

Impossible Possibilities: Light
First Mennonite Church
December 30, 2018

Bells call us to worship Ray Raeburn
Welcome and announcements Rhonda Winstead
Call to worship
*Hymn “Oh come, all ye faithful” HWB 212
LuAnn Stuckey
*Responsive Reading Isaiah 60:1-3 (NRSV)
L: Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
C: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;
L: but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.
C: Nations shall come to your light,
ALL: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Special Music “What Child is This” Trad. English melody
Anna Biesecker Mast and Ana Neufeld Weaver, vocalists;
Sophia Gott, flute, Grace Paquin, cello
Conversation with friends Judy Steiner
“Come, Light of the world,” sing twice, coming forward STS 3
“Come, Light of the world,” sing twice, returning

Community prayer Tim Schumacher
Scripture Isaiah 60:1-3; John 1:1-5, 9-10; 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36, 46
Larry Diller, Cheri Slotter, Paul Dyck, Sarah Phillips, Don Hostetler
Service Reflections Jonatan Moser, Julian Harnish
Sermon “Rise and Shine 2019” Wanda Stopher
*Hymn “Of the Father’s love begotten” HWB 104
Presenting our tithes and offerings
Offertory “What Child Is This” arr. J. Young
*Hymn of dedication “Gloria” HWB 204
(Sing once in unison and then 2 times in a round: choir, organ side, piano side, balcony)
*Offering words *(read responsively)*
L: We give these gifts, O God, believing the impossible is possible.
C: May our gifts empower others near and far to see in a new light.
*Hymn “Arise, your light is come!” STS 30
*Benediction
Postlude “Joy to the World” arr. H. Gehrke
LuAnn Stuckey

**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.

Please note that today’s worship coordinates with We Make the Road by Walking, Chapter 17.

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/greeter: Elizabeth Kelly

Sound: Art Shelly | **Chancel:** Lois Wetherill

Nursery today: No Sunday school

Worship: Kevin Cluts, Annette Heslep, Ana Neufeld Weaver

Nursery next week: N/A

Worship: N/A

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-212, MC-5
Volunteer hours Dec. 16-22, 2018	265.5
Spending plan giving Dec. 23, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$9,039.97
Special fund giving Dec. 23, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$3.40; Grades 6-8-\$7.25; Freudige-\$10; SHYF-\$45; Kitchen service-\$9; MCC-\$50; Facility Use-\$50	\$174.65
Total giving Dec. 23, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$9,214.62
Total spending plan receipts as of November 30, 2018	\$324,996.31
Spending plan expenses as of November 30, 2018	\$359,425.17
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.

**Impossible
Possibilities:**

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prior to the meeting. If you prefer an electronic report, contact Mary Pannabecker Steiner at fmc@bluffton.edu.

Those interested in Jeff Boehr's workshop series, "Meaningful Presence: Support for Late Life Reorientation," may sign up in the fellowship hall. The dates are January 11, 15 and 22. Brochures are available in the office. For more information call Jeff Boehr at 419-236-9150.

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, December 30, 2018

Holiday brunch, 9:15 a.m., FH; **No Sunday school**
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.
SHY, lunch, noon
Learning circle, FH, **CANCELLED TODAY**

December 31, 2018-January 6, 2019

Monday (12-31) New Year's Eve, office open 9-noon
Tuesday (1-1) New Year's Day, office closed
No morning prayers
Wednesday (1-2) Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Friday (1-4) SHYF leave for winter camp (return Sunday)
Sunday (1-6) Youth Choir, 8:15 a.m.
Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Tig Intagliata preaching, 10:30 a.m.
Learning circle, supper provided, FH, 5:30 p.m.
Learning circle, MC, 6:30 p.m.

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

To simplify worship and encourage more focus on the worship hour, we have thought much about how to communicate announcements/reminders more successfully. Beginning on Sunday, Jan. 6, our bulletin will focus entirely on worship – it is the reason we are here. The week’s calendar, weekly announcements and reminders – will be e-mailed on Friday to those for whom we have e-mail addresses. *Those who prefer paper copies of announcements will find them each Sunday morning, next to the visitor’s attendance book on a podium in the fellowship hall.* On the first Sunday of each month, this document will be expanded to include *The Menno-Life*, our monthly newsletter. At the end of the trial period, we’ll reassess this plan. We welcome your feedback. Write down your suggestions, include your name and date, and drop them in an offering plate or in one of our mailboxes.

~ Pastor Wanda Stopher and Mary Pannabecker Steiner

A New Path TOGETHER

Governance Task Force will guide a congregation-wide gathering for mapping our journey on Sunday, Jan. 20, from 4-7 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the conversation about our dreams and essentials for ministry and mission. *Your participation will shape the governance structure by which FMC lives into the 5 Priorities.* Food and childcare will be provided. More information is coming so please watch the bulletin, website and Facebook.

Contribution envelopes are in mailboxes of those who have requested them. If you have not used envelopes in the past but wish to do so now, please notify the church office.

Rich Bucher serves as the Everence advocate for First Mennonite Church. If you have questions about Everence, please contact Rich.

Men, women, and children of all ages are invited to attend “Mennonite Women: 100 Years in Story and Song” on Sunday, Jan. 13 from 3-5 p.m. Stories of FMC’s women’s organization have been set to music by Wendy Chappell-Dick, in a review of 100 years of hymns and pop songs that trace our changing culture and evolving theology. Come to celebrate, learn, and sing along.

Nurture Commission will hold a “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” on Saturday, Feb. 9. Here’s how it works. First you must decide if you prefer to host, be a guest, or either.

- Being a guest is simple. Sign up, (children are welcome) be willing to bring a side dish or dessert, work up an appetite and show up on time. Guests will be given directions to the host’s home, what to bring and what time to arrive and an emergency-only contact number.
- Hosting requires a little more effort. You agree to host a meal in your home for a set number of guests (your choice.) Hosts will be given the number of guests to expect. Hosts will prepare a soup, bread(s) and drinks for the meal that adheres to any food allergies or requests passed to you through Nurture. Then wait and see who shows up at the door. It’s a great way to get to know others in our church family.
- Suggested reading/preparation before arriving: Week #23 from “We Make the Road...” (*Jesus and the Multitudes*.)
- Please register as a GUEST, indicating the number in your party; HOST, indicating the number of people you plan to host) on the table outside the church office by Friday, Jan. 18, or email Chris Moser at moserbus@gmail.com.

~ Thank you for participating, Nurture

Reminders

Pastor Theda will return from vacation on January 2. For pastoral care, call Pastor Wanda Stopher at 419-551-1079.

The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, immediately following worship. This meeting will include approval of the 2019 budget, and a brief presentation by Darby Benroth. Discussion will be welcome. Reports will be in boxes