

**From Ugliness, a Beauty Emerges**  
**First Mennonite Church**  
**November 11, 2018**

Procession

Welcome and Call to Worship Greg Ring

\*Invocation

\*Hymn HWB 407  
"We are people of God's peace"  
*LuAnn Stuckey*

\*Responsive Reading Psalm 137:1-6

L: By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion.

**C: On the willows there we hung up our harps.**

L: For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

**C: How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?**

L: If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

**C: Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth, if I do not remember you,**

**ALL: if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.**

Special Music Roy Hopp  
"From the Apple in the Garden"  
*Chancel Choir*

Conversation with Friends Justin Berg  
"All things bright and beautiful" (*vs. 1 coming forward, vs. 3 returning*) HWB 156

Community Prayer Elysia Bush

Scripture Deuteronomy 7:1-11 Ray Person  
Matthew 15:21-39 Chris Gott, Louise Matthews, Carrie Mast

Sermon "Whose Story?" Wanda Stopher

\*Hymn "The church of Christ in every age" HWB 403

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" H.W. Baker/arr. K.T. Kosche

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn of Dedication "As saints of old" (v. 1) HWB 386

\*Hymn "I bind my heart this tide" HWB 411

\*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:** Barb Stettler | **Greeter:** Ellie Unruh and Maurice Kaufmann

**Chancel:** Wendy Chappell-Dick

**Nursery today: SS** – Anita & George Lehman

**Worship** – Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass, Ana Neufeld Weaver

**Nursery next week: SS** – Laura and Greg Hartzler

**Worship** – Kathy Dickson, Kevin Cluts

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-210, MC-6
Spending plan giving Nov. 4, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$7,472.00
Special fund giving Nov. 4, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$6.80; 9-12-\$17.80; JHYF-\$10	
Other-\$100; Sojourners-\$25; Faith and Life-\$7; Community-\$10; Kitchen service-\$8.04	
Habitat-\$20; MCC-\$50; College schol-\$72; Flooring-\$150; Brazo-\$100; FMC repairs-\$500	\$1,076.64
Total giving Nov. 4, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$8,548.64
Total spending plan receipts as of October 31, 2018	\$295,445.65
Spending plan expenses as of October 31, 2018	\$326,562.24
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.*



**Bluffton University choirs** -- University Chorale and Camerata Singers -- will hold a concert at Grace Mennonite Church at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16. The choirs, under the leadership of Dr. Bo Young Kang, will perform a wide selection of music including Cantate Domino by Giuseppe Pitoni, "Cool of the Day" arranged by John Ratledge, and "Oh My Luve's Like a Red, Red Rose" by Rene' Clausen.

**Bluffton University schedule:**

- Nov. 11 Reception for "Phantoms of Film," 1-3 p.m., Sauder Art Center
- Nov. 13 English Festival Forum, "Sweet and Low: A Reading with Nick White," 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall
- Nov. 16 BU Nutrition Association Harvest Dinner, 5-8 p.m., Bluffton Middle School, fundraiser benefits Bluffton and Lima food pantries
- Nov. 16 University choirs, concert, Grace Mennonite, 7:30 p.m.

**Mennonite Disaster Service of Western Ohio:** Brett Troyer, Fleet and Logistics Coordinator of MDS, will speak at the annual meeting of the Western Ohio Unit on Saturday, Nov. 17, from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora. Lunch will be provided. The new and fully-equipped western Ohio tool trailer will be there for a tour beginning at 8:30 a.m. and again after the program. The event is open to all. Details of this program are posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall. If you plan to attend, please notify Lawrence Matthews at [matthewsL@bluffton.edu](mailto:matthewsL@bluffton.edu).

**Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services** will hold a Tree of Remembrance memorial service Sunday, Dec. 9 at the Centre, 601 N. Main Street, Bluffton. Those attending will receive a free glass ornament personalized with the name and dates of their loved one who has died in the past year. Ornaments will be placed on a tree during the service and given to family members afterward. To make a reservation or for more information call 419-358-2051 or email [chilesbl@wcoil.com](mailto:chilesbl@wcoil.com). See more information on a notice from Chiles-Laman, which is posted in the fellowship hall.

