

**Congregational Discernment: Explore Our Possibilities**  
**February 19, 2017**  
**10:30 a.m.**

— **GATHERING** —

**Chimes call us to worship** Lucia Unrau

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Rhonda Winstead, Worship Leader

**Prelude** “The Joyful Trumpet” Patricia Lou Harris

**\*Call to Worship**

**\*Invocation**

— **PRAISING** —

**\*Opening Hymn** “The church’s one foundation” *vs 1,2,4,5* HWB 311

**Testimony**

**Special Music** “Cantique de Jean Racine” Gabriel Fauré  
*Chancel Choir*

**Time with Children**

**Hymn** “Vision, Healing and Hope” (*Sing once for coming up*) Back of hymnal

**Conversation** Tig Intagliata

**Hymn** “Vision, Healing and Hope” (*Sing once for returning*) Back of hymnal

**Pastoral Prayer**

Wanda Stopher

— **PROCLAIMING** —

**Scripture** Matt. 5:38-48; I Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23

**Sermon** “Ancestry and Inheritance”

**\*Hymn** “Where charity and love prevail” HWB 305

— **RESPONDING** —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Morecambe” arr. Mark Hayes

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “Lord, thou dost love” (verse 1) HWB 387

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— **SENDING** —

**\*Hymn** “How good a thing it is” HWB 310

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*\*Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*  
*HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story*  
*Large-print hymnals and bulletins are available on the cabinet next to the parlor.*

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: [fmcbluffton.org](http://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:** Shelby Cluts

**HOST:** Mary Amstutz

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Lori Nester, Marilyn Bishop, Mitch Kingsley

**Worship** – Amy Blount, Kevin Cluts, Christopher Harnish

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Melinda, Patrick and Rebecca Estell

**Worship** – Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Rachel Diller

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Art Shelly

**CHANCEL:** Bev Simon

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmcbluffton.org](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	215
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	10
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	79
Spending plan giving February 12, 2017	\$9,340.00
Spending plan receipts as of January 31	\$31,968.12
Spending plan expenses as of January 31	\$33,518.85
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00
The offering Feb. 12 totaled \$12,583.46. Money was received for these special funds, K-5 <sup>th</sup> - \$12.96, Grades 6-8 - \$2, Grades 9-12 - \$6, Sojourners - \$17, Faith and Life - \$6, Community - \$2, Young Adults - \$9, SHYF - \$115, Deacons Benevolent - \$127, Kitchen service - \$185.50, College scholarships - \$36, MDS - \$1,000, Memorials - \$325, Casket fund - \$900, Capital campaign - \$400, Syrian student - \$100.	

### CHURCH STAFF

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

Pastoral Associate – George O'Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – [fmc.george@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.george@bluffton.edu)

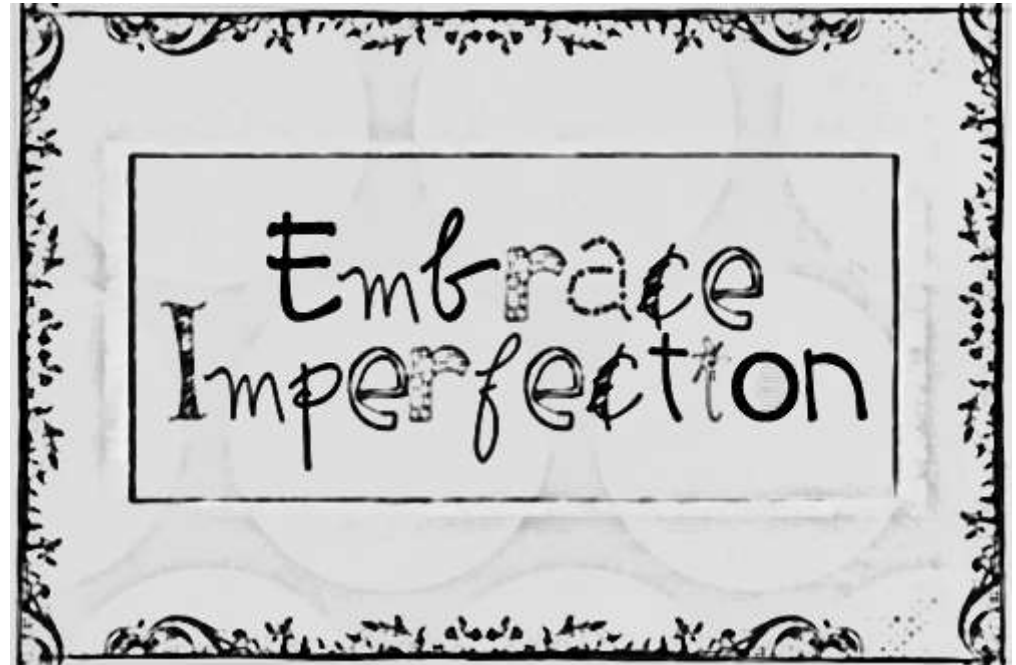
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman      Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

