

**Easter Four
April 17, 2016
10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship		Lucia Unrau
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Walt Paquin
Call to Worship		
Prelude	“Morceau de Concours” <i>Brianna Keith, flute</i>	Gabriel Faure
Invocation		
*Opening Hymn	“This is the threefold truth”	HWB 335
— PRAISING —		
*Responsive Reading		Psalm 23
L: The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.		
C: He lets me lie down in fields of green grass. He leads me beside quiet waters.		
L: He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths for the honor of his name.		
C: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid. You are with me. Your shepherd’s rod and staff comfort me.		
L: You prepare a feast for me right in front of my enemies. You pour oil on my head. My cup runs over.		
All: I am sure that your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.		
Special Music	“Always in Your Presence” <i>Jubilate</i>	Randy Cox and Kris Crunk

Time with Children

Hymn	“God, who touches earth” <i>(Sing v.1 and 2)</i>	HWB 511 Carrie Mast
Conversation		
Hymn	“God, who touches earth” <i>(Sing v.3 and 4)</i>	HWB 511 Wanda Stopher
Pastoral Prayer		
Special Music	“On Eagle’s Wings” <i>Brianna Keith, flute</i>	arr. Joel Raney
— PROCLAIMING —		
Scripture	Mark 10: 46-52; John 8:32	Elizabeth Nisly
Sermon	“The Truth makes Free”	Perry Bush
— RESPONDING —		
*Hymn of Response	“O God, who gives us life”	HWB 483
Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory	“Siciliano” <i>Brianna Keith, flute</i>	JS Bach
*Hymn of Dedication	“God, whose giving” <i>(Sing vs. 1)</i>	HWB 383
*Prayer of Dedication		
— SENDING —		
*Hymn	“We are people of God’s peace”	HWB 407
*Benediction		
*Postlude		

**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 – Shelby Cluts, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Kevin and Alison King, Kevin Cluts

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Gerald Mast, Elaine Suderman, Lori Nester

Worship – Annette and Amelia Heslep, Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Heather Theis

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	239
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	96
Spending plan giving March 27, 2016	\$6,669.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00

The offering April 10 totaled \$8,633.90. Money was received for these special funds: Sunday school – 48.40, Deacons' Benevolent - \$100, MDS Detroit- \$200, MDS-20, Habitat - \$90, Kitchen service - \$311.50, SHYF-SWAP - \$350, Capital Campaign - \$125, Celia Blough memorial - \$45, Deacons' Benevolent Special Fund - 895.

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

AND YOU SHALL KNOW THE
TRUTH
AND THE
SHALL MAKE YOU FREE!
JOHN 8:32

MDS has an urgent need for volunteers in Detroit. They have openings for volunteer groups or individuals for the following dates: April 18-22 (12-15 people needed), April 25-29 (12-15 people needed) and May 16-20 (10 people needed.) Volunteers should plan to arrive on Sunday by 6 p.m. for orientation and work through Friday. For more information or to sign up, call (800) 241-8111 or contact ahurst@mds.mennonite.net.

Camp Friedenswald is looking for volunteer health professionals to be health officers at camp this summer. Responsibilities include administering medication several times a day to campers, serving as the first stop for any medical issues at camp, and doing some paperwork organizing health forms, etc. Persons interested in signing up for a week should contact Kevin Leary at kevin@friedenswald.org.

Rally Point Youth Center is an after-school program in Lima, sponsored by the area Mennonite churches. FMC's Mennonite Women help to provide after-school snacks during the school year for the youth. Another way to support this ministry is to enjoy BBQ chicken dinners on Sunday, May 1 to raise funds for youth to attend YFC summer camp. Menu includes 1/2 chicken, green beans, applesauce, roll and drink. Pie and cake will be available for sale at the event. Meals will be available for carry out or dine in at St. John Mennonite Church, 15988 Road 4, Pandora, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tickets are available for \$8 from Louise Matthews: 419.303.8057 or matthewsa@bluffton.edu.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Helen Brooks, 87, April 18.

A big thank you to all the families in our congregation who hosted members of the Central Christian High School choir on April 6. With the help of families of Grace Mennonite, hosts were found for this large group. -- *Mary Amstutz and Mary Anne Moser*

Thank you so much to everyone who sewed tops, set up Fellowship Hall, loaded the frames, knotted the comforters, trimmed the edges, provided the refreshments and luncheon, and took comforters home to hem -- many jobs that made the April knotting project a success. We knotted 13 comforters and enjoyed friendship and fellowship toward a program that delivers warmth to people in need. The comforters have been trimmed and placed on a table in the quilt room for anyone who wants to help with the hemming. Anyone willing to sew new tops for upcoming project days can find instructions, size guidelines, fabrics, or kits in the bins, also in the quilt room. You are welcome to use your own fabrics and designs as well.

