

Lent Two
February 21, 2016
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship

Lucia Unrau

Call to Worship

LuAnn Stuckey

L: Come, seek God's face; place your hope in the Lord!

C: The Lord is my light and my salvation. Should I fear anyone?

L: The Lord is a fortress protecting my life. Should I be frightened of anything?

All: I have asked one thing of the Lord:

**to live in the Lord's house all the days of my life,
seeing the Lord's beauty,
and constantly adoring the Lord's temple.**

Welcome

Invocation

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn**

"God of our strength"

HWB 36

***Confessing and Reconciling**

Confession

**All: Merciful God, we come seeking your forgiveness.
Too often, our doubts overshadow our trust in you.
We remember how Abram dared to believe in your promises,
but our faith is weak.
When the world seems filled with dangers,
we can be quick to protect ourselves.
We forget the wisdom of scripture.
Forgive our arrogant trust in our own knowledge.**

(silence)

Assurance of God's Grace

Leader: The Lord knows our shortcomings.
When we seek God's face, God will show us the way.
God will lead us on a level path.
Today, receive the gift of salvation.

Special Music

"Psalm of Hope"
Chancel Choir

Andrea Ramsey

Pastoral Prayer

— PROCLAIMING —

Mark Weidner

Special Music

"If You're Happy and You Know It"
Cherub Choir

Traditional

Time with Children

Hymn

"I love to tell the story"
(Sing v.1)

HWB 398

Conversation

Gloria Hernandez Bucher
and Ashton Cluts

Hymn

"I love to tell the story"
(Sing v.2)

HWB 398

Gospel Reading by Logos

Readers: Greg Ring, Melissa Friesen, Gary Wetherill

Luke 13:31-35

Sermon

"Gathered by Jesus"

Wanda Stopher

Time of Silent Reflection

— RESPONDING —

***Hymn of Response**

"Come to me, come to us"

STS 60

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"Southwell" arr. J. Bert Carlson
(Children bring their books forward during the Offertory)

arr. J. Bert Carlson

***Hymn of Dedication**

"Praise God from whom"
(Sing vs. A)

HWB 119

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn**

"How firm a foundation"

HWB 567

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.*
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story

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

Associate Pastor – Steve – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

GREETERS: Cheri Slotter, Judy and Larry Diller, Gayle Trollinger

HOST: Gloria Hernandez Bucher

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Pat Sheidler, Judy Diller

Worship – Darby and Jen Benroth, Betty Sommer, Annalise Nisly

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Shelby Cluts, Tig Intagliata

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

CHANCEL: Gregg Luginbuhl and Alison King

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	247
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	11
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	123
Spending plan giving Feb. 14, 2016	\$5,178.80
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Feb. 14 totaled \$6,787.05. Money was received for these special funds: Grades P-5 th SS – \$4.85, Grades 6-8 - \$5, Community- \$1, Sojourners - \$9, Faith and Life - \$14, Deacons' Benevolent - \$290, First Night - \$872, Kitchen service - \$28, Rejoice - \$27.80, Capital campaign - \$38, MDS - \$50, Easter flowers - \$18, Rejoice - \$83.40.	

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - fmc.steve@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



documentary, will be available at 6:30 p.m. for informal conversation. Light refreshments will be provided. This event is sponsored by The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, PEACE Club, International Connection and the Religion Department. See more information on bulletin board.

You are invited to offer a favorite scripture passage, prayer, blessing or word of thanks to Lois Johns Kaufmann for her eight years of service to Central District Conference. You may write directly in the journal at one of our regional gatherings, or at the annual meeting in Columbus, or email an entry to Lisa Weaver at weaverld70@gmail.com by June 1. Please write CDC Journal for Lois in the subject line. Entries received by email will be printed out and included in the journal. The journal will be given to Lois at the conclusion of the annual meeting on June 25.

Bluffton University's Jazz Ensemble and Concert Band will hold their Winter Instrumental Concert at 2:30 p.m. today in Yoder Recital Hall. Dr. Roy Couch directs both groups. A free-will offering will be collected. The funds will go toward music scholarships.

This year marks 175 years since Salem Mennonite, Lima, was founded as a congregation. There is a flyer noting some of Salem's plans on the Upcoming Events pillar in the fellowship hall. Among the events are a choir concert April 17 and Sunday afternoon sessions with John Roth, a Goshen College professor and with Alan and Eleanor Kreider, long term mission workers to the United Kingdom.

