

God, Humanity & Creation
Lent One
Sunday, Feb. 18, 2018

Chimes call us to worship Deb Niswander

Welcome and Announcements Lois Wetherill

Prelude “Ubi Caritas” traditional plainsong
(trans: “Where charity and love are found, God is there”)

Call to Worship

Invocation

***Opening Hymn** “All creatures of our God and King” (vs. 1-4) HWB 48

***Confession** See insert

***Words of Assurance** See insert

Special Music “By Gracious Powers” Russell Schulz-Widmar
Chancel Choir; Monica Harnish, violin

Gospel Reading Mark 1:9-15 Lois Wetherill

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “Between Me and You” Insert

Conversation Amber Shelly

Hymn “Between Me and You” Insert
(Accompaniment by Harnish family)

Pastoral Prayer Theda Good

Special Music “How Can I Keep From Singing” arr. Arnold Sherman
Adult Bells

Old Testament Reading Genesis 9:8-17 John Rich

Sermon “Change of Heart” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn of Response** “God, who touches earth” HWB 511

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” arr. Anna Laura Page

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn of Sending** “I saw a tree by the riverside” STS 116

***Benediction**

Postlude “Lasst Uns Erfreuen” arr. Mark Hayes

***Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.**

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story

Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.

Text of Chancel Choir song

By Gracious Powers Dietrich Bonhoeffer
*By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered, and confidently waiting, come what may,
 We know that God is with us night and morning, and never fails to greet us each new day.
 Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented, still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
 O give our frightened souls the sure salvation for which, O Lord, you taught us to
 prepare.
 And when this cup is filled to brimming with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
 We take it thankfully and without trembling out of so good and so beloved a hand.*

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

NURSERY TODAY: SS – Rachel Diller, Mary Pannabecker Steiner, Tig Intagliata

Worship – Amy Blount, Alison King, Ana Neufeld Weaver

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Wendy Chappell-Dick, Bobbie Chappell, Victoria Woods-Yee

Worship – Sue and Tom Schaaf, Christopher Harnish

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: N/A

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-178, MC-5
Spending plan giving Feb. 11, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,658.00
Special fund giving Feb. 11, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$10.31, Grades 9-12-\$.28	<u>\$767.34</u>
<i>Freudige-\$20; Kitchen-\$3.75; Deacons-\$112; Habitat-\$240; College schol-\$176; Capital campaign-\$185; Postage-\$20</i>	
Total giving Feb. 11, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$7,425.34
Total spending plan receipts as of December 31, 2017	\$396,125.15
Spending plan expenses as of December 31, 2017	\$407,282.00
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

CHURCH STAFF

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

Pastor – Theda Good – 419-549-2417 (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.



Bluffton University's concert band will perform at 2:30 p.m. today in Yoder Recital Hall, under the direction of Dr. Roy Couch, assistant professor of music.

An exhibit featuring the work of art professors from Goshen College will be featured in Bluffton University's Sauder Visual Arts Center. through Feb. 23. The exhibit will include work from Randy Horst, professor of art, Merrill Krabill, professor of art and John Mishler, associate professor of art. Featured pieces cover the gamut of artistic expression. A reception for the artists will be held from 1-3 p.m. today. Gallery Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Dr. Stephen Harnish, mathematics and natural sciences department chair at Bluffton University, will present the colloquium, "Much Ado About Nothing': Empty Space and Its Glorious Imperfections," at 4 p.m. on Feb. 23 in Centennial Hall.

The MC USA Executive Board announced that Glen Guyton will serve as the new executive director of MC USA. He will begin a three-year term on May 1, 2018. Guyton joined MC USA staff in 2009 as the director of Intercultural Relations, and for the next five years held various staff roles related to finance and convention planning. In 2014, he became the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Convention Planning, the role in which he currently serves. His first staff role with a Mennonite organization began in 1998 as an insurance counselor for Mennonite Mutual Aid (now Everence). He served as a member of MC USA's Executive Board from 2007–2009, and served on the board of Eastern Mennonite University from 2003–2007. He holds a master's degree in education and lives in San Antonio with his wife Cyndi and children Andre-A and Alex. He is a member of San Antonio Mennonite Church.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Youth Venture is offering short-term service and learning experiences this summer. Pray for young people (ages 16–22) whom God may be calling to Benin, Ecuador, Peru, Japan and Spain. Is God asking you to tap their shoulders and encourage this first step into mission?

