

**Stories That Shape Us  
First Mennonite Church  
November 18, 2018**

Procession

Welcome and Call to Worship Greg Ring

\*Invocation

\*Hymn “Spirit, come, dispel our sadness” HWB 290  
*Laura Hartzler*

\*Responsive Reading Psalm 23 (NRSV)

L: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.

**C: He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake.**

L: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me.

**C: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

L: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**ALL: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

Special Music “Soli Deo Gloria” Chancel Choir  
by Marty Haugen, arr. by Jeremy J. Bankson

Conversation with Friends

“All things bright and beautiful” (*vs. 1 coming forward, vs. 4 returning*) HWB 156

Special Music “I See You God” Mark Burrows  
*Jubilate*

Community Prayer Theda Good

Scripture 2 Kings 2:1-15 Megan and Kaleigh Coffman  
Acts 1:1-11 Dave Moser

Sermon “A Double Portion” Rich Bucher

\*Hymn “When long before time” STJ 25

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah” arr. Ron Mallory  
*Adult Bells; Sophia Gott, flute*

Prayer of Dedication  
Hymn of Dedication “As saints of old” (v. 2) HWB 386

\*Hymn “Jesus came – the heavens adoring” HWB 297

\*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.theda@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:** Elysia Bush | **Greeter:** Ellie Unruh and Maurice Kaufmann

**Chancel:** Amy Freeman

**Nursery today: SS** – Laura and Greg Hartzler

**Worship** – Kathy Dickson, Kevin Cluts

**Nursery next week: SS** – Cheri Slotter and Lori Nester

**Worship** – Betsy and Joe Werling, Grace Paquin

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-205, MC-6
Volunteer hours Nov. 4-10, 2018	139
Spending plan giving Nov. 11, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$9,497.00
Special fund giving Nov. 11, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$5; Faith/Life-\$63; Freudige-\$20	
Sojourners-\$50; Faithful Living-\$22; Flooring-\$260; Deacons-\$100; Memorial-\$100; MW-\$50	\$670.00
Total giving Nov. 11, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$10,167.00
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.*



Stories that shape us

**Have you checked the literature tack lately?** Make your Christmas giving more meaningful by giving gifts to those in need. Honor your loved ones by giving a flock of chicks or ducks or a share of a goat to a family in another country, or invest in a small business, empowering women and youth. Check out the brochures from Heifer International, Mennonite Economic Development and Mennonite Central Committee.

**Bluffton University schedule:**

- Nov. 20 Forum: “The Game and Beyond: Learn the Game, Play the Game, Win the Game” by Brandon Simmons, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall
- Nov. 20 Alumni Forum, “Beginning with the End in Mind: Preparing to Join the Workforce” by Kerry Pinion '96, 11 a.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall
- Nov. 21-23 Thanksgiving break

*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 18, 2018**

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

**NO SHYF TODAY**

- 4:30 p.m. Learning circle, AR
- 5:30 p.m. Learning circle, supper provided, FH
- 6:30 p.m. Learning circle, Maple Crest

**November 19-24, 2018**

- Tuesday (11-20) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday (11-21) Adult bells, 6 p.m.  
Chancel choir and youth bells, 7 p.m.
- Thursday (11-22) Church office closed  
Thanksgiving dinner, FH, noon, all invited
- Friday (11-23) Menno-Life deadline

**Next Sunday, November 25, 2018**

- 8:15 a.m. Youth choir
- 9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Theda Good 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

We welcome **Rich Bucher**, who is our preacher today. Rich is a former pastor of 39 years and currently a member of First Mennonite Church.

**Bulletin deadline: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the deadline for submitting items for the November 25 bulletin is noon on Wednesday, Nov. 21.**

**Pastor Wanda** will be out of town celebrating Thanksgiving with her family November 22-26. For pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor Theda.

**Advent brochures are in mailboxes today.** If you would like an electronic copy, request one at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu).

**If you prefer to receive electronic copies rather than paper copies of documents distributed by the church office, please notify the church office at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu). Examples of these documents include seasonal brochures at Advent and Lent/Easter, as well as the Menno-Life and Central District Conference's Reporter and Focus.**

**Please join us for the Hymn Sing and Pie event tonight** beginning at 8:30 p.m., hosted by Church College Relations and Bluffton University Campus Ministries. Everyone is invited. Thanks to all who donated pies. -- CCR and BUCM

**As was announced last week**, we are now keeping track of the voluntary service hours that our members donate to various organizations and individuals. Please write down the hours you served during the past week on the cards that are in the back of the pews and put them in the offering plate. In each week's bulletin you will then be able to see the total for the previous week and at the end of the year we will announce the yearly total at the financial meeting.

**A New Path Together** – Commissions continue to consider questions from the September Governance Task Force retreat:

- 1.) What are you doing?
- 2.) What of your work is governance?
- 3.) What is ministry?
- 4.) What is discernment?
- 5.) Reflect on the alignment you see with the 5 Priorities.

Meanwhile, GTF work continues as we receive summary information from commissions and plan for next steps. We welcome anyone who is interested in these conversations to join us. **Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 27, from 4-5:30 in the parlor.** -- GTF

**December Menno-Life deadline:** The deadline for the December Menno-Life is 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 23.

**Prepare for the season of Advent** by joining the senior high youth in decorating the sanctuary and dining on pizza on Sunday, Nov. 25, immediately following worship.

**A big thank you to all who helped** load comforter frames, knotted, and will be finishing them! We knotted 16 comforters between Monday afternoon and Tuesday noon. Next regularly scheduled knotting event will be April 8 and 9 -- mark your calendars and plan to join us!

**Mary Blosser was hospitalized** this week at Blanchard Valley Hospital following a stroke. Please remember Mary as she recovers.

**Our condolences to Phil Blount and to Ethan, Ryan, and Evan** on the death of Phil's mother, Deborah Blount, 68, on Tuesday, Nov. 13. We offer prayers for peace and comfort for the entire family and for all who loved Debbie and who grieve her loss.

### Reminder

**All are invited to join other FMC family members** for Thanksgiving Day lunch! Dinner begins at noon. This is 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/nesterl@bluffton.edu](mailto:419-358-9650/nesterl@bluffton.edu)).