Salem Mennonite Church wishes to hire two individuals to work with their children's program on Sunday mornings, June through August 2016. For more information, contact Beverly Armstrong at labearmstrong@gmail.com or 419-989-0487.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Alice Gellert, 101, Feb. 28, and Ruth Unrau, 94, Feb. 28.

Darrel Yoder recently had a light stroke and is recovering in the rehab unit at the Mennonite Memorial Home. He and Mary appreciate your prayers.

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.

TODAY, Feb. 21, 2016

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
11:30 a.m.	Vote on Welcoming Statement and Policy
Noon	Community class/MDS volunteers potluck, FH
3 p.m.	Venture Club, VIP

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (2/23)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (2/24)	First Night, supper 5:30 p.m., program 6 p.m., FH Cherub choir 6 p.m.; Adult bells 6:30 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday (2/25)	Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT WEEK

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult Fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9, 17-18; Psalm 63:1-8; I Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

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

Update from Steve and Janet 02-17-16

1. We are grateful that the surgery related to the high calcium went well.
2. We are working day to day with regards to what happens next.
3. We greatly appreciate all your cards, prayers and concerns.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Has Steve been moved up on the heart transplant list?

A: No. When he is moved up, we will let people know immediately.

Q: When will Steve be returning home?

A: We don't know the answer to that question. However, it seems clear at this point that Steve won't be returning home in the near future. We will continue to send email updates as they become available.

Q: What do Steve and Janet need?

A: Cards have been so nice! Prayers, small deeds of kindness and help, and brief visits have been deeply appreciated. What the church has done has been great!

***Cards may be sent** to Steve Yoder, J82 19, c/o Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44195.

Please notify the church office to be included on an e-mail list for midweek congregational updates. Likewise, you may request to be removed from this list.

Venture Club: Venture Club will meet in the VIP room from 3-5 p.m. today to continue working on our book study, "Kids Can Make Peace." **Next Sunday, Feb. 28,** we will meet at The Cube in Findlay for ice skating at 3 p.m. Please bring \$10 for admission and skate rental. Children will need to be picked up at 3:50.

Thanks to all who donated blood and/or volunteered with the recent Red Cross Blood Drive at FMC. We had another successful drive with even more donors than the previous event.

Materials previously stored on the bulletin table are now in the literature rack by the women's restroom in the Fellowship Hall. This includes items such as monthly prayer materials, annual lectionary lists and Mennonite Women brochures. A sign indicating *First Mennonite Materials* is posted at the top of the rack.

First Night order forms are available at the ticket table in the fellowship hall. The menu and program details are included on the forms. You may purchase tickets today in the fellowship hall and **on Monday in the office from 9 a.m.-noon; payment is due no later than noon Monday.** Cost is \$4/person and \$12/family for each night. A vegetarian option will be available each night.

Cameo stories sought for First Night: During Advent we heard a story from Jesus' childhood and his being found in the temple, deep in conversation with teachers there. A childhood cameo such as this is a short story about the child which foreshadows the adult that the person will become. You are invited to share your own cameo story at First Night on March 9. Please see Wanda Stopher (419-551-1079) for more information and to be included in the list of those who will share their cameo stories.

Time to order Easter Sunday flowers: If you wish to purchase flowers in memory or honor of loved ones, please complete one of the order forms located on the small table outside the church office door. Put the form and payment in the offering plate or drop them off at the church office. **Orders must be submitted to the church office by Monday, March 11.**

SHYF/JHYF: Games at Maple Crest Sunday, Feb. 28, 2-3:30 p.m. for SHYF and JHYF. We will meet at Maple Crest to play games and spend time with residents. Anyone is welcome to attend!

It's hygiene kit season! There is a list of items that make up a kit on the bulletin board above the pew in fellowship hall. On the pew are four boxes -- one each for fabric cut for bags, empty bags for kits, supplies and complete kits. We need fabric for bags and volunteers to sew bags. Can't sew? You can always cut fabric into designated sizes, or you may donate funds for supplies. Checks should be written to FMC with MW kit on the memo line. Thanks again in advance for all your help!

All are invited to attend a CDC Regional Gathering on Saturday, March 5 at Emmaus Road Mennonite (Berne, IN). The day includes scripture and song, congregational sharing, a choice of sessions on the recent MCC-sponsored tour to Palestine/Israel or a discussion using the Human Sexuality study guide developed by Gerald and Carrie Mast. **A group from FMC will attend this session. Please see Wanda Stopher for more information or to indicate that you plan to attend.**

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to view "Ghost Town: A Hebron Story" at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22 in Stutzman Lecture Hall at Bluffton University. Ellie Bernstein, film director of this