

Bridges among us: Conversation about immigration

August 6, 2017

10:30 a.m.

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship Deb Niswander, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Chris Moser, worship leader

Prelude “Christians, We Have Met to Worship” HOLY MANNA/Mark Hayes
Deb Niswander

Call to worship

***Opening Hymns** George Lehman

Responsive Reading Psalm 105:1-11

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 Wanda Stopher

Hymn “God's Family” (vs. 2) See insert

Pastoral Prayer

George O'Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture John 1:1-5; 3:16-17

Sermon “Building Bridges: In the Midst of Our God Who Loves So Much!”
Sister Ellen Lamberjack

***Hymn** “God of the Bible” STJ 27

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” arr. Martha Sherrill Kelsey

***Hymn of Dedication** “We give thee but thine own”
(vs. 1 and 2) HWB 384

***Prayer of Dedication**

--- SENDING ---

***Hymn** “I bind my heart this tide” HWB 411

***Benediction**

***Postlude** “Adagio” Arcangelo Corelli

**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 – Marilyn Bishop, Amy Freeman

Worship – Annette Heslep, Jason Diller, Jacob Biesecker-Mast

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Elaine Suderman, Kathy Traucht

Worship – John Mackey, Julie Mackey, Anna Biesecker-Mast

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	178
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	10
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	NA
Spending plan giving July 30, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$3,873.00
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

The offering July 30 totaled \$ 3,951.00. Money was received for these special funds: Deacons Benevolent - \$70, Kitchen service - \$8.

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 immigration

Kitchen Cleaning: Now is your opportunity to get some of FMC history! During our cleaning of the basement kitchen we discovered a number of items no longer used at FMC. These items are on display on the counter tops in the basement kitchen. Help yourself to whatever suits you. Donations are optional. Anything that is not taken will be donated to the Et Cetera Shop.
-- The Kitchen Trio

Camp Friedenswald is hiring a facilities assistant with skills in building maintenance, equipment operation, and land management. Benefits include free housing, utilities, meals, and an amazing work environment! For more information, contact the facilities director at jonathan@friedenswald.org.

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry's supplies are running low. Items listed below may be delivered to St. John's United Church of Christ.

- Paper towels, toilet paper, tissue paper, napkins, lotions, creams, hair care products, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, bath soaps, soft soaps
- Breakfast cereals, instant oatmeals
- Macaroni and cheese, Spaghettios, spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce
- Chunky soups – Progresso, Campbells
- Canned peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail
- Canned meats, including tuna, chicken, beef, and pork
- Hamburger and tuna helper
- Crackers
- Cookies
- Baked Beans
- Peanut butter
- Rice, noodles
- Cake mixes
- Jello, Jello pudding
- Tortillas and salsa

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy anniversary to Treva and Bob Stratton, 61st, Aug. 9; Dottie and Gene Long, 56th, Aug. 13.

Happy birthday to Dorothy Houts, 95th, Aug. 12; Richard Boehr, 86th, Aug. 12; Don Pannabecker, 81st, Aug. 13.

Jan Emmert continues his recovery at home and will begin therapy soon. He and Diana appreciate your cards and visits.

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 6, 2017

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sister Ellen Lamberjack preaching
Noon Connections potluck

THIS WEEK

Monday (8-7) Commission/committee annual reports due to church office, 9 a.m.
Tuesday (8-8) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Christian Education, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Trustees, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (8-9) Stewardship, 7 p.m., 301
Thursday (8-10) Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
5 p.m. Charles Buller, Leonard and Antoinette Kiswangi, speaking on Congo, 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

Today we welcome Sister Ellen Lamberjack who will lead our conversation about immigration. In 2006 Sister Ellen opened Project Hope-Proyecto Esperanza to assist immigrant working families to obtain legal immigration documents and provide them with information about the rights and responsibilities of persons living within the United States. Project Hope is an affiliate of Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., is approved by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals. Sister Ellen is a BIA Accredited Representative.

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.

Add these August meetings to your calendar!

- The August congregational meeting will be held Sunday, Aug. 20 **following worship – NOT during Sunday school.**
- 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.

VSer reporting: Sunday school hour Aug 13th – Ashton Cluts; Aug 20th – Cassidy Bush. Come hear their stories!

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 crises in the Congo on Sunday, August 13, at 5 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The Kiswangis lead Africa Enterprise RDC which works at conflict resolution, leadership development, and evangelization across Africa.

Janie and Neil 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. The Bloughs teach in a variety of settings and provide leadership as serve as worship leaders and preachers at the Mennonite congregation in Châtenay-Malabry, as well as for other French-Mennonite congregations.

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

We are updating the phone/address directory. If you have updates to information included in the 2016 directory, please send them to fmc@bluffton.edu or submit in person to the church office. If you are not currently listed in the directory and would like to be added, please send your name, address, phone numbers and e-mail address to the church office. If you are a college student or the parent of a college student who has contact information to add or to change, please provide that information.

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.

We have completed 27 comforters that will be taken to The Depot in Goshen for Mennonite Central Committee's comforter project. Thank you to all who helped cut, sew, knot, and hem these comforters. You are invited to cut or sew fabrics in preparation for this coming year's program. Kits are on a table in the quilt room and fabrics are in a large bin on a shelf. Watch church bulletins for information about cutting, sewing, and knotting days. -- Comforter Committee