

**Lent Three**  
***Living Ink: Jesus Offers Mercy and Forgiveness***  
**February 28, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

**Chimes call us to worship**

Lucia Unrau

**Call to Worship**

LuAnn Stuckey

L: Come, seek the shelter of God’s steadfast love.

**P: My soul thirsts for God as in a dry and weary land  
where there is no water.**

L: Come, seek the protection of God’s everlasting covenant.

**All: God, you are my God; I seek you.**

**My mouth speaks praise with joy on my lips;**

**My whole being clings to you; your strong hand upholds me.**

**Welcome**

**Invocation**

— PRAISING —

**\*Opening Hymn**

“I sought the Lord”

HWB 506

**\*Confessing and Reconciling**

*Confession*

**All: God of abundant grace, hear our cry of repentance.**

**Although you invite us to come, buy food, and eat,  
we often choose what is not good for us.**

**Although you call us to listen to you so we may live,  
we often ignore your voice.**

**Forgive us when our plans are not your plans.**

*(silence)*

*Assurance of God’s Grace*

L: God does not forget us when we choose the wrong path or fail to listen.

When we seek the Lord, we will be found.

God’s well of steadfast love will never run dry.

Today, accept God’s generous mercy and grace.

**Special Music**

“In the Rifted Rock I’m Resting”  
*Chancel Choir*

arr. Lee Dengler

**Pastoral Prayer**

— PROCLAIMING —

Mark Weidner

**Special Music**

“Cantate! Sing to the Lord”  
*Jubilate*

Becki Slagle Mayo

**Time with Children**

**Hymn**

“I love to tell the story”  
*(Sing v.1)*

HWB 398

**Conversation**

Gloria Hernandez Bucher  
and Mark Weidner

**Hymn**

“I love to tell the story”  
*(Sing v.2)*

HWB 398

**Gospel Reading by Logos**

*Readers: Bill Croft, Greg Ring, Cheri Slotter, Shannon Thiebeau, Gary Wetherill*

Isaiah 55:1-11

**Sermon**

“Change Your Mind”

Wanda Stopher

**Time of Silent Reflection**

— RESPONDING —

**\*Hymn of Response**

“God, whose purpose is to kindle”  
*(Children bring their books forward during the hymn)*

HWB 135

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley” arr. Anna Laura Page  
*Adult Bell Choir*

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

“Praise God from whom”  
*(Sing vs. A)*

HWB 119

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn**

“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

HWB 582

**\*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: [fmclubluffton.org](http://fmclubluffton.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

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**GREETERS:** Cheri Slotter, Jon Diller, Gayle Trollinger

**HOST:**

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Ken Shenk, Marilyn Bishop

*Worship* – Andrea and Tyson Goings, Seth Andreas, Douglas Nester

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Hannah Combs and Lu Derstine

*Worship* – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Kendra Nickel, Ellie Nickel

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Moser

**CHANCEL:** Gregg Luginbuhl and Alison King

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmclubluffton.org](http://www.fmclubluffton.org). Videos normally are posted on the Tuesday following the service. Previously recorded worship service videos may be found at [tinyurl.com/fmc-videos](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday 248

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD) 9

Sunday school attendance last Sunday 109

Spending plan giving Feb. 14, 2016 \$6,338.40

2016 Proposed spending plan \$418,276.00

The offering Feb. 21 totaled \$8,200.50. Money was received for these special funds: Grades P-5<sup>th</sup> - \$5, Community- \$6, Sojourners - \$6, Faith and Life - \$9, Freudige - \$545, Deacons' Benevolent - \$540, First Night - \$455, Kitchen service - \$28, Rejoice - \$27.80, Capital campaign - \$38, MDS - \$50, Easter flowers - \$58.30, Rejoice - \$27.80, MCC health kits - \$90, Habitat - \$120.

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - [fmc.steve@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.steve@bluffton.edu)

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)



entertainment. The menu is baked ham, scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots, rolls, coleslaw, and cupcake. Entertainment provided by Joyce Jackson. *Donations are accepted.* PrimeTimers is a ministry of St. John Mennonite Church and Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio.

**All may share** 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 a regional gathering at the annual meeting or via email to Lisa Weaver at [weaverld70@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Thanks to you,** our friends and supporters at First Mennonite for the many ways you contribute to the work of MCC. In addition to the energy and time you give at relief sales, thrift shops, meat canning and material resources, your congregation contributed \$6,800 in 2015. We are especially grateful for your prayer support for MCC's work of relief, development and peace Thank you! -- *Matthew Tschetter, MCC Great Lakes*

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday to** Darrel Yoder, 93, March 5, and Burton Yost, 87, March 5.

