

**First Mennonite Church
February 4, 2018**

Chimes call us to worship	Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
Welcome	Kevin Cluts
Introductions	
Prelude	Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	“Sing praise to God who reigns” HWB 59
*Responsive Reading	Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c
L: Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.	
C: The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.	
L: He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.	
C: He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.	
All: Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.	
Special Music	“Goliath” J. Paul Williams/Joseph M. Martin <i>Jubilate</i>

Conversation with Friends	
Hymn	“Let the children come to me” (<i>refrain, vs.1, refrain</i>) STS 47
Conversation	Justin Berg
Hymn	“Let the children come to me” (<i>refrain, vs.3, refrain</i>) STS 47
Pastoral Prayer	Theda Good
Scripture	Mark 1:29-39 Todd Rainey
Sermon	“Urgent!” Wanda Stopher
*Hymn of Response	“Healer of our every ill” HWB 377
Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings	
Offertory	Jackie Wyse Rhodes
*Hymn of Dedication	“Praise God from who” (vs. A) HWB 119
*Prayer of Dedication	
*Sending Hymn	“I sought the Lord” HWB 506
Benediction	
Postlude	
<i>*Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)</i> <i>HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story</i> <i>Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.</i>	

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

Pastor – Theda – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Custodian's schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

GREETER: Anna Biesecker-Mast

HOST: Grace Paquin

NURSERY TODAY: SS – Judy Diller, Elaine Suderman

Worship – Mary Ina Hooley, Melinda, Patrick and Rebecca Estell

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Pat Sheidler, Kathy Traucht

Worship – Melissa Friesen, Kevin Cluts, Anna Biesecker-Mast

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

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	FMC-225, MC-9
Spending plan giving Jan. 28, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$3,021.20
Special fund giving Jan. 28, 2018 (includes e-giving): Sojourners-\$16; Deacons-\$547.79	<u>\$2,580.30</u>
<i>Faith and Life-\$6; CC flooring-\$1,150.51, SHYF-\$300, Postage-\$10; Int'l student fund-\$550</i>	
Total giving Jan. 28, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$5,601.50
Total spending plan receipts as of December 31, 2017	\$396,125.15
Spending plan expenses as of December 31, 2017	\$407,282.00
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

CHURCH STAFF

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

Pastor – Theda Good – 303-945-6721(cell) -- fmc.theda@bluffton.edu

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu

Director of Music – Mark Suderman – sudermanme@bluffton.edu

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.

Kimberly Schmidt will present a talk on her book, “Magpie’s Blanket,” at 4 p.m. today at FMC, followed by a book signing. The novel recounts the events of the massacres of Sand Creek (1864) and Washita (1868) and the healing ceremony and reconciliation after the townspeople's misguided attempt to re-create the battle of the Washita with descendants of US soldiers. Schmidt is professor of history at Eastern Mennonite University and director of the Washington, D.C. Community Scholars’ Center. She is the daughter of Charlotte and Melvin Schmidt, former pastor of FMC.

Lima Area Habitat for Humanity has two needs: 1) On Saturday, Feb. 17, the Habitat ReStore in Lima needs to move their entire showroom inventory to another location in order to refurbish their floor. On February 24, the inventory will be moved back. To make this move possible, approximately 50 individuals are needed each morning and each afternoon. 2) Volunteers are needed in the ReStore - product preparation, customer service, donation/product pick-up and more. *Contact Mark Suderman, Volunteer Coordinator (419)222-4937 or mark@habitatlima.org.*

Bluffton University students will report on their 2017 cross-cultural experiences during two Forums on Tuesday, Feb. 6, in Yoder Recital Hall. At 11 a.m., students who lived in Guatemala and studied at CASA, a program affiliated with the Guatemalan Mennonite Church, will present, and at 7 p.m., students who participated in the Washington Community Scholars’ Center in Washington, D.C., will report.

Bluffton University’s Musselman Library will hold Celebrate the Library Week, Feb. 5-9, “Celebrating Student Research and Creativity.” The week includes a variety of activities: Forum 11-11:40 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6, Dean Walters will present, “Identifying Novel Chemical Compounds to Inhibit the Development of Cancer”; health and wellness expo, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 7; and a research fair, 1-4:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8..

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

We offer our prayers and condolences to Jim and Karen Harder, Annalisa and John, on the death of Jim’s father, Milton Harder, at Bethesda Home in Goessel, Kansas. Milton was 93 years old and in Hospice care briefly. A memorial service will be held February 19 in Goessel.

We offer our prayers and condolences to Monica and Steve Harnish, Lucas, Julian and Christopher, on the death of Monica’s mother, Rose Yoder Hostetler, 87, who died in West Chester, PA, on January 29. A memorial service will be held March 24, in Scottdale, PA.

