

**Priority: Following Jesus
First Mennonite Church
April 8, 2018**

Chimes call us to worship

LuAnn Stuckey

Welcome

Chris Moser

Introductions

Prelude

“In Thee Is Gladness”

setting, K.T. Kosche

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn**

“Lift your glad voices”

HWB 275

***Responsive Reading**

Psalm 133

L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

**C: It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

L: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

All: For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Special Music

“Jubilate Deo”

Jubilate

Conversation with Friends

Hymn

“Christ is alive” (v. 1)

STS 89

Conversation

Hymn

“Christ is alive” (v. 2)

Louise Matthews

STS 89

Pastoral Prayer

Theda Good

Scripture

John 20:19-31

Tig Intagliata

Sermon

“Must Be Love”

Wanda Stopher

***Hymn of Response**

“Joys are flowing like a river”

HWB 301

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Awake, My Heart, with Gladness”

setting, W. Held

***Hymn of Dedication**

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

HWB 278

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sending Hymn**

“Joyful is the dark”

HWB 233

Benediction

Postlude

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives!”

setting, A.K. Organ

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*

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

Judy Diller, Carmen Moser

Worship – Alison and Kevin King, Ana Neufeld Weaver

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Ashton Cluts, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Kristen Niekamp, Kevin Cluts, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

GREETER: Cheri Slotter

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	FMC-270, MC-6
Spending plan giving April 1, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,930.12
Special fund giving April 1, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Sojourners-\$15;</i>	<u>\$530.00</u>
<i>Memorials-\$10; Deacons-\$200; Flooring-\$215; Habitat-\$20; ISAF-\$50; SHYF-\$20</i>	
Total giving April 1, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$7,460.12
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.

supporters at First Mennonite, for the many ways you contribute to the work of MCC. In addition to the donations, energy and time you give at relief sales, thrift shops, meat canning and with material resources, your congregation contributed \$3,522 in 2017. Thank you!

~ Sarah Geiser Church Relations, MCC Great Lakes

Toledo Mennonite Church will hold a seminar in conflict resolution and mediation training April 13-14 at TMC, 5501 Nebraska Ave., Toledo. The seminar is for anyone who wants to learn how better to handle conflict. A certificate of mediation training will be awarded. Allen Rutter of Shalom Counseling and Mediation Center, Archbold, will present. Find more information at www.shalomworks.org. A brochure is posted on the "Upcoming Events" pillar in the fellowship hall. (*The April 8 deadline is flexible.*)

Central District Conference invites interested individuals to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for pastors and other congregational leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to pastoral ministry. The deadline to apply for fall 2018 is July 17. Visit www.ambs.edu/journey or Doug Luginbill at confmin@mcusacdc.org or at 574-534-1485, for more information.

Bluffton University events:

April 10: "Worthy of Honor," Civic Engagement Day Forum, Dr. Jonathan Andreas, associate professor of economics, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall.

April 11: C. Henry Smith Peace Oratorical Contest, six students presenting, 6:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall, reception to follow.

April 12: Pearl Bogart Mann Memorial Piano Recital: Yu-Lien The, pianist, 7:30 p.m. Yoder Recital Hall. For tickets, call 419-358-3239.

April 13: "From 'Meh' to 'Must-read': An Insider's Look at the Rebirth of 'The Witmarsum,'" Colloquium, Marathana Prothro, assistant professor of communication 4 p.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall.

April 14: "Women Enriching Women," 9 a.m.-3 p.m. conference, more information at www.bluffton.edu/blufftonalumni/events/women/.

PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE

Esther Brauen died April 6 at St. Rita's Medical Center. Visitation will be held from 2-8 p.m. Monday, April 9, in the FMC fellowship hall. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 10 at FMC. Please continue to offer prayers and support to Keith, their children and their families.

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 8, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Youth worship planning and Bible study, 6 p.m.