The Mennonite Voluntary Service unit in Washington, D.C., works in assignments related to health, education, poverty, immigration, policy and law. Pray for Carly Kraybill, Ellie Lapp, Emma Liechty, Janaya Sachs, Janet Spain and David Zehr as they extend the ministries of Hyattsville Mennonite Church, Community House Church, and Washington Community Fellowship.

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 18, 2018

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Community class potluck
8:30 p.m.	Hymn sing (8:30 p.m.) and Pie Night (9 p.m.)

THIS WEEK

Monday (2-19)	MPS, 8 p.m., parlor Et Cetera Board, 7 p.m., AR Ride to Remember, 5:30 p.m., FH
Tuesday (2-20)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (2-21)	Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (2-22)	Pastor meeting with Maple Crest residents, 2:30 p.m. Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor
Saturday (2-24)	Healthy Boundaries, 9 a.m., FH (CDC and OC pastors)

NEXT SUNDAY

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

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

Easter flowers: We are now taking orders for Easter flowers today through Sunday, March 4. If you wish to order flowers in honor or memory of someone, complete the order form on the insert included with this bulletin. All flowers ordered will be placed in the chancel on Easter Sunday morning. Plan to pick up your flowers after worship on Easter.

Pastor Wanda will be out of town visiting family Feb. 23-26. Please contact Pastor Theda for pastoral care.

Pastors' Office Hours and contact information:

Wanda -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu; 419-551-1079

Theda – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; fmc.theda@bluffton.edu; 419-549-2417

Please contact a pastor by e-mail or phone to schedule an appointment. Calling ahead is strongly encouraged. **Wanda** takes Friday as a Sabbath rest from work – including emails. She responds only in emergencies on Friday. **Theda** takes Monday as a Sabbath rest from work – including emails. She responds only in emergencies on Monday.

The Young Adult Sunday school class has renamed itself “Faithful Living” and invites any interested persons to join them at their 9:15 a.m. class. This week they will begin studying Lynn Miller’s book, “The Power of Enough.” The class meets in the room across from the nursery downstairs. Greg Ring is the class contact and may be reached at 567-204-7283 or by email at gregring@roadrunner.com.

Families with children: It’s not too late to start Lent family worship. Just go to www.anabaptistfaithformation.org and download “Between You and Me,” a free, guide for family worship for now through April 1.

Our new First Mennonite Church pictorial directories are here! It is our hope that these directories will help us learn to know each other, connect with one another, and provide a resource to those who join us in the months ahead. You will find a directory in your church mailbox. If you don’t have a church mailbox, request a directory and a mailbox from the church office.

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.

Church College Relations and Bluffton University Campus Ministries are partnering to hold a Hymn Sing & Pie Night at 8:30 p.m. tonight at FMC. Join us for an evening of fellowship with Bluffton students and the FMC family. If you can provide pies and/or attend this event, sign up in the fellowship hall. Thank you for providing pies and for attending.

-- Louise Matthews, Mona Reichenbach, Jacob Litwiller

Hygiene Kits - MCC has made an urgent call for hygiene kits and relief kits, and we will be collecting kits for a few months. MCC has recently added a comb to the hygiene kit list, so be sure to check the content list carefully.

Hygiene Kit Contents – Only NEW items, in original packaging

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer’s packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6–8 in)

Please limit your generosity to the items listed. Bags and content lists are on the table and bulletin board near the church library. We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of fellowship hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. ***Relief Kits:** *These kits are larger and more expensive to complete, but are also desperately needed. They would be a good project for Sunday school classes or small groups. Relief kit lists are also on the bulletin board. Just pack all items into a box, label it “Relief Kit,” and place in the quilt room. We will send these to MCC where the items will be placed into a new plastic pail with a lid.*

An International Student Assistance Fund has been started to allow individuals to contribute to the financial needs of international students attending Bluffton University. The fund will focus on responding to occasional and extraordinary situations in which individual international students with financial need request assistance. Individuals may contribute by submitting a check to First Mennonite Church with ISAF or International Student Assistance Fund in the memo line. For more information, talk to Paul Neufeld Weaver or Lori Nester.

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, The Findlay Courier, WFIN, WKXA and 106.3 FOX. Cancellations will also be noted on the church answering machine.