

Easter Sunday
Restore Us O God! We live.
April 16, 2017
10:30 a.m.

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship	Lucia Unrau
Welcome	Victoria Woods-Yee
Call to Worship	
Prelude	“Jesus Christ is Risen Today” arr. Robert J. Powell
Invocation	
*Hymn	-- PRAISING -- “Christ the Lord is risen today” (vs. 1-4) HWB 280
*Responsive Reading	
L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!	
C: Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”	
L: The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.	
C: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly...”	
L: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. C: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.	
C: This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.	
All: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.	
Time with Children	
Hymn	“Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!” (vs.1) HWB 278
Conversation	Wanda Stopher
Hymn	“Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!” (vs.2) HWB 278
Special Music	“Sing for Joy, Alleluia!” Jonathan Willcocks <i>Chancel Choir, Mike Edmiston and Don Hooley, trumpets</i>
Pastoral Prayer	Wanda Stopher

Scripture	— PROCLAIMING — <i>Selections from Matthew 28 and John 20</i>	Catechism Class
Sermon	“Compelled Confessions”	George O’Reilly
*Hymn	“The risen Christ”	STS 101

— RESPONDING —

Introduction of Catechism Class	Wanda Stopher
Testimonies	Catechism Class
Baptism	

***Congregational Response**

The skies stand as a pledge between God and us as we receive you into the body of Christ. In sunshine and storms we are with you: to celebrate graduations and marriages. To bury and mourn your dead. To rejoice in and dedicate your children. Both to laugh with you and to wipe away your tears. We all are the family of God, anointed by the Holy Spirit. Here to love and serve one another with compassion, forgiveness, and thanksgiving. We welcome you with open arms and hearts. Let us live the Mystery together anew.

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“This Joyful Eastertide”	arr. Dale Wood
*Hymn of Dedication	“Lift high the cross” (vs. 1)	HWB 321
*Prayer of Dedication		

— SENDING —

*Hymn	“We know that Christ is raised”	HWB 443
*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 and bulletins are available on the cabinet next to the parlor.

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

Pastoral Associate – George – 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: Ruth Naylor, Bill and Mary Ann Suter

HOST: Joyce Hostetler

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – No nursery during Easter potluck

Worship – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Andrea Goings, Kathy Traucht

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Wendy Chappell-Dick, Bobbi Chappell, Monica Harnish

Worship – Kyle and Tara Miller, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Amy Freeman

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	254
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	6
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	90
Spending plan giving April 9, 2017	\$7,897.93
Spending plan receipts as of March 31	\$96,731.00
Spending plan expenses as of March 31	\$998,327.00
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00
The offering April 9 totaled \$9,490.86. Money was received for these special funds, K-5 th - \$22.19, Faith and Life - \$16, Freudige - \$50, Sojourners - \$20, Deacons Benevolent - \$432, Kitchen service - \$18.30, Habitat - \$120, Trustees - \$100, SHYF - \$664.34, College scholarships - \$86.	

CHURCH STAFF

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

Pastoral Associate – George O'Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – fmc.george@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 - fmc@bluffton.edu

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.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University, founded by Dr. Libby Hostetler in 1987, is celebrating 30 years of promoting peace and justice. You are invited to the open house and reception at the center on Thursday, April 20, from 3-6 p.m. A brief program of music and reflection will be held at 4 p.m. in the Honda Outdoor Sculpture Garden if weather permits. Enjoy light refreshments as you browse and visit. More information is available at www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb/.

Bluffton University's spring Instrumental Concert will be held Sunday, April 23, at 2:30 p.m. at Yoder Recital Hall. The concert will feature the Concert Band, wind chamber ensembles and a combined piece by Ralph Vaughan Williams, featuring the brass and percussion sections of the Concert Band, the University Chorale and organ, performed by Dr. Lucia Unrau. Dr. Mark Suderman will direct the combined piece.

The Jewish and Palestinian Voices for Peace Tour will bring Jewish and Palestinian peacemakers to Lima Mennonite Church on Monday, May 8, at 7 p.m. Amy Schuster, a member of Jewish Voice for Peace Central Ohio, and Jonathan Kuttub, a Mennonite and prominent Palestinian human rights attorney, will discuss diverse perspectives on Israel-Palestine and prospects for peace in the current political climate. For additional information, see the poster on the Upcoming Events bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Following tests recently, Willis Sommer was diagnosed with a tumor near the upper left brain stem. It is believed that this tumor is not malignant, but will need to be surgically removed. Willis will see a neurosurgeon at Cleveland Clinic on Friday, April 21. No date for surgery has been identified at this time. Please pray for Willis and Betty and for their entire family.

