

**Congregational Discernment: Explore Our Possibilities**  
**February 5, 2017**  
**10:30 a.m.**

— **GATHERING** —

**Chimes call us to worship** LuAnn Stuckey

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** George O'Reilly, Worship Leader

**Prelude** "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation" T. Shaw

**\*Call to Worship**

**\*Invocation**

— **PRAISING** —

**\*Opening Hymn** "Here in this place" HWB 6

**Testimony** Darryl Nester

**Special Music** "Laudamus"  
*Chancel Choir* Owen/Protheroe

**Time with Children**

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

**Conversation** Elizabeth Kelly

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

**Pastoral Prayer**

George O'Reilly

— **PROCLAIMING** —

**Scripture** Isaiah 58: 1-12; Matthew 5:13-20

**Sermon** "Salty salt" Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn** "You are salt for the earth" HWB 226

— **RESPONDING** —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** "Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier" J. Ahle/J. Walther

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— **SENDING** —

**\*Hymn** "For the healing of the nations" HWB 367

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus R. Hillert

*\*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

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**GREETERS:** Rich Bucher, Shelby Cluts

**HOST:** Gloria Bucher

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Greg and Laura Hartzler, Alice Ruth Ramseyer

**Worship** – Kurt and Sabrina Longworth, Annalise Nisly

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Elaine Suderman, Kathy Traucht, Monica Harnish

**Worship** – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Mary Ina Hooley

**SOUND SYSTEM:**

**CHANCEL:** Amy Freeman

*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	181
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	11
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	90
Spending plan giving January 29, 2016	\$4,004.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Jan.29 totaled \$5,733.84. Money was received for these special funds, K-5 <sup>th</sup> - \$5.34, Grades 6-8 - \$2, Faith and Life - \$8, Sojourners - \$25, Deacons Benevolent - \$150, Kitchen service - \$3.50, FIRST Night - \$768, Memorials - \$200, MCC projects - \$50.	

### 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.*



letter posted on the MW pillar in the fellowship hall. Consider supporting these organizations; donations can be made by checks through our MW organization or directly to the organizations.

**FMC recently received a letter** from Pastor Elvin Villalobos of our sister church, Colonia Lopez Mennonite Church, our sister church near San Pedro Sula, Honduras. Thanks to Paul Neufeld Weaver for providing a translation of the letter, which you'll find on the MPS pillar in the fellowship hall.

### 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 summarizing the flood response work can be found at [www.mds.mennonite.net](http://www.mds.mennonite.net).

**Early registration** for the Mennonite Church USA Convention 2017 ends on February 28. Early Registration includes a T-shirt, I-Ride trolley pass, servant project and a meal card. Learn more at <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/registration/>.

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Please keep the family of Harvey Bauman** in your thoughts and prayers. A service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, at FMC. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service and during the fellowship meal at the church.

**As staff of Mennonite Church USA's Executive Board**, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your congregation's financial support. Our records show that you are among the 25 congregations who gave most generously for our work this past year. We express our thanks in the words of the Apostle Paul: "Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." (II Cor. 9:12-13) May God bless you abundantly.

-- Ervin Stutzman, Executive Director\*

\*Please note: Ervin Stutzman's thank you letter to First Mennonite is posted on the "Here and Now" pillar in the fellowship hall.

### 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 5, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Connections potluck, FH
2-3 p.m.	Venture Club, AR (grades 2-5)
3-5:15 p.m.	Congregational Discernment: Explore our Possibilities all invited, childcare provided

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday (2-7)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor MPS, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (2-8)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Stewardship, 7 p.m., 301
Thursday (2-9)	Blood drive, noon-6 p.m., FH Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor Syrian student committee, 7 p.m., AR
Friday (2-10)	Sewing, FH, 9 a.m.
Saturday (2-11)	SHYF babysitting fundraiser, 5-9 p.m., nursery

### 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

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

**Venture Club**, for grades 2-5, is kicking off the new year with an activity today from 2-3 p.m. in the assembly room. They will be making Valentine's Day cards for the members of the church who reside at Maple Crest, Willow Ridge and the Mennonite Memorial Home. Also, at 2:40 p.m. there will be a meeting for the parents of children in those grades so we can discuss further activities. Venture Club will be led by Alison King, Sabrina Longworth and Megan Coffman.

**We are extending the call for FMC delegates** to both Central District Conference and MCUSA. We are seeking eight delegates to attend CDC in Bluffton June 22-24, and we are seeking three delegates to attend MCUSA in Orlando, FL, July 4-8. A small subsidy is available for delegates to MCUSA. If you are interested in being considered as a delegate for either or both conferences, please contact Gerald Mast, moderator-elect, or Kendra Nickel, moderator, by Wednesday, Feb. 15. Church Council will approve the final list of delegates for both conferences on February 16. – Kendra Nickel

**Attention parents of young children:** Enjoy a night off! The SHYF is hosting a parents night out fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 11 from 5-9 p.m. Drop your children off in the nursery and we will babysit for a donation. A light snack will be provided. Please register your children by contacting Shannon Thiebeau ([fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)). A registration form must be completed -- forms are available in the fellowship hall.

**The next First Mennonite blood drive** will be held Thursday, Feb. 9 from 1-6 p.m. Volunteers are needed for this event: 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](http://redcrossblood.org), sponsor code "fmenncl."

**All of those who enjoy sewing** are invited to a comforter-top sewing day in the fellowship hall Friday, Feb. 10, beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing as needed. Please bring your own sewing machine and other equipment for sewing and rotary cutting. One sewing machine is available, as well as some thread and equipment for rotary cutting. Two irons and ironing boards will be set up. If you would rather cut fabrics, lay out designs, or iron, those jobs need to be filled as well. Hope to see you Friday!

*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 (for clarification) in January 1923 the choir numbered 150 members? They were divided into three groups. Each group furnished special music one Sunday each month.

...A member of the church reported that as a child her family always sat behind Mrs. Mosiman "in about the same, center section, right side, five or six rows back? This was most fortunate for me because Mrs. Mosiman's hats gave me much to contemplate while the minister spoke, and was easily a half hour's entertainment. They were magnificent hats, with flowers or grapes or plumes or ribbons and maybe sometimes all of the above. She looked like a queen sitting there, her pink face and plumed hat nodding in agreement, or distress, or sympathy, or whatever was appropriate to the sermon's message."

**Sometimes we think of giving up** something for Lent. At other times we add a practice in order to help us focus on the themes of the season. This year, you are invited to participate with others in a creative venture called Lent Practice. Each Monday, February 20-April 3, in preparation for upcoming Lenten worship, all are invited to gather and share something you've created in response to the prompt each week. We will think about how these creations might be shared in worship during Lent. Bring come to Lent Practice Monday, Feb. 20, from 7-8:30 p.m. in fellowship hall. Our theme 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 in some way. 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! All creations are welcome. Entering this space of awe and beauty is an act of creativity. So please come, even if you do not have something to share. All are welcome.

**Plan to attend the CDC regional gathering March 11** at First Mennonite Church, Wadsworth. The morning will explore the theme of Abounding in Love. . . Abiding in Grace, with input from Open Table Mennonite Fellowship, a story and tour from the host congregation and reporting on MC USA events. After lunch, participants will hear a historical vignette from Camp Friedenswald and discuss 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.**

**Mennonite Women:** CDC Mennonite Women has asked FMC women to consider six organizations they feel "encourage all women on their spiritual journey towards wholeness and joy in Jesus Christ." These organizations "step away from complacency and speak out as Jesus did for those who have been marginalized and silenced." To learn more, please read the