FMC website: [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org). **Next Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 4:15-5:30 in the parlor.** -- GTF

**Gifts Discernment** – Interest in gifts discernment was expressed at the commissions retreat. Let's explore! Those interested in gifts discernment should contact Greg Hartzler at [gregphartzler@gmail.com](mailto:gregphartzler@gmail.com). **(Note change in e-mail address.)** -- GTF

**This fall, we have collected supplies and money** for 6 hygiene kits, 7 relief kits, and 159 school kits. Thank you for your generosity! As there is an ongoing need for the hygiene and, especially, relief kits, we will keep that information in the collection area of the fellowship hall and will accept those kits at any time. *(We will start the full relief and hygiene kit drive in 2019.)* -- Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf

**Having a granddaughter in the chancel choir has its benefits.** While calling me on my 85<sup>th</sup> birthday Wednesday evening, I heard "Happy Birthday to you" sung by the choir! That made my day very special! Thank you also for all the greetings on Facebook and the cards in the mail. -- Elizabeth Shelly

**Our apologies to Judy Buller and Judy Diller**, for a mix-up of the two names on the October birthday calendar. Judy Buller's birthday is Oct. 16, while Judy Diller's birthday is June 13.

**This week we received a gift** in the amount of \$4,000 from Jacob T. Friesen, who served as pastor of First Mennonite from 1956-1967. The funds are intended to support the pastoral care of the congregation, such as supporting the congregation during a pastor's sabbatical and supporting the pastors' continuing education and travel expenses. Included was a letter and tribute to Jacob J. and Eva Friesen and Jacob L. and Helena Friesen, who worked farmland near Mountain Lake, MN. Recent sale of the farmland provided the funding for this gift. Rev. Friesen's letter and tribute are posted on a pillar in the fellowship hall.

**MennoMedia needs your help** to make the new *Voices Together* hymnal a reality by fall 2020. Before any copies of *Voices Together* are sold, MennoMedia will invest more than \$700,000. Everence and Mennonite Central Committee U.S. have issued a matching grant challenge of up to \$100,000 to help MennoMedia in this final fund-raising effort. Help ensure that *Voices Together* will be affordably priced for congregations. Make a gift today and have it doubled! Every voice matters. Every dollar counts. Give at <http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/> or email Steve Carpenter at [SteveC@MennoMedia.org](mailto:SteveC@MennoMedia.org) for more information. Gifts of \$500 or more entitle the giver to a tribute line in the hymnal.

### **Prayer Concerns**

Sam Diller was in the hospital again this week for a procedure. He is home again and appreciates your prayerful support in his recovery.

Ann Shumaker was also admitted to St. Rita's with hopes for a short stay. She hopes to return to Mennonite Memorial Home to continue rehabilitation. Continue to pray for her health and healing.