

**Plotting Goodness
First Mennonite Church
October 7, 2018**

Procession

Welcome and Call to Worship Jeff Boehr

*Opening Hymn STJ 16
 “Praise with joy the world’s Creator”
Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, keyboard

*Invocation

*Responsive Reading Proverbs 8:1-8
 Voice: Does not wisdom call, and does no understanding raise her voice?

All: On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

Voice: “To you O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence;

All: acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right;

Voice: for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

All: All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.”

Conversation with Friends Gloria Hernandez Bucher
 “Jesus loves me” (coming forward and returning) HWB 341
 Conversation

Community Prayer Theda Good

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings
 Offertory

Scripture Jan Emmert
 Genesis 12:1-9
 Galatians 3:6-9

Sermon JP Schumacher
 “Plotting God”

*Hymn of Response STJ 95
 “I want to walk as a child of the light”

Communion

Prayer STJ 172

Special Music Harold Friedell
 “Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether”
Chancel Choir

*Hymn of Sending HWB 478
 “Sent forth by God’s blessing”

*Benediction

Postlude

**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.therda@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: Ruth Naylor | **Greeter:** Jean Miller | **Sound:** Melissa Friesen

Nursery today: SS – Pat Scheidler and Melissa Friesen

Worship – Carrie Mast, Julie Mackey, Jacob Biesecker Mast

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-180, MC-6
Spending plan giving Sept. 30, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$2,692.00
Special fund giving Sept. 23, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5, \$13.09; Sojourners; Freudige, \$2; Faith and Life-\$13; Community; Faithful Living-\$15; SHYF; Kitchen service; Deacons Benevolent; Habitat; College schol;	
Flooring; ISAF; New hymnals; library; Brazo en Brazo	\$393.00
Total giving Sept. 30, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$3085.09
Total spending plan receipts as of August 31., 2018	\$238,446.66
Spending plan expenses as of August 31, 2018	\$260,271.15
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.



Thank you from the MMH Service Group for your support of the Fall Festival bake sale, silent auction, and lunch. With your help the events resulted in over \$4,000 raised for the Service Group. These funds support activities, programs, and equipment benefitting the nearly 350 elders served within the four campuses of MCHO.

Jessica Strahm, Volunteer Coordinator MCHO

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, from high school students to adults, 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 8-9 – Fall break

October 12 – Dr. Samuel H. Hancock book signing, 3-4 p.m., Musselman Library Reading Room

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'"

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 7, 2018

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, JP Schumacher preaching
Noon Connections Class
5:30 p.m. Learning Circle, supper provided, FH

October 8-13, 2018

Monday (10-8) Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (10-9) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
GTF meeting, 4:15 p.m., **all invited to attend!**
Wednesday (10-10) 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.
Stewardship, 6:30, parlor
Thursday (10-11) Nurture, 7 p.m.

Next Sunday, October 14, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invitation to Communion: Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer! Come to this sacred table, not because you must, but because you may. Come not to testify that you are righteous, but that you sincerely love our Lord Jesus Christ, and desire to be his true disciples. Come not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come not because you have any claim on heaven's rewards, but because in your frailty and sin, you stand in constant need of heaven's mercy and help. Invitation taken from "Communion Shapes Character" by Eleanor Kreider, page 171. ***Please note that all the bread used in communion today is gluten free.***

Communion and Almsgiving: As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC include the giving of alms. We do this by giving to the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons' Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community. Baskets are available at the doors.

Mennonite Women will meet Monday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall for a program on MW nurturing leadership and ministry. Theda Good will lead devotions, and Fran Core and Betsi Werling will provide refreshments. All ages are welcome.

A New Path Together: Governance Task Force meets Tuesday, Oct. 9 from 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. Please feel free to join us for the entire meeting or drop in/out as suits your schedule. We'll discuss next steps as we receive information from the commissions' conversations about governance and ministry. Chocolate will be provided and children are welcome. Watch for more info in the Menno-Life. ~ GTF

Senior High Youth Fellowship is taking orders for Fair Trade coffee. For each package sold, the youth will receive 40% of the \$15 cost and \$1 will be donated

toward MC USA peace and justice work. Details and order form are available in Fellowship Hall.

Learning Circles have begun! See the calendar for dates and locations. For additional information, take one of the bright orange-colored half sheets in the literature rack on the wall of the fellowship hall.

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 Mary Pannabecker Steiner at fmc@bluffton.edu. You may also order a book through the church office. If you wish to read the electronic version of the book, you'll need to order it from your own device and submit your bill to the church office for reimbursement.

Church address directory: In anticipation of reprinting the address directory (*not the pictorial*), **please notify the church office of any changes to your contact information (i.e. address, phone number(s), e-mail addresses) by TODAY, Sunday, Oct. 7.** Please submit to 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.

Are you new to First Mennonite Church? Do you want to know more about the church? Are you interested in exploring or refreshing your memory regarding what it means to be a member of this congregation? If so, you're invited to attend a membership class that will be held from 9-10 a.m. October 14, 21, 28, and November 4. Please contact either Pastor Wanda or Pastor Theda if you have questions or to express interest.

Annual open house: The Et Cetera Shop Inc. stores will hold an open house today, Sunday, Oct. 7, from 1-3 p.m. Et Cetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages and Book ReViews will offer substantial savings to shoppers. Et Cetera Shop - save 50% off on everything in the store; Ten Thousand Villages - save 25% off everything in the store and Book ReViews, save 25% on all regular priced books. Each store will have an enter-to-win and provide refreshments. Come for great deals and a head start on Christmas shopping.