*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, November 11, 2018**

***No Youth Choir rehearsal today***

- 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

**November 12-17, 2018**

- Monday (11-12) MW project night, 7 p.m., FH
- Tuesday (11-13) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.  
MW comforter knotting, 9 a.m.-noon, lunch to follow
- Wednesday (11-14) 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 (11-15) Council, parlor, 7 p.m.  
Bluffton Community Meal, 6 p.m., Senior Center, 132 N. Main

**Next Sunday, November 18, 2018**

- 8:30 a.m. Youth choir
- 9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Rich Bucher 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 announcement

**What:** Storytelling

**When:** Sunday, November 11 at 4 pm

**Who:** All are invited! No age restrictions!

**Where:** Fellowship Hall at FMC

**What else:** Food and Fellowship

Hear stories from Matthew 15 told by storytellers from FMC in stations throughout the church. Then enjoy refreshments and fellowship around tables following the event. Estimated time is 1 hour. Sign up in the fellowship hall or email [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu).

**Pastor Theda will be helping** to lead a retreat next week at Laurelville Retreat Center, with other pastors from the Supportive Communities Network, a ministry of Brethren Mennonite Council. She will be out of the office from Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 13 through Thursday, Nov. 16. She will return to the office on Friday, Nov. 16.

**Alice Ruth Ramseyer** died on Monday, Nov. 5, at St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima. A funeral service was held November 9 at First Mennonite. May God's healing presence surround her loved ones and comfort all who will miss her presence.

**All are invited to join other FMC family members** for Thanksgiving Day lunch! Dinner begins at noon. As has been the custom, this will be a semi-organized potluck -- RSVP so organizers know how many people to expect and to sign up to bring something. All Thanksgiving favorites are welcome and no heavy duty cooking is required. For more information and to sign up, please contact Lori Nester ([419-358-9650](tel:419-358-9650)/[nesterl@bluffton.edu](mailto:nesterl@bluffton.edu)).

### **New items in our literature rack in the fellowship hall:**

- **The October issue of Central District Conference's Focus** gives a visual overview of the conferences' congregations. To see where FMC fits in the larger picture of CDC, pick up one of the print copies of Focus in the literature rack in the fellowship hall.

- **Copies of the November 2018 Mennonite Mission Network Prayer Vine** are available. If you prefer an electronic copy, you may request one from the church office at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu).

## Reminders

**In response to the tragic shooting** at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh we have a card created by Carolyn Rich on behalf of our congregation. We invite you to add your name to the card, which is located on the table just outside the church office. We plan to send it by mid-November. *-- Pastors Wanda and Theda*

**Frame loading for the November 12-13 knotting days** begins at 1 p.m. today. Please note the change to an earlier time so that the fellowship hall can be cleared for the storytelling event later in the day. The loaded frames will be stored in the quilt room as completed. Plan to help out!

**Men, women, and children** are invited to join Mennonite Women for comforter knotting Monday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m.-noon. No prior experience in knotting is required! Monday evening the devotional focus will be "An Offering to God," shared by Ruth Naylor, and Barb Stettler and Linda Miller will provide refreshments. On Tuesday, all are invited to stay for lunch. If you can, bring a salad or dessert and table service. Soup, bread and beverages will be provided.

**The service group of the Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio** will hold a Thanksgiving bake sale on Friday, Nov. 16, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the lobby of the Mennonite Memorial Home. The sale will feature baked goods including cinnamon rolls, cakes, cookies and breads. To make a donation, sign up in the fellowship hall.

**Church College Relations and Bluffton University Campus Ministries** are partnering to host a hymn sing and pie night at First Mennonite Church on Sunday, Nov. 18 at 8:30 p.m. Though it may seem late to start an event, we trust the fellowship with Bluffton students will be well worth delaying your bedtime. All are invited to participate. Please indicate your willingness to donate a pie or your interest in attending the event on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to help ensure that enough pies are provided.