

**Church College Relations
First Mennonite Church
April 15, 2018**

Chimes call us to worship Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

Welcome Jacob Litwiller

Introductions

Prelude Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** “Holy Spirit, come with power” HWB 26

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 1:2-3 (IB-The Inclusive Bible)

L: Happiness comes to those who delight in the Law of Yahweh and meditate on it day and night.

C: They’re like trees planted by flowing water—

L: they bear fruit in season,

C: and their leaves never wither;

All: everything they do will prosper.

Special Music “Gaudeamus”
Jubilate and 6th, 7th, and 8th grades

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “Christ is alive” (v. 1) STS 89

Conversation Louise Matthews

Hymn “Christ is alive” (v. 3) STS 89

Community Prayer Wanda Stopher

Special Music “Obey The Spirit Of The Lord” Meghan Gibson, soloist
Spiritual arr. by Robert DeCormier

Scripture Romans 12:1-2 Mona Reichenbach

Sermon “Be Transformed...Study!” Randy Keeler

***Hymn of Response** “God, whose purpose is to kindle” HWB 135

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

***Hymn of Dedication** “Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!” (vs. 1) HWB 278

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sending Hymn** “The work is thine, O Christ” HWB 396

Benediction

Postlude

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story

Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.

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

Pastor – Theda – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

HOST: Alice Ruth Ramseyer

GREETER: Cheri Slotter

NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS – Ashton Cluts, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Kristen Niekamp, Kevin Cluts, Sunita Hooley

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Melissa Friesen, Gerald Mast

Worship – Carrie Mast, Jason Diller, Jacob Biesecker-Mast

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Carolyn Rich

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	FMC-216, MC-10
Spending plan giving April 8, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,870.26
Special fund giving April 8, 2018 (includes e-giving): Pk-5-\$2.84; Faith and Life-\$11	<u>\$1,210.09</u>
<i>Community-\$10; Faithful Living-\$7; Kitchen-\$13.25; Memorials-\$75; Deacons-\$100</i>	
<i>Flooring-\$915; College scholarships-\$76;</i>	
Total giving April 8, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$8,080.35
Total spending plan receipts as of March 31, 2018	\$105,385.07
Spending plan expenses as of March 31, 2018	\$94,613.17
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

CHURCH STAFF

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastor Theda Good – 419-549-2417 (cell) -- fmc.theda@bluffton.edu
- Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman – sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy

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.



Central District Conference invites interested individuals to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for pastors and other congregational leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to pastoral ministry. The deadline to apply for fall 2018 is July 17. Visit www.ambs.edu/journey or Doug Luginbill at confmin@mcusacdc.org or at 574-534-1485, for more information.

Bluffton University events:

April 17: Athletic Awards Forum, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall
 April 20: “Cuba, Paraguay, China, Berne, etc.: A Brief Tour through a Lecturer's Mind,” Friday Colloquium, Dr. George Lehman, 4 p.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall
 April 22: Spring Fling concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Interested in learning more about how gun violence and faith intersect? Come watch and discuss *Armor of Light*, a documentary about a pastor’s interest in the value of life, as well as hear about MCC’s multi-faceted work around the world. Join us for dinner and discussion on April 14 from 4-7 p.m. at Summit on 16th United Methodist Church (82 E. 16th Ave., Columbus, OH 43201). Please RSVP to Krista Dutt at 312.623.4227 or kristadutt@mcc.org by April 12.

Youth or young adults looking for a gap year? (Gap year – A structured period of time when students take a break from formal education to increase self-awareness, volunteer, and experiment with possible careers.) Check out MVS’ blog at <https://www.mennonitemission.net/blog/Contemplative-prayer-in-the-chaos> and read how one MVS unit is living out its spiritual practices.

PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE

Harper Awakhiwe Schumacher was born with no heartbeat April 10 to Isaac and Trusty Schumacher. Harper’s grandparents are JP and Tim Schumacher. A private service was held April 14. Prayers are much appreciated. Cards may be sent to Isaac and Trusty at 201 Miller Road, Building N, Room 73, Lebanon, OH 45036.

Thank you for your prayers, cards and acts of kindness during my recent illness. I feel richly blessed to be part of a loving, caring church family.
 – Anne Buller
 (Anne has returned to Maple Crest, assisted living wing)

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 15, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Randy Keeler preaching
Noon	College church relations luncheon, FH
	Community class potluck
2 p.m.	Set up for comforter knotting, FH

THIS WEEK

Monday (4-16)	Mennonite Women comforter knotting, 7:30 p.m., FH
Tuesday (4-17)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting rescheduled MW, knotting comforters, 9 a.m.-noon, lunch at noon, FH
Wednesday (4-18)	Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m. Transition Bluffton, 7 p.m., FH WCE, 7:30 p.m., AR
Thursday (4-19)	MPS, 8 a.m., parlor Council, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (4-20)	Menno-Life deadline

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

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 watched over while you worship, our staff will care for them in the nursery downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meghan Gibson, today's soloist with the Chancel choir, is a junior music major at Bluffton University. She is from Pandora.