Darrel Yoder is currently at the Mennonite Memorial Home, undergoing rehabilitation. He and Mary appreciate your prayers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with JP and Tim Schumacher and their family. JP's sister, Jane Smaga, Bloomingdale, IL, died April 13. A memorial service will be held April 22 in Roselle, IL.

We are grateful that Lawrence Matthews has resumed normal activity "as tolerated"

after his episode with acute pulmonary embolism (blood clots in the lungs.)

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.

EASTER SUNDAY

7:30 a.m.	Baptism, Novak pond
9:15 a.m.	Easter brunch potluck, FH; No SS
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching
Noon	Easter potluck, FH

THIS WEEK

Monday (4-17)	Church Office Closed Et Cetera Board, 7 p.m., AR
Tuesday (4-18)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Wednesday (4-19)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (4-20)	Adriel foster, 9:30, parlor; Adriel staff luncheon, 11 a.m., FH Council, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (4-21)	Menno-Life deadline

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Church/College Relations Sunday, Jeff Boehr preaching
Noon	Church/College Scholarship Fund lunch

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

We are delighted to share that nine students have completed catechism and have chosen to be baptized today! After careful discernment, some of them chose to be baptized early this morning at a nearby pond, while others chose to be baptized in the worship service today. Please continue to pray for Seth Andreas, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Patrick Estell, Sophia Gott, Annalise Nisly, Danielle Novak, Grace Paquin, and Ana Neufeld-Weaver as they take this important step of faith. They will form a reception line in the fellowship hall following worship.

Thank you to Victoria Woods-Yee for providing the Congregational Response to the baptism during this service and the outdoor baptism earlier today. Thank you also to Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass for creating the chancel visuals throughout Lent and Easter.

The church office will be closed Monday, April 17. In case of emergencies, please contact Wanda Stopher at fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu or 419-551-1079.

Pastor Wanda will be leaving after the service today and returning on Tuesday evening. Pastor George will be out of the office from Tuesday through Saturday. Please call Pastor Wanda with pastoral care needs this week at 419-551-1079.

Mary Pannabecker Steiner will be out of the office April 20-24. Thank you to Gloria Hernandez Bucher for filling in as administrative assistant.

Thanks to all who have offered auction items for our youth fundraising auction. We are still accepting items. The format for this fundraiser has been changed to a silent auction. We will not be holding a formal auction event, but you will have opportunities to register your bids in the auction display in the fellowship hall beginning on April 30. Please let Shannon Thiebeau (fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu) know by April 23 if you have auction items to be included.

All are invited to a potluck after church today in the fellowship hall. Bring your favorite dish(es) to share as we eat and celebrate together. Contact Walt Paquin, 419-889-1516, if you have any questions.

Church/College Relations Sunday will be April 23 at First Mennonite Church. Jeff Boehr, who grew up at FMC and is currently a student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will bring the sermon and Eddie Martin, a student at Bluffton University, will provide special music. Those interested in hearing about FMC's college scholarship fund are invited to attend a light lunch by MK Catering in the fellowship hall. A brief time will follow lunch with a report to highlight our Mennonite College Scholarship Fund.

Did You Know...

- that the Pastoral Search Committee has been formed and will be commissioned in worship on 04-30-17?
- that Staff Relations Committee has updated the Congregational Information Form, a 14-page document which will be used by the Search Committee?
- that final recommendations emerging from our congregational discernment process will be submitted by the Congregational Discernment Team and considered by Council this week?

FMC students attending Mennonite schools and seminaries are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship for the 2017-18 school year. Apply by contacting FMC Church College Committee members Mark Weidner or Louise Matthews.

Hygiene Kits: MCC has made an urgent call for hygiene kits! We presently have 164 kits. Can we get 200 kits? (We are planning on ending this drive by the early May.)

Hygiene Kit Contents - NEW items, in original packaging

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (individually wrapped)
- 1 large bar bath soap
- 1 fingernail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (dark color)

Content lists, bags, and fabric and directions for sewing bags are presently on the cart and bulletin board by the library. If you can sew, please continue to make bags throughout the summer. Our supply is running low, and we will hopefully need around 200 for school kits this fall.

Thank you to the 30 women who helped knot comforters and assemble hygiene kits April 10 and 11. They knotted 16 comforters and assembled 79 hygiene kits. We could still use some help. In the quilt closet are knotted comforters, trimmed and ready for hemming, as well as a few comforters that need both trimming and hemming. Comforter kits for piecing are also in the closet.