

Repentance: Let's get to work!
First Mennonite Church
August 12, 2018

Music calls us to worship

Welcome and announcements

Introductions

Prelude

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymns**

***Responsive Reading**

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

L: Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

C: You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

L: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

L: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

L: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

All: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Laura Hartzler

Chris Gott

Laura Hartzler

Gerald Mast

Psalm 51:1-12 (NRSV)

Special Music

“My Father’s Angels”
Kaleigh Coffman and Ellie Hartzler

arr. Gaither

Conversation with Friends

“Come, let us all unite to sing” (v. 1 coming forward and v.3 for return) HWB 12

Shannon Thiebeau

Scripture

II Kings 22:8-23:25 Monica and Steve Harnish

Sermon

“Repentance: Let’s Get to Work” Brent Schroeder
Moments of prayer will be interspersed throughout the sermon today.

***Hymn**

“O young and fearless prophet” (See insert)

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Come Thou Fount” arr. Lloyd Lawson
Ben Hartzler

***Hymn**

“Heart and mind, possessions, Lord” (vs. 1) HWB 392

***Prayer of Dedication**

Commissioning

Julian Harnish

***Hymn**

“Let God, who called the worlds” HWB 138

Benediction

Postlude

***Please rise in body or in spirit.**

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story

Please ask an usher for assistance in locating large print hymnals.

First Mennonite Church

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: fmdbluffton.org

Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Church Staff

- Pastor Wanda Stopher -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079 (cell);
fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastor Theda Good -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell);
fmc.theda@bluffton.edu
- Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau, T/Th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.;
fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

Sound: Chris Moser

Greeter: Sally Roth

Nursery this week: SS – Cheri Slotter, Ashton Cluts

Worship – John and Julie Mackey, Ben Hartzler, Theo Andreas

Nursery next week: SS – Laura and Greg Hartzler

Worship – Mary Ina Hooley, Melissa Friesen, Annalise Nisly

OUR STEWARDSHIP

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| Worship attendance last Sunday | FMC-200, MC-6 |
| Spending plan giving August 5, 2018 (includes e-giving) | \$8,623.00 |
| Special fund giving August 5, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$7.63; Sojourners-\$15; | |
| Community-\$10; Kitchen-\$1.80; Habitat-\$20; MCC-\$50; School kits-\$150; Flooring-\$235; | |
| Coll scholarship-\$61; N Chavez-\$2,000; J. Moser-\$170; ISAF-\$50; Syrian student-\$1,000 | \$3,770.43 |
| Total giving August 5, 2018 (includes e-giving) | \$12,393.43 |
| Total spending plan receipts as of June 30, 2018 | \$189,473.39 |
| Spending plan expenses as of June 30, 2018 | \$198,232.79 |
| 2018 spending plan | \$427,441.00 |

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.



Mission Peace and Service is looking for hosts for four people from Japan who are part of the World Friendship Center PAX organization. They will be at FMC and Bluffton University Thursday, Sept. 27, telling stories and doing a play of the impact of the A-bomb on Hiroshima. Hosting includes providing lodging for two nights and breakfasts on September 26 and 27. For more information, please contact Alice Ruth Ramseyer at ramseyer@wcoil.com or 419-358-0835.

Would you like to be a support family for a Bluffton University international student? Bluffton expects a large group of new international students this and hopes to offer each student the opportunity to connect with a local family, which may be an individual, couple or family with children. If you would like to learn what is involved in being a support family, contact Paul Neufeld Weaver, weaverpn@bluffton.edu 419-296-9462 or Tom Siferd, siferdst@bluffton.edu 419-358-3022.

The Bluffton Food Pantry is in need of food, paper and hygiene items. Copies of the list of needed items are in the literature racks in the fellowship hall. (*The racks are on the wall just inside the doors at the top of the Jackson Street steps.*) Take donations to the College Avenue door of St. John's United Church of Christ between 9 and noon Monday-Friday.

Findlay High School's steel drum band, Pantasia, will perform a free concert on Sunday, Aug. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Mennonite Memorial Home. The Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio service group will serve ice cream and water. Those attending are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and dress for the weather. In case of heavy rain, the concert will be cancelled. Visit the MHCO Facebook page the day of the concert for updated information.

A support group for caregivers of spouses or family members with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia is scheduled the third Monday of each month at 3:30 p.m. in the Mennonite Memorial Home library. Tricia Herrmann, RN, and Janet Schroeder, LSW, facilitate the meetings, which focus on issues involved in caring for persons with dementia. For more information, contact Tricia Herrmann at 419-358-1015, ext. 221 or thermann@mholiving.org.