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



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mennonite Disaster Service** – Lynn and Linda Miller will serve with MDS for four weeks in Cleveland, MS through March 3. In March 2016 heavy rain caused serious flooding in this community, about one hour south of Memphis, TN. Lynn will serve as project director and Linda as office manager. The project is coordinated by Region 2 of MDS. Dwight Kauffman continues to serve as the Region 2 Board Chair for MDS. The Detroit project held a closing ceremony on January 26. A story about the celebration and summary of the flood response work can be found at [www.mds.mennonite.net](http://www.mds.mennonite.net).

**Kate Boyd, associate professor of piano** at Butler University, will perform a guest recital at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24 in Yoder Recital Hall. Boyd will perform a variety of selections including works by Gubaidulina, Bach, Chopin and Prokofiev. An active soloist and chamber musician, Boyd has performed solo recitals at Schubert's birth house in Vienna, the National Concert Hall in Dublin and the Musikhalle Hamburg.

**Bluffton University's Masterworks** performance will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 in Yoder Recital Hall. The concert will feature "Gloria" by Antonio Vivaldi. A free-will offering will be taken to help cover expenses. The chorus is comprised of members from the Bluffton University Chorale and the Bluffton Choral Society. They will be joined by an orchestra made up of university students and community members.

**Grace Mennonite** will have a comforter knotting day on Thursday, March 2 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Lunch will be provided at noon and we invite anyone that may be interested to join us for all or part of the day. We also have a quilt in a frame and would love to have help on this quilt that will go to the relief sale in August. So that we may plan for enough food, please email Cindy Luginbill at [lugc@watchtv.net](mailto:lugc@watchtv.net) if you plan to come.

**Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio** is accepting applications for the Barbara Fleming Memorial Nursing Scholarship. The scholarship promotes the career of nursing and is available to anyone pursuing a degree as a licensed practical nurse, a registered nurse, or a bachelor of science in nursing. Applications are available at [www.mhcoliving.org](http://www.mhcoliving.org) and clicking on "What's Happening," or by contacting Mennonite Memorial Home, 410 W. Elm St., Bluffton, OH 45817; 419-358-1015. Applications must be postmarked and/or returned to the above address by March 31.

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy Birthday** to Ruth Unrau, 95, February 28.

**Linda Suter** had successful surgery on February 14 and expected to be released by the end of the week, at which time she will begin rehabilitation.

## 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 19, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching
Noon	Community class potluck, FH
6 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF, classroom

## THIS WEEK

Monday (2-20)	Lent Practice, 7 p.m., FH, childcare will be provided Et Cetera Board, 7 p.m., AR
Tuesday (2-21)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Adriel, 9:30 a.m., library
Wednesday (2-22)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (2-23)	Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor Deacons, 7:30 p.m., parlor
Saturday (2-25)	Amstutz shower, 2 p.m., FH/kitchen

## NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Catechism
5 p.m.	SHYF soup fundraiser, FH
6 p.m.	Congregational Discernment meeting, <b>all invited</b> , FH, childcare provided

