

First Sunday after Christmas: Waiting and Remembering
First Mennonite Church
December 29, 2019

Call to Worship Ken Shenk

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

Many: Asking, when will you see that I love you, that I have shown you abundance, saved you with my presence, freed you from the powers of brokenness?

One: When will we see that when bad things happen, you remain?

All: God, what are we waiting for?

Prelude "Good Christian Folk, Rejoice!" arr. D.N. Johnson
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

*Hymn "Love came down at Christmas" HWB 208

Lighting of the Advent wreath George and Anita Lehman

*Hymn "O Long-Awaited" (vs. 1&4) HWB pocket

*Confession

All: We joyfully receive the glorious coming of the Christ. Professing our trust, we pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world.

Silence

Leader: God of promise, you have given us a sign of your love through the gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who was promised from ages past. We believe as Joseph did the message of your presence whispered by an angel, and offer our prayers for your world, confident of your care and mercy for all creation. Amen.

Conversation with Friends Rich and Gloria Bucher
"Hope is a candle" STS 15
(vs. 1 & 5 coming forward only)

Community prayer Elysia Bush

Scripture Psalm 148; Isaiah 63:7-9
Logos

Sermon "Winter Count" Theda Good
Reflections: Shannon Thiebeau, Ruth Early, and Dottie Long

*Hymn "Joyful is the dark" HWB 233

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "What Child Is This" arr. J. Young

*Hymn "Holy Child within the manger" (v.3) STS 28

*Prayer of dedication

*Hymn "Hark! The glad sound!" HWB 184

*Benediction

Postlude "From Heaven above to Earth I Come" arr. D.N. Johnson

**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: Gary Wetherill **Chancel:** Anita Lehman **Sound:** Art Shelly

Nursery today: No SS

Worship today: Betsi and Joe Werling, Sophia Gott

Nursery next week: N/A

Worship next week: N/A

Our stewardship

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-202, MC-6
Volunteer hours	46
Spending plan giving 12-22-19 (w/e-giving)	\$20,270.50
Non-spending plan giving 12-22-19 (w/e-giving):	\$1,928.00
Sojourners-\$75; SHY-\$915; Deacons ben-\$225; Freudige-\$10	
College schol-\$600; Hymnals-\$10	
Total giving 12-29-19 (includes e-giving)	\$24,063.50
Total giving 12-24-19 to Deacons Benevolent fund	\$2,064.77
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.