

“Restore us, O God! We breathe”

April 2, 2017

10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship

Lucia Unrau

Welcome, Announcements

Victoria Woods-Yee, Worship Leader

*** Call to Worship (based on John 11:1-45)**

L: Lord, the one You love is sick.

C: Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death.”

L: Lord, the Jews tried to stone you a short while ago, yet You are going back to Judea?

C: Jesus said, “Are there not twelve hours in the day? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble.”

L: Lord, if You had been there, my brother would not have died. I know even now that God will give You all you ask.

C: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.”

All: Because all those who believe will see the glory of God, may our tears be transformed into laughter.

Invocation

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn**

“Holy spirit, come with power”

HWB 26

***Confession and Reconciling**

Confession (based on Psalm 130):

Leader: The abyss wants to swallow me whole. Death is pounding at my door.

Men: I am so afraid of the night closing in on me. I waiver and stall...

Women: Frightened to hold still, I feel the hands tightening around my throat --

Leader: Guilt and shame are overwhelming me...I am sinking into the mire waiting to consume my soul.

Reconciling:

Men: Then I cry out to the Most High, pleading for mercy.

Women: My whole being calling out, anticipating the forgiveness You bring.

Leader: I breathe it in deeply. The sky begins to brighten.

All: We wait and put our hope in Your word. By Your Love, we are redeemed...made complete. Your salvation is the breath in our expanding lungs. Death has lost the victory. We are saved.

***Confessing Response**

“Save us, O Lord” (*refrain/v.3/refrain*)

STS 6

Pastoral Prayer

Wanda Stopher

— PROCLAIMING —

Special Music

“We Shall Walk Through the Valley”

Arr. W. Appling

Youth Choir

Time with Children

Hymn

“Come to me, come to us” (*vs. 1 for coming forward*) STS 60

Conversation

Shelby and Kevin Cluts

Hymn

“Come to me, come to us” (*vs. 3 for returning*) STS 60

Gospel Reading

Ezekiel 37, Romans 8, John 11

Sermon

“Pneuma or Pneumonia: The Need to Breathe”

George O’Reilly

— RESPONDING —

***Hymn**

“Nothing is lost on the breath of God”

STS 121

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Rapsodie”

Eugenie Rocherolle

***Hymn of Dedication**

“Take my life” (*vs. 3*)

HWB 389

— SENDING —

***Hymn**

“Love divine, all loves excelling”

HWB 592

***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, Tig Intagliata

HOST: Joyce Hostetler

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – George and Anita Lehman, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Jen and Darby Benroth, Betty Sommer

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Judy Diller, Monica Harnish, Cheri Slotter

Worship – Mary Ina Hooley, Sarah Phillips, Anna Neufeld-Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

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	203
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	85
Spending plan giving March 26, 2017	\$5,645.00
Spending plan receipts as of February 28	\$67,481.59
Spending plan expenses as of February 28	\$65,777.69
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00
The offering March 26 totaled \$7,496.70. Money was received for these special funds, K-5 th - \$8.65, Faith and Life - \$10, Young Adults - \$5.00, Sojourners - \$8, Deacons Benevolent - \$170, Kitchen service - \$30, FIRST Night - \$520, Rejoice - \$32, SHYF - \$1,034, Easter flowers - \$33.05.	

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

Ted and Company's "Laughter is Sacred Space" will be presented at 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, in Founders Hall, Bluffton University. Ted & Company TheaterWorks uses humor and storytelling to talk about issues of faith and social justice. During the performance, Ted Swartz will discuss his relationship with friend and business partner, Lee Eshleman, who took his own life in 2007. Swartz explores the paradox of working with a comedic partner struggling with bipolar disorder, as well as the challenge of writing and performing stories about God while experiencing the absence of God after Eshleman's death.

The Service Group of Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will hold their annual Easter Bake Sale on Saturday, April 8, from 9-11:30 a.m. in the Mennonite Memorial Home lobby. You are invited to donate a home-baked good to be delivered to MMH by 8:45 a.m. or to the church before 8 a.m. on Saturday. You may also make a "Bakeless" donation by check, made out to MHCO Bake Sale or cash. Sign-up sheets and a donation basket are available outside the church office.

Salem Mennonite Church pastor Paula Snyder Belousek will present "John's Dilemma: A Mennonite Bishop Wrestles with Suffering in a Time of War," during Bluffton University's Forum on Tuesday, April 4, at 11 a.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Snyder Belousek will discuss Bishop John M. Brenneman's draft petition written to President Abraham Lincoln requesting conscientious objector status for Mennonites during the Civil War.

