

13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 7, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Laura Hartzler, organist/pianist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Landon Cluts, worship leader

Prelude “Étude” Suzuki
Benjamin – violin and Laura Hartzler - piano

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

Opening Hymns Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, song leader

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23

L: The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks. He calls out to the earth from the sunrise in the east to the sunset in the west.

C: From Zion, perfect and beautiful, God’s glory shines out.

L: Our God comes, and he won’t be silent. A burning fire goes ahead of him. A terrible storm is all around him.

C: He calls out to heaven and earth to be his witnesses. Then he judges his people.

L: He says, “Gather this holy people around me. They made a covenant with me by offering a sacrifice.”

C: The heavens announce that what God decides is right. That’s because he is a God of justice.

L: God says, “Listen, my people, and I will speak. I will be a witness against you, Israel. I am God, your God.

C: I don’t bring charges against you because of your sacrifices. I don’t bring charges because of the burnt offerings you always bring me.

L: You who forget God, think about this. If you don’t, I will tear you to pieces. No one will be able to save you.

All: People who sacrifice thank offerings to me honor me. To those who are without blame I will show my power to save.”

Special Music “New earth, heavens new” Harris J. Loewen
Christopher (saxophone), Julian (piano) and Lucas Harnish (guitar)

Time with Children

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

Conversation Elizabeth Kelly

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

Blessing Doug and Paula Luginbill

Pastoral Prayer George O’Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Acts 2:22-32 Fran Core

Sermon “Putting First Things First” Lynn Miller

***Hymn** “Christ is the world’s true light” HWB 334

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Minuet #3” J.S. Bach
Ellie - violin and Laura Hartzler - piano

***Hymn of Dedication** “Take my life” (verses 1 & 4)” HWB 389

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Commissioning of VSers** HWB 796

***Hymn** “All hail the power of Jesus’ name” HWB 106

***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: Susie Gratz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – No nursery

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Seth Andreas

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – No nursery

Worship – Sabrina and Kurt Longworth, Anna Biesecker-Mast and Grace Paquin

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Bev Simon

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)

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday 8

Spending plan giving July 31, 2016 \$240.00

2016 Proposed spending plan \$418,276.00

The offering July 31 totaled \$2,672.38. Money was received for these special funds: SHYF - \$432.38, Syrian student project - \$2,000.

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.



Dear friends, you have been a true gift in my life. I wish you all God's blessings and peace. Thank you for being such a wonderful support and church family over the years. I have truly been blessed.
~ Love Joan Bauman and family!

I want to thank everyone for supporting and helping me achieve my goal of spending a year volunteering for MVS. I have felt a tremendous amount of spiritual, emotional, and financial support from this congregation throughout the years. Thank you!
~ Lucas Harnish

A huge "Thank You" to all those who helped with Vacation Bible School--teaching, assisting or providing cookies. This included Amy Blount, Shannon Thiebeau, Carrie Mast, Elizabeth Nisly, Mary Ina Hooley and Sunita Hooley, Grace Paquin, Judy Steiner, Kristen Niekamp, Karen McCullough, Rachel and Allison Diller and Bev Simon. An average of 110 children attended each evening, enjoying the Songs learned, Bible stories, Games, Crafts, Science projects and Snacks. Children from FMC that participated were Xavier and Kari Diller, Jorian Mast, Kaleigh Coffman, Kaden and Leah Niekamp, Bodey and Barrett Benroth, Ethan and Ryan Blount and Ethan Nickel, Ben and Ellie Hartzler. Each station reinforced the lessons of the evenings--God Knows Me, God Hears Me, God Strengthens Me, God Loves Me and God Sends Me. The offering project for Family Promise totaled \$600. Next year English Lutheran Church will host VBS. Thank you also, Pastors Wanda and George for your shared messages in the Community Worship Service, a meaningful service focused on the five VBS themes.

Happy birthday to Dorothy Houts - 94, August 12; Dick Boehr - 85, August 12; Bob Flick - 88, August 14.

Happy anniversary to Bob and Treva Stratton - 63, August 9; Gene and Dottie Long – 55, August 13; Darrell and Kay Huber – 50, August 13.

