

The Sabbath: An Introduction
First Mennonite Church
September 8, 2019

Music calls us to worship LuAnn Stuckey
Welcome Linda Headings
Announcements
Prelude “All Creatures of Our God and King”
setting by J. Blersch
Invocation
*Opening hymn “I sing the mighty power of God” HWB 46
*Responsive reading Psalm 84:1-4, 10 (NRSV)
L How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
**C: My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**
L: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for
herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
**C: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing
your praise.**
L: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand
elsewhere.
**ALL: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.**
Conversation with friends Louise Matthews
“If you believe and I believe” STJ 32
(vs. 1 coming forward and vs. 5 returning to seats)
Special Music “Now Let Us All Praise God and Sing”
Chancel Choir Gordon Young

Community prayer Theda Good
Scripture Genesis 1:1-2:4 John-Paul Yoder
Sermon “Rhythms of Grace” Wanda Stopher
*Hymn “O day of rest and gladness” HWB 641
Presenting our tithes and offerings
Offertory “Shall We Gather at the River” setting by J. Leavitt
*Prayer of dedication
Invitation to Communion
Service of the Bread and Cup
*Hymn “God, who stretched” HWB 414
*Benediction
Postlude “Holy, Holy, Holy” setting by B. Culli
**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 help locating large print hymnals.

Communion and Almsgiving: As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC include the giving of alms to the Deacons’ Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community. Baskets are available at the doors. Please note that all the bread used in communion today is gluten free.

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 (new e-mail address)
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549- 2417 (cell); theda@fmcbluffton.org (new e-mail address)
- 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 (new e-mail address)
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7-10 a.m., weekends as needed

Host: Bev Simon

Greeter: Susie Gratz

Chancel: Anita Lehman

Sound: Chris Moser

Nursery today: Judy Buller, Cheri Slotter

Worship today: Kevin Cluts & Kathy Dickson, Sophia Gott

Nursery next week: Judy Diller, Lori Nester

Worship next week: Melissa Friesen, Annette Heslep, Grace Pacquin

Our stewardship

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC- 191
Volunteer hours	74
Spending plan giving Sept. 1, 2019 (w/e-giving)	\$6,611.00
Non-spending plan giving Sept. 1, 2019 (w/e-giving):	\$275.00
Freudige-\$30; Habitat-\$20; College scholars-\$100; MDS-\$20	
Music committee-\$20; Book study books-\$65; Tumaini-\$20	
Total giving Sept. 1, 2019 (includes e-giving)	\$6,886.00
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.

Thus
earth
blessed hallowed
God
creation
multitude
done
heavens
seventh
workrested