THIS WEEK

Monday (4-9)	Esther Brauen visitation, 2-8 p.m., FMC Mennonite Women rescheduled (see note elsewhere)
Tuesday (4-10)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting rescheduled Esther Brauen memorial service, 11 a.m. Fellowship meal (to follow) Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (4-11)	Pastor visit with residents, MMH, 2:30 p.m. Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m. Stewardship, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Thursday (4-12)	Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

COLLEGE CHURCH SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Randy Keeler preaching
11:30 a.m.	College Church luncheon, FH

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

Pastoral Visit: If I haven't visited you yet and you would like a visit from me please contact me in person on Sunday morning, or by phone or e-mail. ~ *Pastor Theda*

In the church year, Easter joy and resurrection are celebrated not just one day, but for 50 days, Easter through Pentecost. This Eastertide, worship at FMC will again feature a number of Sundays with special emphases such as Church College Relations, Music, and Youth Sundays. We will also focus on our 5 Priorities identified last year in our congregational discernment process. Whether focusing on our priorities and imagining ways we might live into them with new life or celebrating special emphases, we will worship the Resurrected Christ. May Spirit breathe life, joy and peace as we gather and worship together.

~ *Pastor Wanda*

04-08-18	Priority: Following Jesus
04-15-18	Church College Relations
04-22-18	Priority: Gifts Expression
04-29-18	Music Sunday
05-06-18	Priority: Worship
05-13-18	Youth Sunday
05-20-18	Priority: Nurturing Faith (Pentecost)
05-27-18	Priority: Connecting

Due to changes in the church schedule, the Mennonite Women comforter knotting has been postponed to Monday, April 16, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, April 17, from 9 a.m. –noon. Men, women, and children are invited to participate on both days. Most comforter tops are Wanda Stopher's for her "60 tops sewn by her 60th birthday -- 60 x 60." No prior experience in knotting is required! Please consider helping with frame loading on Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m. On Monday, the devotional focus will be "Initiate," shared by Louise Matthews. 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. MW continues collect supplies for Andrew's House in a box found on the fellowship hall bench. A complete wish list and information about Andrew's House are posted on the MW pillar.

Church College Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, April 15, to highlight the value of Mennonite higher education. Dr. Randy Keeler will preach the sermon. After the worship service, a light lunch will be held in fellowship hall, followed by a program that includes

information about FMC's matching scholarship program and individuals sharing about the benefits of the program. The lunch and program are open to all. Brochures with current information and options for contributing to the fund are now available in the literature rack.

Congregational/Pastoral Review: Staff Relations Committee members and recruited helpers will interview groups as follows during the month of April:

April 15 Sunday school hour: Faithful Living Class

April 22 Sunday school hour: Freudige Class

April 29 Sunday school hour: Sojourners Class

April 22 or 29 Sunday school hour: Senior High, Junior High

TBD: Connections Class

There will also be opportunities for anyone regardless of Sunday school involvement:

April 8 (Sunday), 4-5 p.m. in the assembly room

April 15 (Sunday), 9:15-10:15 a.m. in Room 301 (third floor, classroom closest to the elevator)

April 26 (Thursday) at 2:30 p.m., Maple Crest

All comments, recorded in groups or submitted on signed and dated paper (to secured box in fellowship hall), will be summarized for inclusion in final review. No identifying information will be included or shared with pastor being reviewed. Please bring with you the green sheet that was in your mailbox on March 25. Extra copies are available on the hearing aid cabinet in the fellowship hall. ~ *Ken Shenk, Staff Relations Committee*

Parents who wish to make use of FMC's Camp Friedenswald scholarships should notify the church office by June 1. Contact the office at fmc@bluffton.edu or 419.358.5766.

Camperships this year will be 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. ~ *Christian Ed*

Myrna Grove will present "Legacy of One-Room Schools" at the Swiss Community Historical Society meeting at 2:30 p.m. today in the patio room at Maple Crest. Grove wrote "Legacy of One-Room Schools," about the beginning of one-room school districts in the six states of the former Northwest Territory. Grove is director of the Country School Association of America and is on the board of the Michigan One-Room School Association.

Bluffton Public Library invites you to attend their spring tea at 5:45 p.m. Thursday, April 26. Speaker is Dave Essinger, local author of the novel, "Running Out," and a professor of English at University Findlay. Tickets at \$12 each, must be purchased in advance at the library. Several FMC members are involved in cooking and hosting at the event.

We at Mennonite Central Committee, along with our partners around the world, are blessed by your continuing support for the work of MCC. Thank you, friends and