

**Easter Three
April 10, 2016
10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship

LuAnn Stuckey

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

Call to Worship

Prelude

“Auf, Auf, Mein Herz (I, II)”

arr. N. Raabe

Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

“Chris is alive! Let Christians sing!”

HWB 278

— PRAISING —

***Responsive Reading**

Psalm 30

L: Lord, I will give you honor. You brought me out of deep trouble. You didn't give my enemies the joy of seeing me die.

C: Lord my God, I called out to you for help. And you healed me.

L: Lord, you brought me up from the place of the dead. You kept me from going down into the pit.

C: Sing the praises of the Lord, you who are faithful to him. Praise him, because his name is holy.

L: His anger lasts for only a moment. But his favor lasts for a person's whole life. Weeping can stay for the night. But joy comes in the morning.

C: When I felt safe, I said, “I will always be secure.”

L: Lord, when you gave me your help, you made Mount Zion stand firm. But when you took away your help, I was terrified.

C: Lord, I called out to you. I cried to you for mercy.

L: I said, “What good will come if I become silent in death? What good will come if I go down into the grave? Can the dust of my dead body praise you? Can it tell how faithful you are?”

C: Lord, hear me. Have mercy on me. Lord, help me.”

L: You turned my loud crying into dancing. You removed my clothes of sadness and dressed me with joy.

All: So my heart will sing your praises. I can't keep silent. Lord, my God, I will praise you forever.

Special Music

“Psalm 91”

Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir; Steve Harnish, recorder

Time with Children

Hymn

“God, who touches earth”
(Sing v.1 and 2)

HWB 511

Conversation

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

Hymn

“God, who touches earth”
(Sing v.3 and 4)

HWB 511

Pastoral Prayer

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture

John 21:1-19

Fred Steiner

Sermon

“Excessive!”

Wanda Stopher

— RESPONDING —

***Hymn of Response**

“I know that my Redeemer lives”

STS277

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Nicaea”

arr. R. Hartsell

***Hymn of Dedication**

“God, whose giving”
(Sing vs. 1)

HWB 383

— SENDING —

***Hymn**

“Thine is the glory”

HWB 269

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“Duke Street (I, II)”

arr. A. K. Organ

**Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story*

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: fmcbluffton.org

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor – Wanda – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday

Associate Pastor – Steve – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Custodian's schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

GREETERS: John and Julie Mackey, Larry and Judy Diller

HOST: Joyce Hostetler

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Pat Sheidler, Carmen Ordonez

Worship – John and Julie Mackey, Elizabeth and Annalise Nisly

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Ken Shenk, Shelby Cluts, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Alison and Kevin King, Kevin Cluts

SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

CHANCEL: Anita Lehman

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, www.fmcbluffton.org. Videos normally are posted on the Tuesday following the service. Previously recorded worship service videos may be found at tinyurl.com/fmc-videos

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday 232

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday 6

Sunday school attendance last Sunday 76

Spending plan giving April 3, 2016 \$13,860.23

2016 Proposed spending plan \$418,276.00

The offering April 3 totaled \$15,702.00. Money was received for these special funds: Deacons' Benevolent - \$500, Deacon's Benevolent special fund - \$320, SS – 33.77, Habitat - \$20, Kitchen service - \$13.90, Capital Campaign - \$398, College Scholarships - \$150, Voluntary Service - \$100.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - fmc.steve@bluffton.edu

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu



Bluffton University is holding an exhibit of works by Gregg Luginbuhl, professor emeritus, titled "Making My Way," now through May 8 in the Grace Albrect Gallery in Sauder Visual Arts Center. The exhibit is a retrospective of Gregg's work over a period of 50 years. A reception will be held from 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, May 7 at the gallery. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Recording artist and songwriter Adam Cappa kicks off Spiritual Life Week at Bluffton University in a concert tonight at 8 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Cappa will also lead the music during a worship service before the concert at 7 p.m. The service will include a message by Spiritual Life speaker Cyneatha Millsaps, lead pastor at Community Mennonite Church in Markham, Ill. The theme for SLW is "No Longer Strangers: Together in God's Family."

St. John's United Church of Christ, 223 W. College Ave., Bluffton, will hold a beef and noodle dinner Friday, April 22, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The menu will include beef, noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, roll, homemade pie and beverages. Adults: \$8; 6th grade – college: \$5; elementary: \$4; Pre-K: Free.

Tickets are available for the Artist Series performance by the Raise Choir at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 16, in Yoder Recital Hall. Members represent several churches, choirs and denominations. Their repertoire includes spirituals, choral music, traditional and contemporary gospel music. Bluffton University's gospel choir will join the choir for several selections. Reserved seats are \$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens and non-Bluffton students and \$10 for children ages 6-13. Children 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu>, or in person at Marbeck Center information desk.

All are invited to join MCC Great Lakes for a day of workshops, worship and dialogue on Saturday, April 16. The day begins at 9 a.m. with worship and concludes at 5 p.m. Lunch will be provided. The peace gathering will be held at Kidron Mennonite Church, 3987 Co. Hwy. 52/Kidron Rd., Kidron. For more information and to RSVP, visit mcc.org/gl-peace or contact Jorge Vielman at 574-534-4133.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to LaVonne Klassen, 93, April 14.

