

**Advent 2: Getting ready while we wait**  
**First Mennonite Church**  
**December 8, 2019**

Call to Worship Ken Shenk

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

**People: Asking, when will you bring righteousness, defend the poor, deliver the needy? Asking, when will you make harmonious creation? When will you crush the oppressor?**

Leader: When will your love, mercy, and justice rule us?

**All: God, what are you waiting for?**

Prelude "Rebel Jesus" Jackson Browne  
Wendy Chappell-Dick

Invocation

\*Hymn "Lo, how a Rose e're blooming" HWB 211

Lighting of the Advent wreath  
Fred Steiner and Mary Pannabecker Steiner

\*Hymn "O Long-Awaited" (vs. 2) HWB pocket

\*Confession

Leader: John the Baptist did not fit the religious structures of any time. He wore funny clothes, he ate distasteful food, and he preached costly peace. His solo voice carried the Creator's beautiful song.

**People: Eternal God, forgive us when our voices create disharmony with your people and your creation.**

*(silence)*

Leader: Restore our voices to join in your holy song. Thanks and glory be to God!

Conversation with Friends Rich and Gloria Bucher  
"As the pauper waits for plenty" STS 9  
(vs. 1 & 3 coming forward only)

Community prayer Theda Good

Chancel Choir "O Lord My God" John Bell  
Jan Wiebe, flute

Scripture Matthew 3:1-12; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Carrie Mast, Brent Schroeder, Victoria Woods-Yee

Sermon "Right makes might" Wanda Stopher

\*Hymn "O Savior, rend the heavens" HWB 175

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Comfort Comfort ye my People" Instrumental  
Wendy Chappell-Dick, Jan Wiebe and Theo Andreas

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

\*Prayer of dedication

\*Hymn "Comfort, comfort, O my people" HWB 176

\*Benediction

Postlude "On this Day Earth Shall Ring"  
Wendy Chappell-Dick and Jan Wiebe

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

**Greeter:** Gary Wetherill

**Chancel:** Anita Lehman

**Sound:** Melissa Friesen

**Nursery today:** Shelby Cluts, Cheri Slotter

**Worship today:** Jason and Allison Diller, Annette Heslep

**Nursery next week:** Gerald Mast, Lori Nester

**Worship next week:** Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin

#### Our stewardship

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-183, MC-6
Volunteer hours	36
Spending plan giving 12-1-19 (w/e-giving)	\$67,044.10
Non-spending plan giving 12-1-19 (w/e-giving): Kitchen-\$150	\$1,966.10
SHYF-\$30; Deacons-\$284; College scholar-\$600; Memorials-\$630	
Mennonite sub-\$222; Bunn coffee-\$50	
Total giving 12-1-19 (includes e-giving)	\$69,010.20
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.*