

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 28, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Chimes call us to worship** Lucia Unrau, organist

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Jan Wiebe, worship leader

**Prelude** “Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven” arr. Don Hustad

**Call to Worship**

**\*Invocation**

— PRAISING —

**Opening Hymns** Jeff and Marlyce Gundy, song leaders

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 81:1, 10-16

L: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

**C: I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.**

L: “But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.

**C: So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.**

L: O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!

**C: Then I would quickly subdue their enemies, and turn my hand against their foes.**

L: Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever.

**All: I would feed you with the finest of the wheat and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”**

**Special Music** “God Is in the Roses” Roseanne Cash  
*Jeff and Marlyce Gundy*

**Scripture** Luke 14:1, 7-14 Jan Wiebe

**Time with Children**  
**Hymn** “Jesus calls us here to meet him” (vs. 1) STJ 3

**Conversation** Melissa Friesen

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

**Pastoral Prayer** George O’Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

**Scripture** Luke 14:15-24 Paul Dyck

**Sermon** “R.S.V.P.” Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn** “My soul is filled with joy” STJ 13

— RESPONDING —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Open the Eyes of my Heart” arr. Ken Medema

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “Take my life” (verses 4& 6) HWB 389

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn** “Let there be light, Lord God” HWB 371

**\*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](http://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

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**GREETERS:** Fran Core, Vicky Laird

**HOST:** Mary Amstutz

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – No nursery

*Worship* – Andrea and Tyson Goings, Douglas Nester

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** SS – Gerald Mast, Judy Diller, Mary Pannabecker

*Worship* –

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Art Shelly

**CHANCEL:** Anita Lehman

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmcbluffton.org](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday (Community Worship Service) 213

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday 3

Spending plan giving August 21, 2016 \$5,457.25

2016 Proposed spending plan \$418,276.00

The offering August 21 totaled \$8,026.39. Money was received for these special funds: K-5<sup>th</sup> - \$2.93, Sojourners - \$15, capital campaign - \$100, Syrian student - \$100, MDS – 1,000, kitchen services - \$6.21, deacons' benevolent - \$775, Steve Yoder memorial - \$350, Habitat - \$120, MVS (Lucas Harnish) - \$100.

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)

Pastoral Associate – George O'Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – [fmc.george@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.george@bluffton.edu)

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto: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.*



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Register now for Camp Friedenswald's Women's Retreat** scheduled for September 16-18. Cost: \$150; 25 and under, free. The speakers, Katie Kuntz-Wineland (a seminarian and student minister) and Beth Kuntz-Wineland (a certified plant-based chef) will lead discussion 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. **\*Those interested in carpooling to the retreat should indicate their interest on the sign-up sheet located on the MW pillar in the fellowship hall.**

**The Bluffton Area Food Pantry's** supplies are running a bit low, according to Ed Yeager of the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. Items may be delivered to St. John's United Church of Christ. The next distribution day is Saturday, Sept. 17. Items needed now include tuna, baked beans, hamburger and tuna helper, peanut butter, cereals, canned fruits, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti products (pasta and sauce), canned pasta and sauce, chunky soups, tissues, paper towels and lotions.

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

*As people of FMC identify concerns for prayer or expressions of gratitude for kindnesses, we list those here. Please let us know what we may share for you.* —FMC staff

**Happy birthday to:** Ruth Naylor, 82, Sept. 3.

**Geneva Shetler was hospitalized** at Blanchard Valley Hospital and returned home August 25.

**Adan Ortiz was hospitalized** at Blanchard Valley Hospital and has returned home.

**My deepest thanks** to members of the First Mennonite family for visits, cards, prayers and thoughts during my recent illness. I am home and plan to be in church soon.

-- Ernie Porzelius

**Some of you will remember** Mike, Char, Matt, Amy and Abby Smith, FMC members who now live in New Mexico. Mike will be 70 on September 9, so Char is planning a card shower for him. Please send cards to Mike at 316 S. James St., Carlsbad, NM 88220.

## 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 28 2016

8:30-9:30 a.m.	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

## THIS WEEK

Tuesday (8-30)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (8-31)	College/church relations, 3-4:30 p.m., parlor
Friday (9-2)	Ndlovu/Schumacher wedding rehearsal, 2-8 p.m., FH/kitchen
Saturday (9-3)	Ndlovu/Schumacher

## NEXT WEEK

9:15 a.m.	Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O'Reilly 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

**The annual church picnic** will be held at noon today 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.

**Several ushering positions** are still open this fall. We especially need ushers for Team A (who serve on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks of odd months--September, November, January,...). If you have interest in serving FMC worship in this way, please contact Jon Diller, Dave Moser or Dick Ramseyer for more information.

**In 1981, the current carpet** was installed in our sanctuary. After 35 years of wonderful use, it has become apparent that we need to install new flooring. The Trustees asked the church to form a sanctuary flooring committee. The flooring committee first met August 19. Members are Mary Amstutz, Rachel Diller, Mike Edmiston, Ray Raeburn, Wanda Stopher and Mark Suderman. The committee will do substantial legwork, gathering information surrounding the needs of enhancing worship in our space. At this point the committee requests two things: any memories of the church sanctuary prior to the carpet installation in 1981 and any other thoughts regarding this process. The committee will eventually give a recommendation to the Trustees, who will then submit a formal proposal to the Church Council. Following that process, there will be opportunity for more congregational involvement. We are grateful for any information or ideas that you wish to share. Please feel free to contact any of the committee members.

**How do you experience God's presence** during transitions in your life? Faith Travels is the resource devotional book for the 2016-17 meetings of Mennonite Women. We invite women of all ages to reserve time in their busy lives to come together on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. We will fellowship together and learn about God's faithfulness in life's transitions. This year's devotional book, Faith Travels: Trusting God in Life's Transitions, by Marlene Kropf, will be available for purchase before and at our first meeting in September for \$10. If you would like your own copy, there is an order sheet along with a book to view in the Fellowship Hall. You may also reserve a copy by contacting Joyce Hostetler at 419-369-4488 or at [joyhost@wcoil.com](mailto:joyhost@wcoil.com).

-- Mary Ina Hooley

**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 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.**

**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 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)

**For those wanting to follow Ashton Cluts** as she serves with SALT, the address for her blog is: [Ashtonsalt16-17.blogspot.com](http://Ashtonsalt16-17.blogspot.com).

**Cookies needed! Brazo en Brazo will hold its annual Fiesta Familiar** Sunday, Sept. 18 from 4:30-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church, 1318 N. Main St. Food will be provided, but donations are accepted. **First Mennonite Church has been asked to provide cookies for the event. Organizers expect approximately 200 persons to attend, so FMC needs to provide at least 25 dozen cookies.** Those willing to provide cookies should sign up on the cookie sign-up sheet on the table next to the office door. Cookies should be placed in the FMC kitchen by 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 18. Please label them "For Fiesta Familia." Direct all questions to Judy Kingsley.