

Bridges among us: Conversation about the Doctrine of Discovery

August 13, 2017

10:30 a.m.

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship Deb Niswander, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Kevin Cluts, worship leader

Prelude “They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” arr. Mark Hayes

Call to worship

Opening Hymns Mark Suderman

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 105:1-6

L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

C: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

L: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

C: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

All: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered.

-- PRAISING --

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “God's Family” (vs. 1) See insert

Conversation Louise Matthews

Hymn “God's Family” (vs. 3) See insert

Special Music

Anna Biesecker-Mast, Ana Neufeld Weaver, Grace Paquin, and Sophia Gott

Pastoral Prayer

George O'Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Deuteronomy 16:12-13

Sermon “Inside Out” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** “O God of mystery and might” HWB 130

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Holy is the Lord” F. Schubert/Leatherman

***Hymn of Dedication** “We give thee but thine own” (vs. 1) HWB 384

***Prayer of Dedication**

--- SENDING ---

***Hymn** “The peace of the earth be with you” STJ 77

***Benediction**

***Postlude** “When Peace Like a River” arr. Michael Burkhardt

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

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey

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

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: Cheryl Slotter, Margie Closson

HOST: Lori Nester

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Elaine Suderman, Kathy Traucht

Worship – John and Julie Mackey, Anna Biesecker-Mast

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Shelby Cluts, Lori Nester

Worship – Kevin Cluts, Rachel Diller, Grace Paquin

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Alison King/Banner

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-150, MC-5
Spending plan giving Aug. 6, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$6,242.63
Special fund giving Aug. 6, 2017: <i>Grades 6-8-\$1.31; Sojourners-\$15; Community-\$10; Deacons Bene-\$54; Habitat-\$20; College scholar-\$90; J. Weaver VS-\$25 SHYF-\$600</i>	\$815.31
Total giving Aug. 6, 2017	\$7,057.94
Total spending plan receipts as of June 30	\$195,046.87
Spending plan expenses as of June 30	\$206,209.62
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

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
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.

Bridges Among Us



Conversation
about the Doctrine
of Discovery

School Kits: “Back to School” sales start soon. That means the beginning of MCC School Kit collection at FMC. During the sales, kit contents can be purchased for about \$5 or less. Let’s stretch ourselves in filling a large number of kits this year!

Please limit your generosity to the following items for each kit:

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 ½ x 10 ½ in. and 70 sheets)
- 8 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30cm and 12 in.)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser

We also 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. -- Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

The Lima ReStore is in need of volunteers, according to Bill Croft. The current federal administration eliminated a program that gave troubled young people an opportunity for employment at non-profits. The ReStore had the equivalent of nearly 10 full-time workers through that program but those persons are now gone. Therefore, they need volunteers immediately. Saturdays and Mondays are the best days for volunteers to clean and categorize incoming donations and move them to the floor to be sold. See Bill Croft if you are interested.

From CDC: Pray for and get acquainted with Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship. Visit their website at <http://mennonit.es/chmf/> or their Facebook feed at <https://www.facebook.com/ChapelHillMennonite/>. If you want to talk to someone about Chapel Hill, please call 919-357-5496. Or, you may contact Chapel Hill by email at chmennonite@gmail.com. The mailing address is Chapel Hill Mennonite Fellowship, PO Box 2145, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2145.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy anniversary to Jo and Stan Clemens, 55th, Aug. 19.

Happy birthday to Bob Flick, 89th, Aug. 14; Dorothy Hoffman, 96th, Aug. 19; Neil Kehler, 85th, Aug. 19.

Joan Dailey had successful carotid artery surgery last week at St. Rita’s Memorial Hospital.

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, AUGUST 13, 2017

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Freudige/Sojourners potlucks
5 p.m.	Charles Buller, Leonard and Antoinette Kiswangi, Congo presentation, FH

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (8-15)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (8-16)	Neal and Janie Blough, 7 p.m., FH
Thursday (8-17)	Council, 7 p.m., AR

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, George O’Reilly preaching, communion Congregational meeting, sanctuary
Noon	SHYF fundraiser meal, FH

Upcoming August meetings

- VSer reporting: Sunday school: Aug 20th – Cassidy Bush
- The August congregational meeting will be held Sunday, Aug. 20 following worship.
- The commission reorganization will be held from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26 at the Bluffton Village Park, County Line Rd.
- FMC’s church picnic will be held at noon Sunday, Aug. 27 at the Bluffton Village Park, County Line Road.

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

We also welcome Deb Niswander to First Mennonite, as she leads us from the keyboards today. In September, Deb will begin playing for the Chancel Choir. We appreciate the gifts she will bring to the congregation and our worship.

Artwork and resources displayed on the back communion table are on loan from The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University to reflect the various conversation topics during the summer worship series.

You are invited to join Charles Buller, a non-resident missionary with Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, and Leonard and Antoinette Kiswangi to learn the latest on the crisis in the Congo tonight at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Janie and Neal Blough, our mission partners with Mennonite Mission Network in Paris, France, will report on their work at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16 in the fellowship hall.

Next Sunday during worship we will receive communion together, an act of faith and love. The service we anticipate is a communion of the reality that in Christ we are made one body, and together we make him present in the world. In preparation we are invited to examine our own hearts, to reconsider and renew our commitment to Jesus, the supper's host; and to one another, our sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus. The prayer below is offered as a way for us to share in common, our preparation this week. Another aspect of communion often overlooked is the giving of alms. This is done at FMC by giving to the Deacons Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, take from us all obstacles that take room from you in our hearts. Forgive our sins, heal our diseases. Restore to us the joy of our salvation. Give those we have sinned against, grace to forgive us and give us grace to forgive those who have sinned against us. Make this holy Supper a foretaste of eternal life with you. Amen.*
-- John D. Rempel, New York City (From Words for Worship; used by permission of Herald Press.)

SHYF will serve a meal in conjunction with the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, August 20. The menu will include a Mexican haystack bar. Cost is by donation.

With his daughter and granddaughters visiting from Northern Ireland, Pastor George will be taking some vacation days Aug. 14- 27. He will be available by appointment.

New photo directory: Photos for the First Mennonite photo directory will be taken Sept 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30. This new smaller photo book will help us better know each other so your photo is very important. Photos will be taken in the fellowship hall. More information will be available soon. **Also, we need photo directory helpers!** We need several volunteers to be hosts, some to make brief reminder calls, etc. Contact Pastor George if you're interested in helping.

E-Giving Update: Currently, we have 27 individuals/couples making automatic e-donations to First Mennonite Church. The process has been working smoothly, with good reporting.
-- Stewardship Commission

Music ensemble rehearsals to begin: note the dates, times, locations and ages for the church's music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship for our congregation and encourage others to join. We would gladly welcome new additions to the ensembles and will greatly enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 7 p.m. (Mark Suderman, director) – sanctuary
- Adult (adults of all ages) and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively (Ray Raeburn, director) – assembly room
- Cherub Choir (3yr. olds-1st graders) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- Jubilate (2nd-5th graders) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. - (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- Youth Choir (7th grade and up) will meet on Sunday, September 10 at 8:30 a.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
 - Parents with new choir members are welcome to stay as needed.

Wendy Chappell-Dick is looking for singers of all ages who would like to be part of a group presenting the direct words and hymns of the martyrs through contemporary songs. This is for a concert October 15, to be held in association with the Mirror of the Martyrs exhibit at Bluffton University. Please contact wendy@mennofolk.org to learn more.