

Reveal to us your hiding place
First Mennonite Church
March 1, 2020

Welcome Jeff Boehr

Announcements

Prelude *Vene Sancte Spiritus* Wendy Chappell-Dick

Call to worship

Leader: Eternal God, you call beloved daughters and sons.

People: We praise you for creating us and calling us to cultivate your life in the world.

Leader: Eternal God, you call our name in the garden

People: We come to worship, acknowledging our vulnerabilities and temptations.

Leader: Eternal God, you are our hiding place, where forgiveness and mercy encircle us.

All: Thanks be to God for the radical grace offered to us through Jesus Christ.

*Hymn *I sought the Lord* HWB 506

*Confession

Leader: God calls to us, "Where are you?"

People: We, like Adam, hide in the garden, hoping God does not come looking for us.

Leader: God asks, "What have you done?"

People: We, like Eve, say, "the devil made me do it," masking our shame.

Leader: Our choices have consequences and yet God's grace abounds.

People: I confess I have hidden and denied my sin. When I refused to admit my wrongs, I was miserable; even my bones felt brittle. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.

(Silence)

*Assurance of forgiveness (from Psalm 32)

Chancel Choir *O Bone Jesu* Marco Antonio Ingegneri
O blessed Jesus, have mercy upon us, For you created us, you redeemed us, by your most precious blood.

Conversation with Friends Wanda Stopher
Unless a grain of wheat STS 56
(vs. 1 forward and vs. 2 returning)

Community prayer Rich Bucher

Scripture *Matthew 4:1-11* Lawrence Matthews

Sermon *Call to the Wilderness* Theda Good

Invitation

*Hymn *I will come to you in the silence* STS 49

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Near to the Heart of God* Ana Neufeld Weaver
Cleland B. McAfee, arr. Melody Bober

*Hymn *As saints of old (v. 1)* HWB 386

*Prayer of dedication

Commissioning US/Mexico border trip participants

*Hymn *As the hart with eager yearning* HWB 500

*Benediction

Postlude *I sought the Lord* Dance version

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

HWB Hymnal: A Worship Book; STJ-Sing the Journey; STS-Sing the Story (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

Greeter: Susie Gratz

Sound: Chris Gott

Chancel: Wendy Chappell-Dick

Nursery today: Shelby Cluts, Elaine Suderman

Worship today: Melissa Friesen, Wendy Chappell-Dick, Sunita Hooley

Nursery next week: Monica Harnish, Mary Ina Hooley

Worship next week: Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Grace Paquin

Our stewardship

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-145, MC-9
Volunteer hours	41
Total spending plan giving February 2020 to date	\$48,435
Avg monthly offering needed to meet 2020 spending plan	\$37,136

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.