-- *Thank you, the Mennonite Women Project Committee*

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 17, 2016

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Perry Bush preaching
Noon	Meal for college scholarship donors
	Community class potluck, AR
7 p.m.	SHYF meeting to plan Youth Sunday

THIS WEEK

Monday (4-18)	Et Cetera Board, AR, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday (4-19)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary
	Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor
	Lions Club, 3-9 p.m., FH
Wednesday (4-20)	Cherub choir, 6 p.m.; Adult bells, 6 p.m.
	Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Youth bells and Chancel choir, 7 p.m.;
Thursday (4-21)	Council, 7:30 p.m.
Friday (4-22)	Menno-Life deadline
	University Pops Concert, 7:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall
Saturday (4-23)	Dulcimer workshop, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., FH and AR,

NEXT WEEK

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, Music Sunday
	Scripture: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

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

Today is Church College Relations Sunday. We welcome Dr. Perry Bush, professor of history at Bluffton University, who is preaching today, and Brianna Keith, Bluffton University junior and flutist, who is providing music today. A light lunch from Mustard Seed and a brief program following today's worship service will affirm the value of Mennonite higher education, will present FMC's church matching scholarship program through information and testimonials, and will provide an opportunity for you to pledge your financial support. We will once again provide \$1,000 scholarships to First Mennonite Church students attending Mennonite colleges and universities this coming school year. Your involvement and support of this program are encouraged. Brochures are available for your reference.

Steve and Janet update, 04-14-16: Steve is doing better again these two past days. He is eating and walking again -- slow but steady progress. I bought him a Plain Dealer and he reads the Lima News every day. I continue to stay at the Transplant House of Cleveland, which provides a place of respite and rest. Your continued prayers and cards are deeply appreciated.

-- Janet

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

Summer music: Pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types: there are opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer. Opportunities include:

- Lead the singing for our "opening songs"
- Play piano or organ
- Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

Please contact our director of music, Mark Suderman, by phone (419.358.1284) or by email (sudermanme@bluffton.edu.) If you have some specific dates in mind when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know. Thank you!

Reminder: Please submit all posters/signs to the church office for approval before posting them church bulletin boards. We're also happy to provide additional push pins.

Menno-Life Deadline: The deadline to submit items for the May Menno-Life is Friday, April 22.

Delegates are needed for the Central District Conference annual meeting June 23-25 at Columbus Mennonite Church. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please notify the church office (fmc@bluffton.edu or 419-358-5766.) For more information, contact Darryl Nester or Kendra Nickel.

Ohio women are planning the Sept. 16-18 women's retreat at Camp Friedenswald. The theme is "Gather Around the Table: Nourishing Body and Soul." Enjoy a weekend of conversations about faith and food inspired by three cookbooks: More with Less, Simply in Season, and Extending the Table. The speakers, Katie Kuntz-Wineland, a seminarian and student minister, and Beth Kuntz-Wineland, a certified plant-based chef, will guide us into reflection about holistic wellness as a spiritual practice. Together, we will ask questions about living simply, embracing the seasons, and practicing hospitality -- how might these commitments shape our relationships with food, God and one another? Come ready to be nourished with good food, rest, and community; leave empowered to nourish yourself and others, create community, and live well. If you would like to participate in planning for the retreat, lead a workshop, help with music, or be involved in some way, contact Lori Nester (NesterL@bluffton.edu or 419-358-9650.) All women are invited to join in this weekend.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Salem Mennonite Church, Elida, will kick off its 175th-year celebration at 6:30 p.m. today with a performance by a combined choir of members of both Salem and Pike Mennonite Churches. Children are welcome to attend with their parents. There will be a special program available for the children during the concert. Salem is located at 4275 W. State Road, Lima. To see more information about upcoming events at Salem, see the poster on the "Upcoming Events" pillar in the FH.

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, both conducted by Dr. Roy Couch, assistant professor of music. Dr. Mark J. Suderman, professor of music, conducts Camerata Singers and the University Chorale. Accompanying is Ana Yoder Coulter on piano. The concert will feature a mix of Broadway tunes, secular music and international music.