

Advent 1: Our wait begins
First Mennonite Church
December 1, 2019

Call to Worship Ken Shenk

One: Oh God, our God, we cry out to you.

Many: Asking, will your kingdom of peace be established on this broken earth?

One: Are you coming to intervene, to make whole your divided creation?

All: God, what are you waiting for?

Prelude "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" arr. J. Blersch
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

*Hymn "O come, O come, Immanuel" (vs. 1-3 & 6) HWB 172

Lighting of the Advent wreath Jon and Phyllis Diller

*Hymn "O Long-Awaited" (vs. 1; in hymnal pocket)

*Confession

Leader: Forgive us, Holy One, for not expecting you,

People: even when you have told us that you are coming.

Leader: Forgive us, Holy One, for being asleep,

People: even when you have asked us to wait for you.

Leader: Forgive us, Holy One, for our carelessness,

People: when all you have asked of us is to care.

Leader: Forgive us, Holy One, for failing to see you,

People: when your face is evident.

(silence)

Leader: Blessed be the One, who invites us to walk in the light of our God!

Conversation with Friends Rich and Gloria Bucher
"As the pauper waits for plenty" (vs. 1 & 2 coming forward only) STS 9

Community prayer Wanda Stopher

Scripture Matthew 24:36-44; Isaiah 2:1-5 Chris Moser
Kendra Nickel, Cheri Slotter

Sermon "Christianity is a lifestyle" Theda Good

*Hymn "Bless'd be the God of Israel" HWB 174

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Holy Child within the Manger" arr. S. Glick

*Hymn "Holy child within the manger" (v.1) STS 28

*Prayer of dedication

*Hymn "Come, thou long-expected Jesus" HWB 178

*Benediction

Postlude "O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide" arr. K. Kosch

**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 large print hymnals.

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.

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson St., Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F

Church Staff

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079; wanda@fmcbluffton.org
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); theda@fmcbluffton.org
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-11 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Asst. – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, fmc@fmcbluffton.org
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7-10 a.m., T-W-Th, weekends as needed

Greeter:

Chancel: Anita Lehman

Sound:

Nursery today: Anita & George Lehman

Worship today: Kevin Cluts, Kathy Dickson, Patrick Estell

Nursery next week: Carmen Ordonez, Melissa Friesen

Worship today: Melissa Friesen, Andrea Goings, Theo Andreas

Our stewardship

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|---|---------------|
| Worship attendance last Sunday | FMC-201, MC-5 |
| Volunteer hours | 110.5 |
| Spending plan giving 11-24-19 (w/e-giving) | \$6,445.80 |
| Non-spending plan giving 11-24-19 (w/e-giving): Pk-5-\$7.92 | \$378.92 |
| Freudige-\$10; Kitchen-\$5; Mennonite subscriptions-\$259 | |
| Workshop-\$22; Cremation box-\$75 | |
| Total giving 11-24-19 (includes e-giving) | \$6,824.72 |
| 2019 spending plan | \$431,854.00 |

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. e to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.