

**Music Sunday**  
**April 24, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m.**

— **GATHERING** —

<b>Chimes call us to worship</b>		Lucia Unrau
<b>Welcome, Announcements, Introductions</b>		
<b>Call to Worship</b>		
<b>Prelude</b>	“Prelude in G, BWV541” <i>Lucia Unrau</i>	J.S. Bach
<b>Invocation</b>		
<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	“When the morning stars together”	HWB 34
<b>Special Music</b>	“Joshua fought the battle of Jericho” <i>Cherub Choir</i>	Spiritual

— **PRAISING** —

<b>*Responsive Reading</b>		Psalm 148
L: Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise him in the heavens above.		
<b>C: Praise him, all his angels. Praise him, all his angels in heaven.</b>		
L: Praise him, sun and moon. Praise him, all you shining stars.		
<b>C: Praise him, you highest heavens. Praise him, you waters above the skies.</b>		
L: Let all of them praise the name of the Lord. At his command they were created.		
<b>C: He established them forever. He gave them laws they will have to obey.</b>		
L: Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures.		
<b>C: Praise him, lightning and hail, snow and clouds. Praise him, you stormy winds.</b>		
L: Praise him, all you mountains and hills. Praise him, all you fruit and cedar trees.		
<b>C: Praise him, all you wild animals and cattle. Praise him, you small creatures and flying birds.</b>		
L: Praise him, kings of the earth and all nations. Praise him, princes and rulers.		
<b>C: Praise him, young men and women. Praise him, old men and children.</b>		
<b>All: Let them praise the name of the Lord. His name alone is honored. His glory is higher than the earth and the heavens. Praise the Lord.</b>		

<b>Special Music</b>	“Let All the People Praise Thee” <i>Jubilate, Youth &amp; Men; Don Hooley, trumpet</i> <i>Please join the choir on vs. 1 and 3 of “Oh God, our help in ages past,” HWB 328</i>	Natalie Sleeth
	“We are Blessed” <i>Jubilate and Youth</i>	Andrea Ramsey
<b>Time with Children</b>		
<b>Hymn</b>	“God, who touches earth” <i>(Sing v.1 and 2)</i>	HWB 511
<b>Conversation</b>		Shelby Cluts
<b>Hymn</b>	“God, who touches earth” <i>(Sing v.3 and 4)</i>	HWB 511
<b>Special Music</b>	“Samachti B’omrim Li” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Charles Osborne
<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>		Ray Person
<b>Special Music</b>	“Psalm of Hope” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Andrea Ramsey
	— <b>PROCLAIMING</b> —	
<b>Scripture</b>		Psalm 150
<b>Sermon</b>	“All Praise!”	Wanda Stopher
	— <b>RESPONDING</b> —	
<b>*Hymn of Response</b>	“Praise the Lord who reigns above”	HWB 54
<b>Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings</b>		
<b>Offertory</b>	“Gather Us In” <i>Adult Bells</i>	arr.Michael Helman
<b>*Hymn of Dedication</b>	“God, whose giving” <i>(Sing vs. 1)</i>	HWB 383
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		
	— <b>SENDING</b> —	
<b>*Hymn</b>	“When in our music God is glorified” (vs. 1, 2, 5)	HWB 44
<b>*Benediction</b>		
<b>*Postlude</b>		

*\*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](http://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

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**GREETERS:** John and Julie Mackey, Larry and Judy Diller

**HOST:** Joyce Hostetler

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Gerald Mast, Elaine Suderman, Lori Nester

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

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Kevin and Alison King

*Worship* – Kevin and Alison King, Mary Ina Hooley

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Melissa Friesen

**CHANCEL:** Mona Reichenbach

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmcbluffton.org](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday 251

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday 6

Sunday school attendance last Sunday 78

Spending plan giving April 17, 2016 \$5,500.89

2016 Proposed spending plan \$418,276.00

The offering April 17 totaled \$8,590.53. Money was received for these special funds: Sunday school – \$42.89, Deacons' Benevolent – \$885, Kitchen service - \$4.75, SHYF-SWAP - \$100, Capital Campaign - \$25, Deacons' Benevolent Special Fund - \$520, College Scholarships - \$1,423, Mennonite Women – \$89.

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)

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

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**All MCC alumni and friends** are invited to attend the MCC Alumni and Friends International Potluck at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 1, at Grace Mennonite Church, 502 E Main St., Pandora. Speakers will be Ben and Beth Weisbrod, MCC Area Directors for Central and West Africa, who are based in Kigali, Rwanda, and are involved in strategic planning and oversight of five MCC programs located in Burkina Faso, Chad, Nigeria, DR Congo and Rwanda- Burundi. Please bring a favorite international dish and a plate of cookies to share (tableware will be provided). A short program will follow the potluck. If you know other MCC alumni in your area who haven't received a formal invitation, please invite them and bring them along! *If possible, please RSVP at 574-534-4133 or to [matthewschetter@mcc.org](mailto:matthewschetter@mcc.org) to help us prepare.* Hope to see you there!

