

Music Sunday
First Mennonite Church
April 29, 2018

Chimes call us to worship Jackie Wyse Rhodes

Welcome Kevin Cluts

Introductions

Prelude “How Shall I Sing to God?” Lloyd Larson
Chancel Choir

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** “Je louerai l’Eternel” HWB 76
(Sing v. 1 in French or English & the rest in English)

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 95 (The Inclusive Bible-IB)

L: Come, let us sing joyfully to God! Raise a shout to our rock, our deliverance!

C: Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving and sing our praises with joy. For God is great, the great Ruler, above all gods.

L: O God, in your hands are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks are yours. Yours is the sea, for you made it, the dry land as well, for your hands formed it.

C: Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before God, our Maker.

All: For you are our God, and we are the people you shepherd, the flock under your care.

Special Music “Jesus Loves the Little Children” Traditional
Cherub Choir

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “Come, let us all unite to sing” (v. 1) HWB 12

Conversation Ashton Cluts

Hymn “Come, let us all unite to sing” (v. 3) HWB 12

Special Music “All Things Bright and Beautiful” John Rutter
Jubilate and sixth, seventh and eighth grades

Scripture Kings 18:33-38 Ellie Hartzler

Special Music “Elijah” Dale Wood
Youth Choir

Community Prayer Theda Good

Special Music “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place” Johannes Brahms
Chancel Choir

***Hymn** “Praise God from whom” HWB 118

Scripture John 14:1-6 Darryl Nester

Special Music “When We All Get to Heaven” Tammy Waldrop
Adult Bells

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Jackie Wyse Rhodes

***Hymn of Dedication** “Sing praise to God who reigns (vs. 1) HWB 59

***Prayer of Dedication**

Special Music “Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates” William Mathias
Chancel Choir

***Sending Hymn** “Joy to the world” HWB 318

Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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 – Lori Nester, Shelby Cluts

Worship – Kevin and Alison King, Annalise Nisly

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Rachel Diller, Mary P. Steiner

Worship – Mary Ina Hooley, Kathy Dickson, Anna Biesecker-Mast

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Mona Reichenbach

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-221, MC-7
Spending plan giving April 22, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,161.00
Special fund giving April 22, 2018 (includes e-giving): Pk-5-\$1.50; Faith and Life-\$18	<u>\$1,638.00</u>
<i>Freudige-\$100; Sojourners-\$7; Faithful Living-\$2; Kitchen-\$352.50; Deacons-\$20; MW-\$132</i>	
<i>Flooring-\$150; College scholarships-\$550; Memorials-\$105; Relief kits-\$60;</i>	
Total giving April 22, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$7,799.00
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.



Lima Area Habitat for Humanity will host Makensie Brown, the development officer of Habitat for Humanity Guatemala on Thursday, May 10. Visitors may meet her at 10 a.m. in the Lima Habitat ReStore, 550 W. Elm Street; at 11 a.m. there will be a presentation of the work of Habitat Guatemala. Light refreshments will be provided. The Lima Area Affiliate has been a partner of HFH Guatemala since 2005 and in 12 years has tithed over \$91,000 towards reducing the housing deficit in Guatemala.

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 MCC and Sunshine Homes. Please place donated items, with forms attached, in the quilt room. Contact John Rich for more information.

Central District Conference will hold a golf outing June 21 at 10:30 a.m. at Black Squirrel Golf Club in Goshen, IN. Proceeds benefit the Leadership Development Fund. Registration for the outing opens Tuesday, May 1. The LDF provides funding for resources for pastors. Those not golfing may contribute at <https://www.mcusacdc.org/donate/> and note LDF in your payment, or mail a check to Central District Conference, 1015 Division St, Goshen, IN 46528, LDF in the memo.

“Episode 3: Women in Leadership” of *The Mennonite’s Holding it Together* podcast features AMBS Assistant Professor Malinda Elizabeth Berry; AMBS Professor Emerita Gayle Gerber Koontz; and AMBS alumna Alison Brookins, pastor of Chicago Community Mennonite Church. Host Jenny Castro talks with these women as they explore their overlapping stories.

PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE

Anne Buller is now in assisted living room W146 at Maple Crest. **Mary Blosser** has moved to assisted living room W139 at 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 29, 2018

8:15 a.m.	Mentoring breakfast, FH
9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Music Sunday

THIS WEEK

Monday (4-30)	Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday (5-1)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (5-2)	Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (5-3)	Worship, 7 p.m., parlor Community meal, 6 p.m., Senior Center, FMC providing

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Reminders:
Check the literature rack and the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall for newly posted items. New: CDC’s *The Reporter*, MHCO’s *The Vine*, a letter from Neil and Janie Blough, and Sara Brenner’s “Reflections on Earth Day.”

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

Pastor Wanda is worshipping today with the Central Mennonite congregation, Archbold, as part of a celebration of her father, Marvin's, 80th birthday. She will return to the office tomorrow, Monday.

Shannon Thiebeau, Director of Youth Ministry, has announced her resignation effective August 19, 2018, to attend seminary full time. We are grateful for Shannon's passion for ministry and affirm her call to seminary. We are in the early stages of formulating a plan for after Shannon's departure. In conjunction with the current work being done by the Governance Task Force, we will be looking at the best plan for this position moving forward and we will share that plan with all of you as it starts taking shape. Please keep Shannon in your prayers as she wraps up her ministry here and pray for who will come and minister next among us with our youth. ~ Kendra Nickel

This Eastertide, worship at FMC features special emphases such as Church College Relations, Music, and Youth Sundays. We will also focus on the 5 Priorities identified last year in our congregational discernment process. ~ Pastor Wanda

05-06-18 Priority: Worship
05-13-18 Youth Sunday
05-20-18 Priority: Nurturing Faith (Pentecost)
05-27-18 Priority: Connecting

Congratulations to First Mennonite's graduating college students! Today, Julian Harnish graduates from Goshen College. Next Sunday, May 5, Jonatan Moser and David Nester will graduate from Eastern Mennonite University. Abigail Heslep will graduate May 12 from Kent State University. Watch for their graduation statements in the May *MennoLife*.

Thank you to everyone who contributes so generously to our funeral meals. I am in the process of updating the distribution list for those interested in being contacted for meals. If you have not been contacted recently and would like to be added to my list, please send me your email address (or phone number if you do not have email) and I will happily add you to my list. ~ Mary Edmiston (edmistonmary100@gmail.com or 419-230-9659)

Beginning today and running through May 27, the Faithful Living class will begin a series of discussions on faithful living. Each week a different guest will share a personal reflection on their journey with Christ. The class begins to gather at 9:15 a.m. and welcomes others to join them for this series. If anyone has any questions, they should contact Greg Ring at 567-204-7283.

The 2018 Central District Conference annual meeting will meet at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN, June 21-23. The theme is "Come, walk with." If you are willing to serve as a delegate for our congregation, please contact Kendra Nickel, moderator, at kendrasmiley@yahoo.com or 419-302-5220 by Sunday, April 29. We are able to send at least eight delegates, plus a senior high youth delegate.

Black Swamp Benefit is June 15-16 and we're collecting coins for My Coins Count. Look for the jug in the fellowship hall for depositing coins for MCC water and food projects. ~ John Rich

Recycling: For some individuals, climate change is not relevant to them, for others it seems too overwhelming, while still others ask what they can do. Gene Long has been collecting the recyclable steel and aluminum at FMC 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 individual to collect and recycle glass, plastics, and general paper. If you are interested, please contact one of the pastors.

Camp Friedenswald scholarships: Parents who wish to make use of our Camp Friedenswald scholarships should pay the full amount when registering a child. Print out your confirmation of payment and submit a copy to the church office. We will reimburse you for the church's portion. Camperships this year are one-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.

Hygiene and relief kits: Our kit collection for this year is down in numbers, so we will continue to collect them. Content lists and bags are on the table and bulletin board near the church library. We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of fellowship hall. Some pre-cut bags and cords are also there. **Relief kits:** Relief kit lists are also on the bulletin board. Pack all items into a box, label it "Relief Kit" and place in the quilt room.

The Community Meal at the Senior Citizen Center on Thursday, May 3, will be hosted by First Mennonite Church and the Mission Peace and Service Commission. All are welcome to attend. If anyone is willing to help with serving the meal or baking cookies, please contact Lynda Nyce at lyndanyce@gmail.com.