Rich Bucher had knee surgery on April 4 and is now recovering at home. He and Gloria appreciate all of your prayerful thoughts.

Welcoming Statement

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.

TODAY, April 10, 2016

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
11:30 a.m.	Children will share "Life Stories" after worship, FH
Noon	Freudige/Sojourners potlucks, FH
6:30 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF meet at FMC to attend Cappa concert, Yoder

THIS WEEK

Monday (43-11)	Mennonite Women, knotting comforters, 7 p.m.
Tuesday (4-12)	Morning prayers Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor Mennonite Women, knotting comforters, 9 a.m.-noon,
Wednesday (4-13)	Cherub choir, 6 p.m.; Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Youth bells and Chancel choir, 7 p.m.; Stewardship, 8 p.m., 301
Thursday (4-14)	Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor MPS, 6:30 p.m., parlor

College Scholarship Sunday

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult Fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Perry Bush preaching Scripture: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 79-17; John 10:22-30.

Welcome to our worship service today. Please sign and pass the friendship pads in the pews. Wireless hearing aids are available. If you would like your children watched over while you worship, our staff will care for them in the nursery downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to spend a few minutes in the fellowship hall after worship today. Our children will be sharing their “Life Stories” around the tables.

Address for Steve and Janet Yoder: Steve Yoder, J52, c/o Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44195.

Some people make New Year’s resolutions. Others give up things for Lent. I dedicate myself during the 50 days of Eastertide, between Easter and Pentecost, to reflecting on resurrection. My 50 words for each of the 50 days of Eastertide reflecting on resurrections great and small may be read at <http://fmcbluffton.org/bulletins/blog/pastors-blog/>
-- *Pastor Wanda*

April is project month for Mennonite Women. Comforter set-up will begin today at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall, and continue on Monday if necessary. Please consider helping with setting up the frames. Comforters will be ready for knotting **Monday, April 11**, at 7 p.m. Mary Amstutz’s devotional will focus on the theme, “For Creative Success, the Most Important Audience is the Audience of One.” Louise Matthews and Julie Mackey will provide refreshments. Knotting will continue **Tuesday, April 12**, from 9 a.m.-noon, followed by lunch together at noon, for which all knotters are encouraged to stay. If able, please bring a salad or dessert to share. Sandwiches and beverages will be provided.

Lights are often left on around the church, especially after worship. The March electric bill First Mennonite Church paid was over \$600. The Trustees are asking each member of the congregation to take responsibility for seeing that lights are turned off. We have a number of motion switches in high traffic areas that turn off after a set period of time but manual switches must be turned off by the last person leaving the room. Your help is appreciated.
-- *Trustees*

Church College Relations Day is next Sunday, April 17. Perry Bush will preach. You are invited to a light lunch in fellowship Hall (Mustard Seed sandwiches/salads) and brief program following the worship service. It will include some testimonies, affirming the value of Mennonite higher education. We will once again provide \$1,000 scholarships to the 8-9 First Mennonite Church students attending Mennonite colleges and universities

this coming school year. A brochure on our scholarship program is in your mailbox today.

Delegates are needed for the Central District Conference annual meeting June 23-25 at Columbus Mennonite Church. We can send up to 18 delegates, as well as a high school age youth delegate. Interested persons should notify the church office. For more information, contact Darryl Nester or Kendra Nickel.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bluffton Food Pantry thanks the Bluffton Boy Scouts and the community for their support during the Scouts’ food drive. Items still needed include lotions, creams, paper products (toilet paper and feminine hygiene products, paper towels, tissues) deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, liquid hand soap. Canned fruits-mandarin oranges, peaches, pears, and applesauce, canned vegetables (no corn or green beans), baked beans, chili beans and tomato sauce (not needed: garbanzo beans, navy beans, cannellini beans, pinto beans, and black beans.) Chunky soups (no water added soups,) Spaghettios and similar canned items, noodles and broth, spaghetti and spaghetti sauces, Hamburger helper, Tuna helper and tuna (no macaroni and cheese, macaroni noodles, or ramen noodles.) Taco mixes and shells, pudding and jello, cake mixes and frostings, crackers, cookies, cereal, oatmeal and similar breakfast foods, breakfast pop-ups, pancake mix and syrup, canned meats.

Bluffton University’s annual pops concert will be held Friday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Groups to perform include the Jazz Ensemble and Concert Band, conducted by Dr. Roy Couch, assistant professor of music. Dr. Mark J. Suderman, professor of music, conducts Camerata Singers and the University Chorale. Ana Yoder Coulter is accompanist.

Tickets are available for Bluffton Public Library’s Spring Tea, which will be Thursday, April 28, at 5:45 p.m. The speaker is football coach, author and storyteller Carlin Carpenter. Tickets, which cost \$12, must be purchased in advance at the library. Several members of First Mennonite will be hosting at and cooking for this event.

Camp Friedenswald invites all to attend “Naturally Friedenswald” day Saturday, April 30, from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Activities will include: reintroduction of hazelnut and blueberry plants to the property; sheepdog demonstrations; conversation regarding the use of livestock for property management, guided nature hikes, wagon rides and boating on Shavehead Lake. Lunch will be provided (a \$5 donation is requested). RSVP by calling 269-476-9744. For more information, see the poster on the camp pillar in the fellowship hall.