Mennonite Disaster Service - The Western Ohio Unit of MDS raised a total of \$31,000 over the last 3½ years for a trailer, tools, and equipment to respond timely and efficiently to local disasters. First Mennonite Church contributed \$2,400 to the project. Thank you! Pictures of the fully equipped trailer are on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Lawrence Matthews continues to serve as MDS' church contact and as the Secretary/Treasurer for the MDS Western Ohio Unit.

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.

CALENDAR

Today, August 12, 2018

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| 9:15 a.m. | SS, coffee time |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Brent Schroeder preaching, school cafeteria |
| Noon | Freudige/Sojourners potlucks |
| 4 p.m. | Immigration information meeting, AR |

August 13-18, 2018

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| Tuesday (8-14) | Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. (prayer room upstairs) Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Church College Relations, 4 p.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor |
| Thursday (8-16) | MPS, 8 a.m., parlor Council, 7 p.m., parlor |

Next Sunday, August 19, 2018

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| 9:15 a.m. | SS, Coffee time |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Shannon Thiebeau preaching Congregational meeting |

Reminders:

- Check the new hanging literature racks in the fellowship hall for copies of the Central District Conference July Reporter, which covers the annual meeting.
- You may still request a free copy of "We Make the Road by Walking." Sign up in the cafeteria or fellowship hall, or request one from the church office.

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 cared for while you worship, our nursery is downstairs in the church. Worship activity bags for children are available.

TODAY: Church and community members interested in responding to recent anti-immigrant raids and policies in Ohio and around the country are invited to gather today at 4 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Take this opportunity to ask questions, get more information, plan concrete action in support of immigrants, and gather around the peace pole to pray with and for those who have come to this country as immigrants.

NEXT SUNDAY: Plan to attend the annual August Congregational Meeting. Look for details regarding time and location in your email and on the website this week.

The annual church picnic will be held at noon Sunday, August 26, at the Bluffton Village Park. Please bring a hot and a cold dish to share, as well as table service for your family. Water will be provided.

~ Nurture Commission

Music ensemble rehearsals to begin: Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship and encourage others to join. We welcome new additions to the ensembles and enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (**adults of all ages**) begins on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m., Mark Suderman, director, sanctuary
- Adult (**adults of all ages**) and Youth (**Grades 7-12**) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, Ray Raeburn, director, Assembly Room
- Cherub Choir (**3 yr. old-1st grade**) begins on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children's choir room
- Jubilate (**2nd-5th grade**) begins on Wednesday, Sept., 5 at 6:30 p.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children's choir room
- Youth Choir (**7th grade and up**) will meet on Sunday, Sept., 16 at 8:30 a.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children's choir room
 - Parents of young children new to choir are welcome to stay as needed.

Sanctuary renovation schedule:

- Pew repairs, construction of steps and railings complete
- Ongoing: Pew upholstery cleaning
- August 6-19: Hardwood flooring to be installed, sanding and clear coating of wood floor under and in balcony (work began August 7)
- August 20-25 or 31: Carpet installed and new rubber stairs by Church St. door

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 8. Governance Task Force invites you to save the morning of September 8 for a Governance Workshop at the retreat for all commission members. *Please note that all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend!* This is an opportunity for emerging and established leaders, the idle curious, and persnickety people to gather for education, thoughtful conversation, creative organizing/planning, and laughter as we discern a new path together. Marathana Prothro will facilitate our conversation and food will be provided. Childcare will be available as needed. More information will be shared at the August 19 congregational meeting.

Copies of the resource we have used, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* (Dan Hotchkiss) are available in the church office. All are encouraged to read it. It is a bit "dense" at times but Hotchkiss does a great job of helping us think about the necessary role of governance that supports and sustains our primary tasks of mission and ministry. The September 8 retreat will use this work to help us establish a common vocabulary for our ongoing conversations. Come to the retreat even if you didn't read the book. No tests or quizzes will be given!

MCC kit collection underway: MCC school kit collection has begun. Please note that kit requirements have changed this year:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional) 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes) (The sharpeners are most likely to be found in the office section of stores)

We always need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Heavier fabric is ideal for school kits. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of Fellowship Hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. **Relief kits:** MCC also notes an extreme need for relief kits. Kit lists are posted on the bulletin board in the kit collection area or you may write a check to FMC listing "relief kits" on the memo line.

~ Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

Save the date! Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald is slated for September 14-16, 2018. The theme is **Hearing Your Voice, Finding Ours**. Women ages 18-25 FREE!