The final Artist Series performance of the season will be "The Other Mozart," a one-act play that tells the story of Nannerl Mozart, the sister of Wolfgang Amadeus. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 6 in Bluffton University's Yoder Recital Hall. Tickets are available at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu> or in person at the Marbeck Center information desk.

Aaron Johnson, Goshen, Ind., will present his senior recital at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 8, in Yoder Recital Hall, Bluffton University. A reception will follow in the lobby. Johnson's recital features pieces for trumpet and flugelhorn. He is a music education and history double major.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy anniversary to Eileen and Neil Kehler, 61, April 7.

Esther Brauen was hospitalized at Lima Memorial Hospital, where she was undergoing some medical procedures.

Dick and Corrinne Boehr extend a warm and grateful thank you to all who have remembered Corrinne through some difficult days. We are grateful!

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 2, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching
Noon	Connections class potluck
	Catechism
2 p.m.	Venture Club

THIS WEEK

Monday (4-3)	Lent Practice, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (4-4)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Mission, Peace and Service, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (4-5)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (4-6)	Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor Worship, 7 p.m., parlor Nurture, 7 p.m., library

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Palm/Passion Worship Service, Communion

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

As Jesus' path during this Lenten journey moves from light and promise toward darkness, our Lenten visuals mirror that progression.

We thank Victoria Woods-Yee for providing our Words for Worship during this season of Lent.

Thank you to Lois Wetherill for creating today's bulletin cover. Lois explained: Psalm 130:6, "My soul waits for the Lord more eagerly than watchmen for the morning" reminded me of the trip Gary and I took to Upper Peninsula, Michigan. Thinking that our motel room on Lake Superior was the perfect place to watch the sun rise over the lake, we woke at 4:30 a.m. and headed to the dark beach. For the next few hours we sat, got colder, went to the car, waited some more. Eventually we were rewarded with a spectacular sunrise and an experience we'll never forget.

Write a note! Make a doodle! Or just sign your name on the pages just inside the fellowship hall. There is a page for each of our young adults serving in voluntary service. The pages will be available to sign through Wednesday, April 5.

Venture Club will meet at the church today at 2 p.m. for a walk to the Whippy Dip (Dari Freeze.) If it is raining, watch Facebook for an alternate plan.

Communion April 9: Next Sunday, we will observe communion in our worship service. Preparing for communion is to take time to examine one's life and relationships with God and with our sisters and brothers, the body of Christ. It is an opportunity to tend our relationships with others. Unity within the body of Christ is one of the themes of communion. Another aspect often overlooked is the giving of alms. This is done at FMC by giving 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.

The final Lent Practice will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, April 3 in the fellowship hall. The theme is "Restore us, O God! We live" and the texts are Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 and

Matthew 28:1-10. We'll gather to share something we've each created in response to these texts. All creations are welcome.

See the display case in the entrance stairway for some of the creative work of Lent Practice 2017. This display changes each week in conjunction with the scriptures and theme of worship.

April is project month for Mennonite Women. Comforters for knotting will be set up in the fellowship hall Monday, April 10, at 7 p.m., and Tuesday, April 11, 9 a.m.-noon. Supplies for MCC hygiene kits have been purchased and will be set out for assembly and bagging. Monday evening our devotional focus will be "Receiving Guidance" led by Alice Lora. Refreshments that evening will be prepared by Dottie Long and Julie Mackey. 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. Please consider helping with frame loading on Sunday, April 9, at 2 p.m.

SWISS SPEAK! Join us for a conversation with our Swiss Heritage on Tuesday, April 4, at 3 p.m. in the Family Room at Maple Crest. -- Rich Bucher

Easter Sunday brunch will be held Sunday, April 16, at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Please bring food to share: breakfast casseroles, fruit, muffins, or pastries. Coffee and juice will be provided. To save on use of paper products, please bring your own table service. There will be no Sunday school that morning.

All are invited to a potluck after church (12:05 p.m.) on Easter Sunday 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.

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.

Photo op! A pictorial directory can greatly enhance fellowship by helping us know each other. We need 2-3 volunteers to help with a greatly simplified process to produce an updated directory. If curious, please call or text Pastor George at 402-619-7099.

Youth Auction: SHYF will hold an auction in late April to raise funds for the 2017 Orlando Youth Convention. We are asking you to donate goods, services, or experiences to be auctioned off. Examples from past youth auctions are instrument lessons, a home-cooked gourmet meal, yard work, baked goods, custom art work and an airplane ride. More details about the auction to come soon.