Ernie Porzelius, after a hospitalization in Toledo, is returning to Mennonite Memorial Home for some rehab and rest. Keep Ernie in your prayers.

We rejoice with Sam and Julie McCullough that their 2 year old daughter Charlotte was not seriously injured and is doing very well after a recent accident. Prayers of thanks and for continued healing are welcome.

We have persons who are experiencing some struggles with VISA issues. Please hold them up in prayer.

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 7, 2016

9:15 a.m. Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH
Option 1: VS presentations, FH
Option 2: Bible study, AR
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Lynn Miller preaching

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (8-9) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary
No staff meeting
Wednesday (8-10) Stewardship, 8 p.m., 301
Thursday (8-11) MPS, parlor, 6:30 p.m.
Nurture, library, 7 p.m.

NEXT WEEK

9:15 a.m. Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH
Option 1: Neufeld-Weaver presentation, FH
Option 2: Bible study, AR
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

Today we will commission those from our congregation who are beginning voluntary service assignments. These include Cassidy Bush, Service Adventure, Anchorage Alaska; Ashton Cluts, SALT, South Africa; Hannah Chappell-Dick, DOOR, Atlanta, Georgia; Lucas Harnish, MVS, Tucson AZ; Halle Steingass, MVS, Seattle, Washington.

Today we also offer our blessings and prayers for Doug and Paula Luginbill as Doug assumes his new role as Conference Minister of Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA.

Pastor Wanda will be on vacation leaving today after worship and returning to the office Tuesday, August 16. For pastoral care please contact Pastor George.

Upcoming events: The annual congregational meeting will be held during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, August 21. The annual commission meeting will be held during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, August 28, and the church picnic will be held at noon Sunday, August 28, at the Bluffton Village Park, County Line Road.

Change in address: Joan Bauman has moved to Indianapolis, where her daughter, Maureen, lives. Joan's new address is MorningSide of College Park, 8810 Colby Blvd, Apt. 330, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Her phone number is 317-876-2801.

Change in address: Dorothy Houts is currently staying in Nevada with her son. Her address is 238 Edith Lane, Dayton, Nevada 89403. Her phone number is 775-241-2213.

All JHYF and SHYF parents: If you have a child currently in or who will be in one of the youth groups for the 2016-2017 school year, check your mailboxes for a parent contact sheet. We would like to know the best way to contact you for youth group activities, so please fill out this sheet and return to Shannon Thiebeau.

Several ushering positions are opening and needing to be filled this fall. If you have interest in serving FMC worship in this way, please contact Dave Moser or Dick Ramseier for more information.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Disaster Service: Lynn Miller served as project director in Detroit July 24 - August 5. Louise and Lawrence Matthews also volunteered July 24-29. Volunteers from First and Grace Mennonite churches are needed in Detroit the week of November 13-18. If you are interested in volunteering to help Detroit residents impacted by the August 2014 flood, contact Lawrence Matthews, 419-303-8056.

Mennonite Mission Network's Journey International participants are processing the anti-racism component of their orientation, recently held at Community Mennonite Church in Markham, Ill. Pray for them as they integrate this cross-cultural learning and as they prepare to travel to assignment locations in Ecuador and Indonesia. – MMN

Brazo en Brazo: Observation #1: Most or all of the supporting congregations of Brazo en Brazo have High School and/or college students who are taking Spanish classes. That's wonderful. They are getting the basics and the grammar. Their greatest hurdles are to understand native speakers and to converse in Spanish. The Sunday Bible class and worship service in Spanish at Lima Mennonite Church provide a unparalleled opportunity for listening to and practicing Spanish and building a vision for sharing God's love in a global orientation. More next week.
~ Paul and Ann Conrad

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

Joan Diller and Ann Shumaker request congregational prayers for strength and peace for their brother, James Reusser. Jim was diagnosed June 1 with esophageal cancer and is now on hospice. As a Bluffton College student in the '50's, Jim regularly attended FMC. It was here he was spiritually nurtured and encouraged by the congregation and Pastor J.N. Smucker. Following his graduation from AMBS, in 1950 his ordination service was held at FMC. He has served Mennonite congregations in Kidron, OH and Kitchener, ONT. In Jim's words, "FMC has always felt like my home church."