We offer our prayers and condolences to Victoria Woods-Yee on the tragic shooting death of her cousin, Dustin Woods, 33, of Massillon. A funeral service was held February 3 in Dalton, OH.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of these families during this time.

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, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (2-6) Morning Prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (2-7) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (2-8) Blood drive, 1-6 p.m., FH

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Doug Luginbill preaching

Weather-related cancellations: If it becomes necessary to cancel a function at FMC, cancellations will be posted on the church website, on the Bluffton Icon, Lima FOX-WLIO (Hometown Stations,) The Findlay Courier, WFIN, WKXA and 106.3FOX. Cancellations will also be noted on the church answering machine.

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

In your church mailbox you will find a written report of one of the items shared at the congregational meeting last week. This sheet outlines the steps that are being taken to form a Governance Task Force which will lead us as a congregation in reflecting on our current structure of governance, exploring where there is life and vitality and identifying challenges and concerns to be addressed. Questions may be directed to Pastor Wanda, Kendra Nickel (Moderator) or any member of Council.

We will have a potluck and time to welcome Theda Good as Pastor of Connections following worship on Sunday, Feb. 11. Please bring a food item to share, as well as your own dinnerware.
-- *Nurture Commission*

Thank you! The SHYF would like to thank all of you for your support during our soup meal fundraiser. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise \$820 for our service trip and convention costs. Thank you!

A Red Cross blood drive will be held Thursday, Feb. 8 from 1-6 p.m. If you can provide cookies, help with registration, make sandwiches, help serve food, or unload and load the truck with their equipment, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. **To schedule your blood donation appointment**, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to redcrossblood.org, sponsor code "fmenncbl."

Mennonite Women will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, in the fellowship hall. Carrie Mast will speak on "How to say Yes." Gloria Bucher will lead devotions from the chapter "Engage," in the devotional, "Live Your Call." Refreshments will be prepared and served by Anita Lehman and Linda Miller.

A co-teacher is needed until the summer Sunday school quarter for Judy Steiner's K-2 class. Please contact Judy Steiner (trsteiner@roadrunner.com) if you are willing to help teach the class a few Sundays a month or if you are willing to act as back up for Judy.

Thank you to those that helped with the knotting of comforters on January 30. Twelve women participated in knotting eight comforters. Snacks were provided by the project committee. We look forward to the next knotting event in April.

Copies of the current Constitution and By-Laws are available on the literature rack. You may also request to receive this document electronically from the church office.

Church College Relations and Bluffton University Campus Ministries are partnering to host a Hymn Sing & Pie Night on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 8:30 p.m. at FMC. Join us for an evening of fellowship with Bluffton University students and the FMC family. If you can provide pies for the Hymn Sing & Pie Night, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. If you plan to attend the event, please also sign up so we can be sure there is enough pie for everyone. Thank you for providing pies and for attending.

-- *CCR: Louise Matthews, Mona Reichenbach, Jacob Litwiller*

You can nurture your children's faith at home this Lent and Easter with family worship. Find a free, downloadable guide at www.anabaptistfaithformation.org. For use between March 1 and April 16 (Easter Sunday), it includes a daily Bible reading, short litany, songs, hands-on activities and questions to ponder together.

In order to provide individuals a way to contribute to the financial needs of International Students attending Bluffton University, an International Student Assistance Fund has been started. The fund will focus on responding to occasional and extraordinary situations in which individual international students with financial need request some assistance. Individuals who wish to contribute may do so by making a check out to First Mennonite Church with ISAF or International Student Assistance Fund in the memo line. If you would like more information, talk to Paul Neufeld Weaver or Lori Nester.

Through the Church Matching Scholarship program, First Mennonite Church provides \$500 per semester for students who attend FMC and choose to attend a Mennonite college or university. These funds are then matched by the college each semester. For students to receive the scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year, new requests must be submitted and current recipients renewed before Monday, Feb. 12 by contacting Louise Matthews, matthewsa@bluffton.edu or 419.303.8057. This program not only provides financial support to our students but the blessing of being connected to a church family. Contributions can be made at any time throughout the year and designated "FMC scholarship fund."
-- *Worship Commission*

You are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming Regional Gatherings that will include updates about CDC and talks taking place with Allegheny Mennonite Conference. Each host congregation will serve lunch and share a bit of their congregation's story.

- February 10 @ Grace Mennonite Church (502 E Main St, Pandora) March 17 @ Silverwood Mennonite Church (1745 W Lincoln Ave, Goshen, IN.)
- March 17 @ Silverwood Mennonite Church (1745 W Lincoln Ave, Goshen, IN.)

Regional Gatherings are from 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m. and donations are requested to help cover the costs. To help plan for the meals, please let Emma Hartman know if you are attending by Feb. 5 or March 12, depending on the 1 gathering you choose to attend. Email office@mcusacdc.org or phone 800.662.2264.