

**First Mennonite Church
January 28, 2017**

Chimes call us to worship Deb Niswander

Welcome Gerald Mast

Prelude “Praise and Worship” arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” HWB 37

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 111:1-4, 10

L: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

C: Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

L: Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

C: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the Lord is gracious and merciful.

All: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

Special Music “Misty Morning” Carl J. Nygard, Jr.
Youth Choir

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “Let the children come to me” (*refrain, vs.1, refrain*) STS 47

Conversation Lynda Nyce

Hymn “Let the children come to me” (*refrain, vs.2, refrain*) STS 47

Special Music “Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates” William Mathias
Chancel Choir

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory “It is well” Philip Bliss
Ted Yoder, dulcimer

Pastoral Prayer Wanda Stopher

Scripture Mark 1:21-28 Leah Schroeder

Sermon Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

***Hymn** “Silence! frenzied, unclean spirit” HWB 630

Communion

The Invitation

Sharing the Bread

Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn** “Bless’d be the tie that binds” (*vs. 1, 2, 3, 6*) HWB 421

Benediction

Postlude “Postlude on “Lobe den Herren” arr. Janet Linker

***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.

Lima Area Habitat for Humanity greatly appreciates the Christian generosity of those seeking to bring positive change to the local communities. Currently, we have two major needs: 1) On Saturday, Feb. 17, the Habitat ReStore in Lima needs to move their entire showroom inventory to another location in order to refurbish their floor. One week later, Feb. 24, the inventory will be moved back. To make this move possible, approximately 50 individuals are needed each morning and each afternoon. 2) There is an urgent need for additional volunteers in the ReStore - product preparation, customer service, donation/product pick-up and more. *Contact: Mark Suderman, Volunteer Coordinator (419)222-4937 or mark@habitatlima.org or find more information at www.habitatlima.org.*

Kimberly D. Schmidt will present a talk on her book, “Magpie’s Blanket,” at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4 at FMC. A book signing will follow the talk. The novel recounts the events of the massacres of Sand Creek (1864) and Washita (1868) and the century-late healing ceremony and reconciliation after the townspeople’s misguided attempt to re-create the “battle of the Washita with descendants of US soldiers. “Magpie’s Blanket” was named a 2017 WILLA Literary Award finalist. Schmidt works for Eastern Mennonite University as professor of history and director of the Washington Community Scholars’ Center in Washington, DC. She is the daughter of Charlotte and Melvin Schmidt, former pastor of FMC.

Sarah Thompson, 2018 Generations Fellow, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, will present Bluffton University’s 2018 Keeney Peace Lecture, “From Charlottesville to Congo to Cleveland: The State of Nonviolence,” at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, in Yoder Recital Hall.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Delicia Bravo and Peter Wigginton serve as coordinators of the Ecuador Partnership that includes North and South American churches. Pray for them as they participate in the ministries of the Mennonite churches in Quito, serve as mentors for Journey International participants, and parent their two young daughters.

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 28, 2018

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| 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 |

THIS WEEK

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| Monday (1-29) | Volunteers for Our Daily Bread meet, 9:45 a.m. Comforter frame set up, 1 p.m., FH |
| Tuesday (1-30) | Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Comforter knotting, 9 a.m., FH Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR |
| Wednesday (1-31) | Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m. |
| Thursday (2-1) | Worship, 7 p.m., parlor |

NEXT SUNDAY

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|------------|----------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Youth choir |
| 9:15 a.m. | SS, Coffee time |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching |

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

Today we will receive Communion. Please note that all the bread today is gluten free. As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC include the giving of alms. We do this by giving to the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community. Baskets are available at the doors.

***Invitation:** Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer! Come to the table humbly, not because you have earned a place here, but because you know your need of mercy and help. Come because you love God and want to love God more. Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us. Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Come, by the mystery of God's grace, One Spirit-filled people of God, the body of Christ present here and now.*

We welcome Ted Yoder, who will play today's offertory music. He is a virtuoso hammered dulcimer musician from Goshen, IN. Over the past 10 years he has cultivated a world-wide audience with his technical and emotive playing. In 2010, he won America's National Dulcimer Championship.

Soup's On: SHYF will hold a soup meal fundraiser following worship today 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!

We will have a potluck and time to welcome Theda Good as Pastor of Connections following worship on Sunday, Feb. 11. Please bring a food item to share, as well as your own dinnerware.
-- *Nurture Commission*

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.

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.

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 "fmennobl."

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.

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.

- 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 Grace and Silverwood will provide lunch for those attending. Donations are requested to help cover the costs. To help plan for the meals, please let Emma Hartman know if you are attending by Feb. 5 or March 12 (depending on the regional gathering you choose to attend.) Email office@mcusacdc.org or phone 800.662.2264.