

15th Sunday after Pentecost
August 21, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Mark Weidner, worship leader

Prelude “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” arr. Joel Raney

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

Opening Hymns John and Melinda Estell, song leaders

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 71:1-6

L: In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

C: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

L: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

C: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.

L: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

All: Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother’s womb. My praise is continually of you.

Special Music “Come Thou Fount” Immordino
Seth Andreas, piano, and Theo and Isaac Andreas, violin

Mentor Recognition Carol Welty, mentor coordinator
Carmen Ordóñez Moser and Ana Neufeld Weaver

Time with Children

Hymn “Jesus calls us here to meet him” (vs. 1) STJ 3
Conversation Rhonda Winstead

Hymn “Jesus calls us here to meet him” (vs. 2) STJ 3

Pastoral Prayer George O’Reilly

Presenting our Tithes and Offering

Offertory “Sonata #6” Handel
(Isaac Andreas, violin; Lucia Unrau, piano)

***Prayer of Dedication**

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Acts 9:32-43

Sermon “People of God, People of Change” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** “O God, in restless living” HWB 557

-- COMMUNION --

The Invitation

As God’s people in this place, we practice open communion at First Mennonite Church. We invite all believers in Christ in fellowship with him and God’s people to participate freely in the Lord’s Table.

Blessing for the Bread HWB 785

Sharing the Bread “Eat this bread” (sing three times) HWB 471

Blessing for the Cup HWB 785

Sharing the Cup “I am the Bread of life” HWB 472

Prayer of Thanksgiving

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “Blest are they” STJ 94

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey

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: Fran Core, Vicky Laird

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – SS – No nursery

Worship – Amy Blount, Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Seth Andreas

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – No nursery

Worship – Andrea and Tyson Goings, Christopher Harnish

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

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 (Community Worship Service)	218
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	5
Spending plan giving August 14, 2016	\$6,962.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering August 14 totaled \$10,263. Money was received for these special funds: capital campaign - \$1,185, Syrian student - \$1,500, college scholarships - \$500, kitchen services - \$6, deacons' benevolent - \$20, school kits - \$20, Habitat - \$70.	

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.



The Adriel benefit golf scramble will be in Defiance this year at Eagle Rock Golf Club on Monday, September 12 with a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. The deadline for entry is Sept. 5. More details are available at www.adriel.org.

Registration is now open for the Women Doing Theology Conference, "I've got the power: Naming and reclaiming power as a force for good, which will take place" November 4-6 at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, Virginia. Come to listen to the stories of women from all across the country and come to share your own. Come to build relationships and participate in conversations and presentations on power: recognizing, honoring, sharing, celebrating and transforming the way we use it. Sponsor: Women in Leadership Project of Mennonite Church USA. Cost: \$400 by August 31, which includes a private room and all meals and snacks. Partial scholarships for women of color are available; apply by September 23. See the conference webpage for information: <http://mennoniteusa.org/wlp-conference>.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

As people of FMC identify concerns for prayer or expressions of gratitude for kindnesses, we list those here. Please feel free to let us know what we could share for you.

—FMC staff

Happy birthday to: Jim Oberly, 95, August 27.

Happy anniversary to: LaVonne and Paul Klassen, 69, August 23, and Elfrieda and Dick Ramseyer, 58, August 30.

Please keep John and Carolyn Rich and their family in your thoughts and prayers. John's only sibling, Barbara Murbach, died on August 14 in Petoskey, MI.

We offer our condolences to Shannon Thiebeau and her family. Shannon's great-aunt, Thursa (Peaches) Sharp, Saint Marys, Ohio, died August 11 at Otterbein Saint Marys Retirement Community. A funeral service was held August 16 in Saint Marys.

Eileen Kehler has moved to Mennonite Memorial Home, Room 119.

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 21 2016

9:15 a.m.	Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH Congregational Meeting, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching Communion
Noon	Community class potluck

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (8-23)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Office closed for staff retreat
Friday (8-26)	Menno-Life deadline

NEXT WEEK

8:30-9:30	SHYF pancake breakfast, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH Commission Retreat, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Annual picnic, Bluffton Village Park

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

Today we will observe communion in our worship service. Preparing for communion is to take time to examine one's life and relationships with God and the body of Christ (church.) It is an opportunity to mend relationships with others. Unity within the body of Christ is one of the themes of communion. Another aspect 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 within the church and in the community.

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, August 23, for the annual staff retreat.

The annual commission retreat will be held during Sunday school Sunday, August 28.

Pancake Breakfast: To raise funds for the 2017 Orlando Youth Convention, the SHYF will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, August 28 in the fellowship hall from 8:30-9:30. Cost is by donation. What a better way to have a commission retreat than to enjoy breakfast during the meeting?

The annual church picnic will be held at noon Sunday, August 28, at the Bluffton Village Park, County Line Road. Please bring a hot and a cold dish to share, as well as table service for your family. Beverages will be provided.

Music ensemble rehearsals begin soon! 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 will greatly enjoy the return of former members.***

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 7-8 p.m., sanctuary (Mark Suderman, director)
- Adult and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, assembly room (Ray Raeburn, director)
- Cherub Choir (ages 3-grade 1) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6-6:30 p.m., children's choir room. (Laura Hartzler, director) *Parents of 3-year-olds are encouraged to come to the first few rehearsals.*

- Jubilate (Grades 2 - 5) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 7 from 6:45-7:30 p.m., children's choir room (Laura Hartzler, director)
- Youth choir (6th grade and up) will begin on Sunday, Sept. 11 from 8:30-9:15 a.m., children's choir room (Laura Hartzler, director)

Save the date: Sunday, September 18, 2016. Mark your calendar for the annual carry-in meal following the morning service to welcome college students. **Watch for more details...**

Our group subscription plan for *The Mennonite* is up for renewal. Those who subscribe to *The Mennonite* through the church subscription plan will find renewal information in their mailboxes. Please complete the attached renewal form and return with your payment of \$37 to the church office by Sunday, Sept. 18. **If we do not receive your form and payment by the deadline, we will assume you do not plan to renew.**

We have a good supply of plastic containers for leftovers in the kitchen and do not need additional ones at this time. As our supply decreases, we will request your donations.

Brazo en Brazo -- Observation #3: The writer of Hebrews counsels the early church, "...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." A visit to the Brazo en Brazo Bible class 3-4 p.m. worship service Sunday afternoon could stimulate interest in exploring possibilities for personal involvement, perhaps once a month at Lima Mennonite Church. There is a place and need for teachers, musicians, persons to be friends, etc. Multicultural orientation, ministry, worship, and fellowship bring renewed enthusiasm for the work of the church. The learning curve is challenging. Shared vision, creative ministry, and commitment are needed. Welcome to Fiesta Familiar on Sunday, Sept. 18.

-- Paul and Ann Conrad

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Register now for Camp Friedenswald's Women's Retreat scheduled for September 16-18. Cost: \$150; 25 and under, free. Presenter: Ohio Region Planning Committee. Join us for a weekend of conversations about faith and food! The speakers, Katie Kuntz-Wineland (a seminarian and student minister) and Beth Kuntz-Wineland (a certified plant-based chef) will lead participants in reflection about holistic wellness as a spiritual practice. Inspired by three cookbooks (*More with Less*, *Simply in Season*, and *Extending the Table*), discussion will focus on living simply, embracing the seasons, and practicing hospitality.