**MDS has an urgent** need for volunteers in Detroit. They have openings for volunteer groups or individuals for 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](mailto:ahurst@mds.mennonite.net).

**One in a Number:** The Bluffton Women's Choir will perform an Earth Day concert at Bluffton Public Library Tuesday, April 26 at 6 p.m. The group's repertoire includes a mix of pop music, sacred songs, and traditional chants. FMC members are Ashton Cluts, Jill and Jane Steinmetz, Wendy and Bobbie Chappell, Wanda Stopher.

**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](mailto:kevin@friedenswald.org).

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday to** Anna Ruth Reichenbach, 91, April 27.

**First Mennonite Church** – Thanks for supporting me throughout my time at EMU. I appreciate all the thoughts and prayers I've received. And thank you so much for the financial support, as well.  
-- Carissa Luginbill

**Joan Bauman** was released from the Mennonite Home and has returned to Maple Crest.

## 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 24, 2016

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
2:30 p.m.	JHYF, Bluffton University Nature Preserve

## THIS WEEK

Monday (4-25)	Our Daily Bread volunteers leave FMC, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday (4-26)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (4-27)	Cherub choir, 6 p.m.; Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (4-28)	Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor

## 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, Children's musical, "Positive ID"

**Scripture: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:1-10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29**

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 in your mailboxes** is a proposal presented by Pastor Wanda and Vision Task Force, and approved by Council, Thursday, 04-22-16. We welcome conversation about the proposal and next steps it outlines for us as a congregation. -- *Vision Task Force (Karen Klassen Harder, Laura Hartzler, Elizabeth Kelly, Don Pannabecker, Greg Ring, Ken Shenk, Wanda Stopher)*

**Update, 04-21-16: About two weeks ago** Steve had issues with his kidney function and we are thankful that has resolved. The past few days he has been going to cardiac rehabilitation and riding a bike. He walks twice a day and is eating well. We have learned that everyone's journey is different regarding a heart transplant. Those persons who have a mechanical device prior to transplant have a journey that has its particular challenges as a bridge to transplant. The challenges vary from person to person. We are hopeful and talk with people who have taken this journey. Thank you for the continued support of love and care. *May the peace of Christ be with us all, Janet and Steve*

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

**Many have asked** about Pastor Steve and Janet's financial support situation as Steve continues awaiting a heart transplant. The Staff Relations Committee and Willis Sommer have been working collaboratively with Steve and Janet, Everence and Cleveland Clinic to develop a plan for Steve's financial support. We anticipate that disability coverage will begin later this summer. Generous giving by FMC members and others is assisting Steve and Janet in this transitional time moving to disability coverage. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for Steve and Janet. *Ken Shenk, Staff Relations Committee*

**The translation for "Samachti,"** performed by the Chancel Choir today is as follows:  
"I rejoice when they said to me: Let us go up to the House of God.  
Now we stand within your gates, O Jerusalem!  
Jerusalem, built to be a city where people come together as one!  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: May those who love you prosper!  
For the sake of my people, my friends, I pray you find peace.  
For the sake of the house of Adonai our God, I will seek your good."

**Reminder:** Please bring all posters/signs to the church office to be posted on the church bulletin boards. Items may also be e-mailed to [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu).

**Today's chancel flowers** are in honor of Anna Ruth Lehman Reichenbach's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on Wednesday, April 27. The stargazer lilies, delphiniums and roses were favorites of Anna Ruth and her husband, Dale, who grew them at their Elm Street home.

-- *Happy birthday Mom, Plain Grandma and GG – Mona Reichenbach*

**Next Sunday, May 1,** the children's choirs will present "Positive ID," a musical drama, during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The main theme is about inviting God to be a part of your life and making decisions based on your relationship with Christ.

**Please notify the church office** if you or a family member is in need of pastoral care. Wanda Stopher is coordinating pastoral care with assistance from Ruth Naylor. Please don't hesitate to call Wanda at 419-551-1079. You may also call Ruth at 419-358-6309.

**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](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu).) If you have some specific dates in mind when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know. Thank you!

**Rich and Gloria Bucher** will be serving Salem Mennonite Church from May 2 through August 31 while their pastor is on sabbatical leave.

**If you are interested** in a manuscript of the sermon Perry Bush shared in worship on April 17, please notify the church office. We will send it electronically but will provide print copies when necessary.

**We have 39 complete hygiene kits.** There are more supplies that can be used to fill bags but we are short a few things – especially, fingernail clippers and individual toothbrushes in their original packages. We can also use supplies for complete kits – there are bags available. Donations can be used to purchase supplies. MCC has voiced a great need for these kits.

**Correction to the FMC directory:** Lawrence and Louise Matthews' phone numbers were reversed in the recently-published church directory. Their correct numbers are Lawrence, 419-303-8056, and Louise, 419-303-8057.