

**Music Sunday
April 30, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau

Special Music “My God is So Big”
Cherub Choir

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions George O’Reilly

Call to Worship

Prelude “Joyful Song” arr. Mark Hayes

Invocation

-- PRAISING --

***Hymn** “I sing the mighty power of God” HWB 46

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 108: 1-4
L: My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make melody.
Awake, my soul!

C: Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn.

L: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, and I will sing praises to you among the nations.

All: For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Special Music “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” STS 123
Jubilate

Time with Children

Hymn “Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!” (vs.1) HWB 278

Conversation Bruce Steingass

Hymn “Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!” (vs.3) HWB 278

Special Music “Lead me On” Words & lyrics, Patsy Simms Ford
Youth Choir

***Hymn** “Star of the morning” STS 91

Pastoral Prayer Wanda Stopher

Commissioning of Pastoral Search Committee

— PROCLAIMING —

Special Music “Not One Sparrow Is Forgotten” arr. William Hawley
Chancel Choir (Shaker Hymn)

Scripture Psalm 98 Adam Phillips

Special Music “Ascribe To The Lord” Rosephanye Powell
Chancel Choir

Scripture Psalm 95:1-7a Shannon Thiebeau

Special Music “The Smallest Things” James E. Clemens
Chancel Choir, Elaine Suderman, solo

— RESPONDING —

***Hymn** “Sing praise to God who reigns” HWB 59

Special Music “Bound For Glory” Dan Edwards
Adult Bells

Presentation to Lucia

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “O Let All Who Thirst” arr. Peter Terry

***Hymn of Dedication** “Lift high the cross” (vs.4) HWB 321

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “Sing with all the saints in glory” STS 92

***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: John Rich, Vicki Laird

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Gerald Mast, Greg and Laura Hartzler

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

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Lori Nester, John and Julie Mackey

Worship – Kurt and Sabrina Longworth, Jason Diller

SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

CHANCEL: Anita Lehman

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	236
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	81
Spending plan giving April 23, 2017	\$4,428.50
Spending plan receipts as of March 31	\$96,731.00
Spending plan expenses as of March 31	\$98,327.00
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

The offering April 23 totaled \$7,115.20. Money was received for these special funds: Pk-5 - \$10.56, Sojourners - \$11, Faith and Life - \$9, Community - \$2, Young Adults - \$9.14, Deacons Benevolent - \$120, Mennonite Women - \$170, MDS - \$100, College scholarships - \$2,425.

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 Steiner - 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.



Penny Power: Do you have loose change in your pockets? Drop it in the Penny Power jug in the fellowship hall to help bring water and food to third world countries through Mennonite Central Committee. Together, we can make a difference in the world.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to join us for “Swiss Speak” on Tuesday, May 2, at 3 p.m. at Maple Crest in Bluffton. Hear the Bernese Swiss being spoken and talked about. *– Rich Bucher*

Rally Point Youth Center is an afterschool ministry for youth in Lima supported by area Mennonite churches. Volunteers from FMC provide afterschool snacks several times each month. You are invited to support Rally Point on Sunday, May 7, at a chicken barbecue held at St. John Mennonite Church, 15988 Road 4, Pandora. Tickets for carry out or dine in meals are available for \$8 from Louise Matthews at 419.303.8057 or matthewsa@bluffton.edu . See poster on the bulletin board for additional information.

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

The English Lutheran Church, 111 Grove St., invites all to the dedication of their renovated sanctuary today at 3 p.m. A reception and open house will follow.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

On behalf of my family, I want to express my appreciation to the church community for your expressions of warmth and support as we have dealt with the death of my father, Fred Bush. It has meant a lot to us. *-- Perry Bush*

Congratulations to Lindsay Steiner and Kenneth Shonk, who were married April 21 in LaCrosse, WI. Lindsay is the daughter of Fred and Mary Pannabecker Steiner.

Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for thousands of Mennonites in Democratic Republic of Congo who have gone into hiding to escape the violence that has claimed hundreds of lives. Pray that God would provide for those who have fled, for stable national leadership, and for an end to the fighting.

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.

MUSIC SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Music Sunday
	Youth auction begins

THIS WEEK

Monday (5-1)	Staff relations, 7 p.m., parlor
Tuesday (5-2)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor MPS, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (5-3)	Cherub Choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (5-4)	Worship, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Sunday worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

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

From Lucia Unrau and Peter Terry: Lucia will be joining the faculty at Murray State University, KY, as Professor of Music and Music Department Chair. The Racer music department is one of the oldest accredited music programs in the country with 24 full-time faculty and approximately 175 music majors. Peter will continue his work as a composer and conductor, with some adjunct employment at the university. Our address will be: 1326 Duiguid Dr., Murray, KY 42071. (It is pronounced “do good” -- I know you were wondering!) We very much appreciate how FMC has embraced our family for the past 23 years. We both feel privileged to be able to serve and worship with you. We will miss you, but remember, we can always see you on video!

Ron Headings has accepted an interim position at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah. Ron begins this new role May 1 and Linda will be joining him soon after the school year ends. Their son, Jake, begins an internship May 15 in Urbana, IL, as part of his graduate program at the University of Illinois. Their son, Luke, will complete his senior year at Manchester University in Indiana next year. The Headings plan to return to Bluffton in one to two years.

Bidding for the SHYF silent auction begins TODAY, April 30, and ends on Sunday, May 14. Please check out the display in the fellowship hall and see what we have to offer.

The SHYF would like to extend a thank you to Julie Mackey for counting Community Market receipts as an ongoing fundraiser. We also thank everyone for turning in receipts! Receipts may be placed in the horizontal mailbox labeled “Community Market receipts.”

A new kitchen committee is now in place. With Mary Edmiston as contact person, along with Sue Schaaf and Mary Ann Suter, this group plans to oversee operations for both kitchens. Please be aware of any new signage or other changes as they develop. We appreciate their willingness to serve the church in this way.

-- *Nurture Commission*

Mennonite Women will meet Monday, May 8, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall for the final program of the 2016-2017 year. A panel of five women will share about various life transitions they have experienced -- parenting, career transition/retirement, going to and from service, empty nest and widowhood. Elfrieda Ramseyer will lead devotions, “New Beginning.” In preparation, ask yourself how new beginnings have spiritually transformed

your life. Special Celtic music will be provided by Joyce Hostetler’s dulcimer group. Refreshments will be prepared and served by Lisa Shelly and Mary Edmiston.

First Mennonite joins other congregations in our region (Grace Mennonite, Lima Mennonite, Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Emmaus Road Fellowship, and Shalom Community) to serve as host congregations for the Central District Conference annual meeting June 22 – 24. All activities will be held at Bluffton University. The weekend will open with a golf outing and RAWTools event. RAWTools will lead worship in Founders Hall on Thursday evening. Volunteers will be needed for many tasks. Watch the bulletin for announcements about serving as host homes for those who prefer that option to staying on campus or in hotels. We will need help to provide childcare for nursery- and preschool-age children. Hosts may also be needed to help with services such as set up/clean up for snack times, serving as ushers in worship, assisting guests with mobility concerns and other needs as they arise. Contact Lori Nester if you are interested in learning how to become involved!

-- *Lori Nester*

Summer Music -- Pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types: There are again 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, at 419.230.5368 or at sudermanme@bluffton.edu. If you have some specific dates in mind when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know. Thank you!

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 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 need around 200 for school kits this fall.

Copies of the April issue of CDC Focus are available in the literature rack near the library in the fellowship hall.