Today we observe Church College Sunday, highlighting the value of Mennonite higher education. Dr. Randy Keeler, associate professor of religion and associate academic dean at Bluffton University, is preaching. After worship, a light lunch will be held in the fellowship hall, followed by a program about FMC's matching scholarship program and benefits of the program. The lunch and program are open to all. Brochures with current information and options for contributing to the fund are now available in the literature rack.

In the church year, Easter joy and resurrection are celebrated not just one day, but for 50 days, Easter through Pentecost. This Eastertide, worship at FMC will again feature a number of Sundays with special emphases such as Church College Relations, Music, and Youth Sundays. We will also focus on our 5 Priorities identified last year in our congregational discernment process. Whether focusing on our priorities and imagining ways we might live into them with new life or celebrating special emphases, we will worship the Resurrected Christ. May Spirit breathe life, joy and peace as we gather and worship together.

~ Pastor Wanda

04-15-18	Church College Relations
04-22-18	Priority: Gifts Expression
04-29-18	Music Sunday
05-06-18	Priority: Worship
05-13-18	Youth Sunday
05-20-18	Priority: Nurturing Faith (Pentecost)
05-27-18	Priority: Connecting

SHYF/JHYF: Emma (BHS musical), Middle School Cafeteria, 1:30 p.m. Youth will gather at the middle school entrance to see friends and fellow youth group members who are involved in the musical. Tickets for adults are \$4 and students are \$2.

Mennonite Women comforter knotting will be held Monday, April 16, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, April 17, from 9 a.m. –noon. Men, women, and children are invited to participate on both days. Most comforter tops are Wanda Stopher's for her "60 tops sewn by her 60th birthday -- 60 x 60." No prior experience in knotting is required! Please consider helping

with frame loading today at 2 p.m. On Monday, the devotional focus will be "Initiate," shared by Louise Matthews. Following comforter knotting on Tuesday, all are invited to stay for lunch. If you are able, bring a salad or dessert and table service. Sandwiches and beverages will be provided. MW continues collect supplies for Andrew's House in a box found on the fellowship hall bench. A complete wish list and information about Andrew's House are posted on the MW pillar.

Pastoral Visit: If I haven't visited you yet and you would like a visit from me please contact me in person on Sunday morning, or by phone or e-mail. ~ Pastor Theda

Congregational/Pastoral Review: Staff Relations Committee members and recruited helpers will interview groups as follows during the month of April:

April 22 Sunday school hour: Freudige Class

April 29 Sunday school hour: Sojourners Class

April 22 or 29 Sunday school hour: Senior High, Junior High

TBD: Connections Class

There will also be opportunities for anyone regardless of Sunday school involvement:

April 26 (Thursday) at 2:30 p.m., Maple Crest

All comments, recorded in groups or submitted on signed and dated paper (to secured box in fellowship hall), will be summarized for inclusion in final review. No identifying information will be included or shared with pastor being reviewed. Please bring with you the green sheet that was in your mailbox on March 25. Extra copies are available on the literature rack in the fellowship hall. ~ Ken Shenk, Staff Relations Committee

Recycling: For some individuals, climate change is not relevant to them, for others it seems too overwhelming and too far along to reverse. Still others ask themselves what they can do. Here at FMC, Gene Long has been collecting the recycling steel and aluminum for several years. Ask him how much he earns for the Et Cetera Shop on a regular basis. What is needed is a group or an individual to collect and recycle glass, plastics, and general paper like our bulletins. Being proactive can be an antidote to losing yourself in hopelessness and cynicism about our environment. If you are interested, please contact one of the Pastors.

Parents who wish to make use of FMC's Camp Friedenswald scholarships should notify the church office by June 1. Contact the office at fmc@bluffton.edu or 419.358.5766.

Camperships this year will be half of the cost for one camp per child. Costs this year are \$300 (\$150 campership) for high school, junior high, junior and pre-junior; \$200 (\$100 campership) for primary. ~ Christian Ed

The 2018 Black Swamp Benefit is June 15-16 at the Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon. Your attendance and donations of quilts, wooden items, and homemade baked goods will benefit the work of MCC and Sunshine Homes. Please place donated items, with forms attached, in the quilt room. Contact John Rich for more information.