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

**FIRST Night will be held** Tuesday, Feb. 28. Those attending should bring their own table service. The menu for February 28 will include baked potato bar: choice of white or sweet potato with various toppings, tossed salad, dessert/fruit. Participants of the Women's March on Washington will speak during the program. **A registration table will be set up in the fellowship hall after worship today and February 26. Registrations must be paid by noon on the Monday prior to the event.**

-- *Susie Gratz, FIRST Night chair*

**SHYF/JHYF:** Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, assistant professor of religion at Bluffton University, will explain some of the mysteries of apocalyptic scripture at a combined meeting of the SHYF and JHYF at 6 p.m. today. **\*\*Adults are also invited.**

**Lent brochures: Please check your mailboxes today for a brochure listing Lenten season services and activities.**

Lent Practice begins Monday, Feb. 20, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. **Our prompt this week is "Restore us, O God! We hunger" and Psalm 32.** After reading the Psalm, take the ideas, words, images, and feelings and create something that reflects these themes. Write a story, poem, mini-play, song or a piece of music. Draw, sculpt, whittle, paint, sew, knit, crochet, or weld. Use wood, yarn, cloth, clay, rock, marbles, metal, instruments, paper, string, etc...just create! Entering this space of awe and beauty is an act of creativity. Please come even if you do not have something to share. All are welcome. (Children are welcome and childcare will be provided.) *See Victoria Woods-Yee or Wanda Stopher if you have questions.*

**The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday** with a focus on self-reflection, repentance and prayer. In this service we will receive the ashes placed on our foreheads and with them the words from Genesis 3:19, "Remember you are dust, and unto to dust you shall return." Come and join us in this service of preparation for the journey of Lent on Wednesday, March 1 at 8 p.m.

A **change has been made** to the **March 13 Mennonite Women** meeting. Instead of the regular meeting, you are invited to join the Lent Practice scheduled for all members. Don't feel limited to attend Lent Practice only on March 13. You are invited to attend as many as you wish.

**Thank you to all** who volunteered and/or donated blood to the February blood drive. It was a successful day! According to Marianne Hardesty, our blood drive coordinator, the Red Cross set a goal of 41 whole blood units and four double red cell units or two double red cell donations. We ended the day with 55 whole units! -- *Mission, Peace and Service*

*This is one of a series of "Did You Know" announcements from the Congregational Discernment Team, as we explore the history and live into the future of FMC.*

Did you know...

...that nine of our youth will begin catechism on February 26?

...that catechism will be led in a collaborative effort by Shannon Thiebeau, Pastor George and Pastor Wanda?

...that through the generosity of the Deacon's Benevolent Fund in the last quarter of 2016, seven individuals or families received assistance -- six of whom are from the Bluffton community and one from our congregation?

... that the aid given included rental assistance, gas cards and nutritional supplements?  
...when we celebrate communion, we include an opportunity to give to the Benevolent Fund?

...and that on February 2, 2017, the youth staged a "sit with a stranger" day during worship?

**Hygiene Kits:** MCC has made an urgent call for hygiene kits!

Hygiene Kit Contents - NEW items, in original packaging

- 1 adult-size toothbrush – (individually wrapped)
- 1 large bar bath soap
- 1 fingernail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (dark color)

Bags and content lists are located on the table and bulletin board near the church office. We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area. Some precut bags and cords are also there. (If making your own bags, please note that the bag size has changed over the years and fabric is cut 12 ½ x 38 in.)

**Have you made plans to attend the CDC regional gathering March 11** at First Mennonite Church, Wadsworth? Regional gatherings are opportunities to hear the latest developments and work in progress and to learn to know others who share your interest in the conference. ***They are intended for any and all in the conference -- not only leaders in congregations or the conference.*** We'll hear from Open Table Mennonite Fellowship, a story and tour by Wadsworth FMC, reporting on MC USA, a historical vignette from Camp Friedenswald and faith formation experiences. The Wadsworth church will provide lunch (donations are suggested.) ***To help with lunch plans, please notify our church office at 419.358.5766 or [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu) by Friday, Feb. 24.***