**Gregg Luginbuhl** returned home on Wednesday. Prayers for clarity regarding next steps were answered. His dialysis has been regulated addressing his pain and he has begun a new chemotherapy. Please continue to remember Gregg and Karen and their family in your prayers.

**Burton Yost** was hospitalized at St. Rita's Medical Center mid-week and at time of printing, remained there.

**Thank you so much** for all the visits, cards and prayers. I am doing well and hope to return home in a few weeks. I appreciate all the friendly support! *Ernie Porzelius*

**Mel and I** are grateful for the many expressions of caring and support during my recent surgery. Each one was felt as a hug and blessing. -- *Barb and Mel Stettler*

*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. 28, 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
Noon	Community class/MDS volunteers potluck, FH
2 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF meet at Maple Crest for games with residents
3 p.m.	Venture Club, ice skating at The Cube, Findlay

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday (3/1)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (3/2)	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 (3/3)	Worship, 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, Ray Person preaching <b>Scripture: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</b>

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

**The Welcoming and Policy Statements** were affirmed by a vote of 170 to 26 (with two abstentions). Thank you to all who contributed to this process through feedback, discussion, and prayer.  
-- Darryl Nester, Moderator

### Update on Steve and Janet Yoder, 02-23-16

1. Steve received the most cards sent to an adult at Cleveland Clinic one day last week.
2. Janet is currently staying at the Transplant House of Cleveland about ten minutes from Cleveland Clinic.
3. Steve will remain at Cleveland Clinic for the next couple of months. He is being considered for a heart pump (which is the bridge to a heart transplant.) The final decision is expected soon when the surgeon returns from being out of town. It is like the turtle with a band aid on a card sent from FMC. "It's not the speed that matters but getting there."

Again, thanks for your continued prayers.

~Steve and Janet

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

**A fund has been set up** to assist Steve and Janet with expenses in Cleveland. Contributions should be noted for Benevolent Fund-Steve and Janet. Thank you!

**Through May**, in Steve Yoder's absence, Wanda Stopher will be coordinating pastoral care with assistance from Ruth Naylor. Please don't hesitate to call Wanda at 419-551-1079. You may also call Ruth at 419-358-6309.

**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 will meet** at The Cube in Findlay for ice skating at 3 p.m. today. Please bring \$10 for admission and skate rental. Children will need to be picked up at 3:50 p.m.

**SHYF and JHYF will meet** to play games and visit with residents at Maple Crest from 2-3:30 p.m. today. Fred Steiner and Greg Ring will join us. Others are also welcome to attend!  
-- Shannon Thiebeau

**Materials previously stored** on the bulletin table are now in the literature rack by the women's restroom in the fellowship hall.

**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. 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.**

**This summer's Central District** Conference annual meeting will be June 23-25 at Columbus Mennonite Church, with the theme of *Abounding in Love ... Abiding in Grace*. We can send up to 18 delegates, as well as a high school age youth delegate. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please notify the church office ([fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu) or 419-358-5766.) If you want to learn more about the CDC annual meeting, ask Darryl Nester or Kendra Nickel.

**All ages are invited** to add messages of care and prayer to the large papers in the fellowship hall. These messages are for David Hooley, serving with SALT in Kenya and for the church he attends, Songhor Mennonite Church. Don and Mary Ina will hand deliver the messages.

**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.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Bluffton University's Masterworks performance** of Antonio Vivaldi's "Dixit Dominus" at 2:30 p.m. today in Yoder Recital Hall will feature Sarah Diller, a Bluffton native, Bluffton University graduate, and daughter of Gordon and Jody Diller. She has a master's degree in opera performance and teaches voice and piano lessons at Piano Power in Chicago. She has performed with the Ohio Light Opera, the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company and the Wichita Salon Series. Stephanie Schoenhofer will also perform. She was the featured soloist during the 2014 performance of Handel's "Messiah." Schoenhofer is a mezzo-soprano who lives and performs in Chicago. Dr. Mark J. Suderman, Bluffton professor of music, will conduct the performance.

**PrimeTimers'** monthly lunch will be held Tuesday, March 1, at noon at St. John Mennonite Church, 15988 Road 2, Pandora. This is a free luncheon with fellowship and