

**First Mennonite Church
January 21, 2017**

Chimes call us to worship		LuAnn Stuckey
Welcome		Kendra Nickel
Prelude	“Variations on "Foundation”	setting by J. Eggert
Call to Worship		
*Opening Hymn	“Come and see”	HWB 20
*Responsive Reading		Psalm 62:5-8
L: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.		
C: He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.		
L: On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.		
All: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. <i>Selah</i>		
Special Music	“Rest in God Alone, My Soul” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Felix Goebel-Komala

Conversation with Friends

Hymn	“Let the children come to me” (<i>refrain, vs.1, refrain</i>)	STS 47
Conversation		Ashton Cluts
Hymn	“Let the children come to me” (<i>refrain, vs.3, refrain</i>)	STS 47

Pastoral Prayer

Ray Person

Scripture

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Jon Diller

Sermon

“Be Like Jonah”

Elizabeth Kelly

***Hymn of Response**

“Nothing is lost on the breath of God”

STS121

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

setting by L. Trapp

***Hymn of Dedication**

“Oh, beautiful star of Bethlehem” (*v. 1*)

STS 32

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sending Hymn**

“Go, my friends, in grace”

STS 57

Benediction

Postlude

“Christ the Sure Foundation”

setting by T. Shaw

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

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey

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

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

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

GREETER: Rich Bucher

HOST: Anita Lehman

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: Carmen Ordonez, Gerald Mast

Worship – Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Jason Diller

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Melissa Friesen, Cheri Slotter

Worship – Amy Freeman, Bruce Steingass, Annalise Nisly

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

CHANCEL: Amy Freeman

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-211, MC-9
Spending plan giving Jan. 14, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$4,746.67
Special fund giving Jan. 14, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Sojourners-\$100;</i>	<u>\$970.89</u>
<i>Connection-\$10, Faith and Life-\$9, Habitat-\$120, Deacons-\$5, Freudige-\$85</i>	
<i>CC flooring-\$565, Facility use-\$50, Kitchen service-\$6.89, SHYF-\$20</i>	
Total giving Jan. 14, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$5,717.56
Total spending plan receipts as of December 31, 2017	\$396,125.15
Spending plan expenses as of December 31, 2017	\$407,282.00
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

CHURCH STAFF

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



Deadline reminder: Please remember that the deadline for submitting items for the Sunday bulletin is noon on the Thursday preceding the Sunday bulletin for which it is intended. Note that in the case of holidays or vacations of the church staff, this deadline may be adjusted.

A Community Chili Cook-off is planned for Tuesday, Feb. 20, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Bluffton Middle School cafetorium. Churches and individuals are invited to participate by providing and serving a favorite chili, sandwiches and/or desserts, or helping with the event. Proceeds will benefit the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. Anyone interested in participating should contact Lynda Best at 419-296-2790, or Carol Enneking at jcenne@gmail.com or 419-348-7691. A planning meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Bluffton Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Malinda Berry, assistant professor of theology and ethics at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, will present the Forum, "In Praise of Being Different: Nonconformity, Integrity, and Being Christian," at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23 in Yoder Recital Hall. Berry's presentation is based on her approach to peace theology, shalom political theology which offers congregations, communities and organizations of all shapes and sizes process practices to help them integrate their internal commitments to peace and justice to external activities and behaviors while also accepting complicity in perpetuating harm and violence.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Thanks to everyone for your prayers, cards and food. I am taking it easy for a while! Also, I'm looking forward to warmer weather and no ice. Take care, everyone.

-- Linda Miller

Congratulations to Simon and Heather Chan on the birth of their son, Hayden Ly Chan, born January 10 in Findlay. Hayden's grandparents are Miev and Kan Chan and his big brother is Noah.

