

Getting Slavery Out of the People
First Mennonite Church
November 4, 2018

Procession

Welcome and Call to Worship Greg Ring

*Invocation

Opening hymn “O God, This Day We Grieve” (*Insert*) Jackie Wyse Rhodes

*Responsive Reading Psalm 146:5-10 (NRSV)

L: [Blessed] are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

C: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

L: who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

C: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

L: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

C: The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

L: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

ALL: Praise the Lord!

Special Music “Walk Together, Children” Arr. Anthony Leach
Soloists: Marlyce Gundy and Jeff Boehr

Conversation with Friends Justin Berg
“All things bright and beautiful” (*vs. 1 coming forward, vs. 2 returning*) HWB 156

Special Music “Oh, You Can’t Get to Heaven” Spiritual
Cherub Choir

Community Prayer Theda Good

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory Jackie Wyse Rhodes

Scripture Exodus 20:1-21; Matthew 22:34-40 John and Carolyn Rich

Sermon “Imagine that!” Wanda Stopher

*Hymn of Response “Wade in the water” HWB446

All Saints Service of Remembrance

*Hymn of Sending “Nothing is lost on the breath of God” STS 121

*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: Gloria and Rich Bucher | **Greeter:** Ellie Unruh and Maurice Kaufmann

Chancel: Wendy Chappell-Dick

Nursery today: SS – Monica Harnish, Gerald Mast

Worship – Kristen Niekamp, Amy Blount, Grace Paquin

Nursery next week: SS – Anita & George Lehman

Worship – Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass, Ana Neufeld Weaver

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-197 MC-6
Spending plan giving Oct. 21, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$2,941.00
Special fund giving Oct. 21, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$3.14; Sojourners-\$6; Freudige-\$100; Faithful Living-\$10; Flooring-\$725; Brazo-\$70; ISAF-\$50	\$978.14
Total giving Oct. 21, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$3,919.14
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.



fabric for backings is located in the bottom large bin in the quilt room if you can prepare a backing. Thank you from the comforter committee.

Gifts Discernment – Those interested in learning more about gifts discernment should contact Greg Hartzler at gregphartzler@gmail.com. -- *GTF*

The Bluffton Food Pantry's supplies are running low, so your food donations are especially welcome now as we approach the holiday season. Deliver all donations to St. John's United Church of Christ, 223 W. College Ave. *Copies of the list of items needed may be found in our fellowship hall on the table beside the office door.*

On August 15, Cris, 7, was involved in a car accident at his home in Leipsic, resulting in the amputation of his right leg. He is being treated at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Financial donations are needed for ongoing personal and legal expenses. For more details, ask a member of Mission Peace and Service. Make donations to Brazo en Brazo (note "For Cris" in the subject line) or to the GoFundMe campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/cristopher-mauricio-herrera> -- *MPS*

Bluffton University schedule:

Nov. 4: Fall play, Helen, Thurs.-Sat. 7:30 p.m., Sun. 2:30 p.m., Ramseyer Auditorium, College Hall

Nov. 6: "Making the Film Cotton Road," Laura Kissel, 11 a.m.; Screening of Cotton Road, 7 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Nov. 6: First Tuesday in the Library, Rebecca Starn '18, "From Kitchen to Corporate: My Internship at One of the Country's Favorite Restaurants," 11 a.m., Musselman

Nov. 9: "Christian Nonviolence and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee," Friday Colloquium, Perry Bush, professor of history, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

Nov. 10: Fall Gospel/Jazz Concert, 6 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

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.

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 4, 2018

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
11:30 a.m. All parents of junior high youth, meet in JH classroom
Noon Connections potluck
1:30 p.m. SHYF
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 5-10, 2018

Tuesday (11-6) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (11-7) 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 (11-8) Caring Connections, 2 p.m.
Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor
Everence advocate meeting, 6:30 p.m., FH
Friday (11-9) Threads of Grace comforter knotting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Grace Mennonite Church, RSVP to lugc@watchtv.net.

Next Sunday, November 11, 2018

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

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*

Today we observe All Saints Day, one of the oldest feast days of the Christian church year. This day reminds us, not only of the “cloud of witnesses” named in Hebrews 11, but also of all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the body of Christ. We will remember those from our church family who have died in the past year and will invite those who have lost loved ones this year to remember and give thanks for their lives.

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.

Frame loading for the November 12 and 13 knotting days begins at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 11. 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.

Our condolences to Jerry and Nancy Tripp in the loss of Jerry’s mother, Mary Jane Tripp, who died October 27. May God’s healing presence surround Jerry and Nancy and all of Mary Jane’s loved ones.

Thank you FMC family! We have felt so surrounded by your prayers, phone calls, cards, greetings and the visits from Pastor Theda. We are grateful for God's healing and the arms of encouragement from our church family *-- Sam and Joan Diller*

Reminders

Are you new here? Welcome! Here are just a few of the ways to connect with others in the congregation. If you’re interested in joining a Sunday school class, having a church mailbox, being included in the next church directory, or joining a membership class, contact one of the pastors or the church office. We are here to help you make connections. *-- Warmly, Pastors Theda and Wanda*

Once upon a time...there was an intergenerational storytelling event scheduled on **Sunday, November 11 at 4 p.m.** Friends from FMC were scheduled to share scripture through various forms of storytelling in stations throughout the church. Plans were made to enjoy fellowship and refreshments following the event. And all were invited, whether they were 1 or 101 or somewhere in between! **To learn the ending of this story, be sure to sign up in the Fellowship Hall!**

Church council is considering who will represent our FMC as delegates at the MC USA Convention in Kansas City July 2-6. If you’re interested in serving as a delegate, contact Karen McCullough: karenmccullough1@gmail.com; 419-234-5915.

SHYF is taking orders for fair trade coffee as a fundraiser for their trip to MC USA convention. For each package sold, the youth 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 the fellowship hall.

It’s almost comforter time and the kit box is full! Please take a kit or two and sew a comforter top for the upcoming knotting events. Although a few kits include backing,