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, JANUARY 21, 2018

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

THIS WEEK

Monday (1-22) Menno-Life deadline
Tuesday (1-23) Morning Prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (1-24) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (1-25) Pastor's visit with Maple Crest residents, 2:30 p.m.
Deacons, 7 p.m., AR

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Jackie Wyse-Rhodes preaching
11:30 a.m. Soup fundraiser, FH
12:30 p.m. Congregational meeting, FH

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

Save the dates:

January 28 -- Congregational meeting following an SHYF soup fundraiser

February 11 -- Theda Good's Installation, potluck to follow

Soup's On: SHYF will hold a soup meal fundraiser following worship on January 28 in conjunction with the annual congregational meeting. There will be vegetarian and gluten-free options. We hope you will join us for this time of congregational fellowship!

Help Needed: On Tuesday, Jan. 23, assistance is needed to unload Theda and Dawn's moving truck. The group will meet at the church and begin at approximately 12:30 p.m. If you are available to help, please contact Bret Stopher, 419-445-1568.

Weather-related cancellations: If it becomes necessary to cancel a function(s) at the church, cancellations will be posted on the church website, on the Bluffton Icon, Lima FOX-WLIO (Hometown Stations,) The Findlay Courier, WFIN, WKXA and 106.3FOX. Cancellations will also be noted on the church answering machine.

Calling all comforter knotters! Anyone interested in fellowship and sewing is invited to help knot comforters on Tuesday, Jan. 30, from 9 a.m. (earlier if you wish) until noon. Refreshments, though not lunch, will be available. Knotting will resume at 1 p.m. for those who wish to return after lunch. Frame-loading will begin at 1 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29, for those who want to help or to learn the procedure.

Copies of the current Constitution and By-Laws are available on the literature rack. You may also request to receive this document electronically from the church office.

The next First Mennonite blood drive will be held Thursday, Feb. 8 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, sponsor code "fmenncbl."

Sharing your gifts of hospitality, welcome, and storytelling with the congregation are vital to our mission of being a welcoming congregation. Greeters and hosts offer a warm welcome as guests and regular attenders arrive. Worship leaders guide the congregation through meaningful worship experiences. Children's storytellers share the Gospel message to young minds and hearts. If you have ever considered serving in one of these ministries but haven't been asked, consider this your invitation. Guidance and resources are available from the worship commission or church staff for each of these areas. Fran Core (coref@wcoil.com) coordinates greeters and hosts. Doug Luginbill (dluginbill@roadrunner.com) coordinates worship leaders. Kathy Dickson (dicksonKathy1@gmail.com) coordinates Time with Children. We look forward to affirming your gifts. *—Worship Commission*

You are invited to attend any of the upcoming Regional Gatherings that best fits with your schedule. The meetings will include updates about what is happening in CDC and talks taking place with Allegheny Mennonite Conference. The host congregation will serve lunch and share a bit of their congregation's story.

- January 27 @ Mennonite Church of Normal (805 S Cottage Ave, Normal, Illinois)
- February 10 @ Grace Mennonite Church (502 E Main St, Pandora, Ohio)
- March 17 @ Silverwood Mennonite Church (1745 W Lincoln Ave, Goshen, Indiana)

Regional Gatherings start with coffee and tea at 9:45 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. The congregations of Normal, Grace, and Silverwood have graciously agreed to provide lunch for those attending. Donations are requested to help cover the costs. To help plan for the amount of food needed, please let Emma Hartman know if you are attending by Jan. 22, Feb. 5, and March 12 (depending on the regional gathering you choose to attend.) Email office@mcusacdc.org or phone 800.662.2264.

Lodging needed: Delegates of the Ohio Conference will be at Bluffton University March 8-10 for the Annual Conference Assembly/Missional Assembly. Some delegates prefer to stay in homes. If you are willing to offer housing, please contact Susan Troyer, ACA lodging coordinator, at stevetroyer.st@gmail.com or 419.236.0297, by Friday, Jan. 26. When contacting Troyer, provide your name, address, phone, e-mail, and answer the following:

- Lodging one or two nights
- How many guests can you accommodate?
- Can you provide breakfast?
- Do you have pets?
- Can you help with transportation to BU?