

Epiphany One
January 10, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship	Lucia Unrau
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions	Melissa Friesen
Call to Worship	
Prelude	“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” arr. John A. Behnke
*Invocation	
*Opening Hymn	“Christ, whose glory fills the skies” HWB 216

— PRAISING —

Responsive Reading	Psalm 122
L: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”	
C: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.	
L: Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.	
C: To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.	
L: For there the thrones for judgment were set up, the thrones of the house of David.	
C: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.	
L: Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.”	
C: For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.”	
All: For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.	

Special Music	“Joy to the World” Arr. Valerie Stephenson
	<i>Adult Bells, Ray Raeburn, director</i>

Time with Children

Hymn	“Jesus, friend so kind and gentle” <i>(Sing v.1)</i>	HWB 621
Conversation		Janeen Bertsche Johnson
Hymn	“Jesus, friend so kind and gentle” <i>(Sing v.2)</i>	HWB 621
Pastoral Prayer		Wanda Stopher
— PROCLAIMING —		
Special Music	“Samachti B'omrim li” (<i>Psalm 122</i>) <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Charles Osborne
Scripture		Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon	“Seeing Ourselves in the Other”	Janeen Bertsche Johnson
*Hymn	“Christ is the world's true light”	HWB 334

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“O Jesus, I have Promised”	arr. Kenneth Lowenberg
*Hymn of Dedication	“As saints of old” (verse 1) <i>(Sing vs. 1)</i>	HWB 386
*Prayer of Dedication		
— SENDING —		
*Hymn	“For the healing of the nations”	HWB 367
*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: fmcbluffton.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

GREETERS: Amy Freeman, Kathy and Phil Traucht,

HOST:

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Kevin and Alison King

Worship – Kevin and Alison King

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Monica Harnish, Carmen Ordonez

Worship – Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass

SOUND SYSTEM: Walt Paquin

CHANCEL: Kaye Phillips

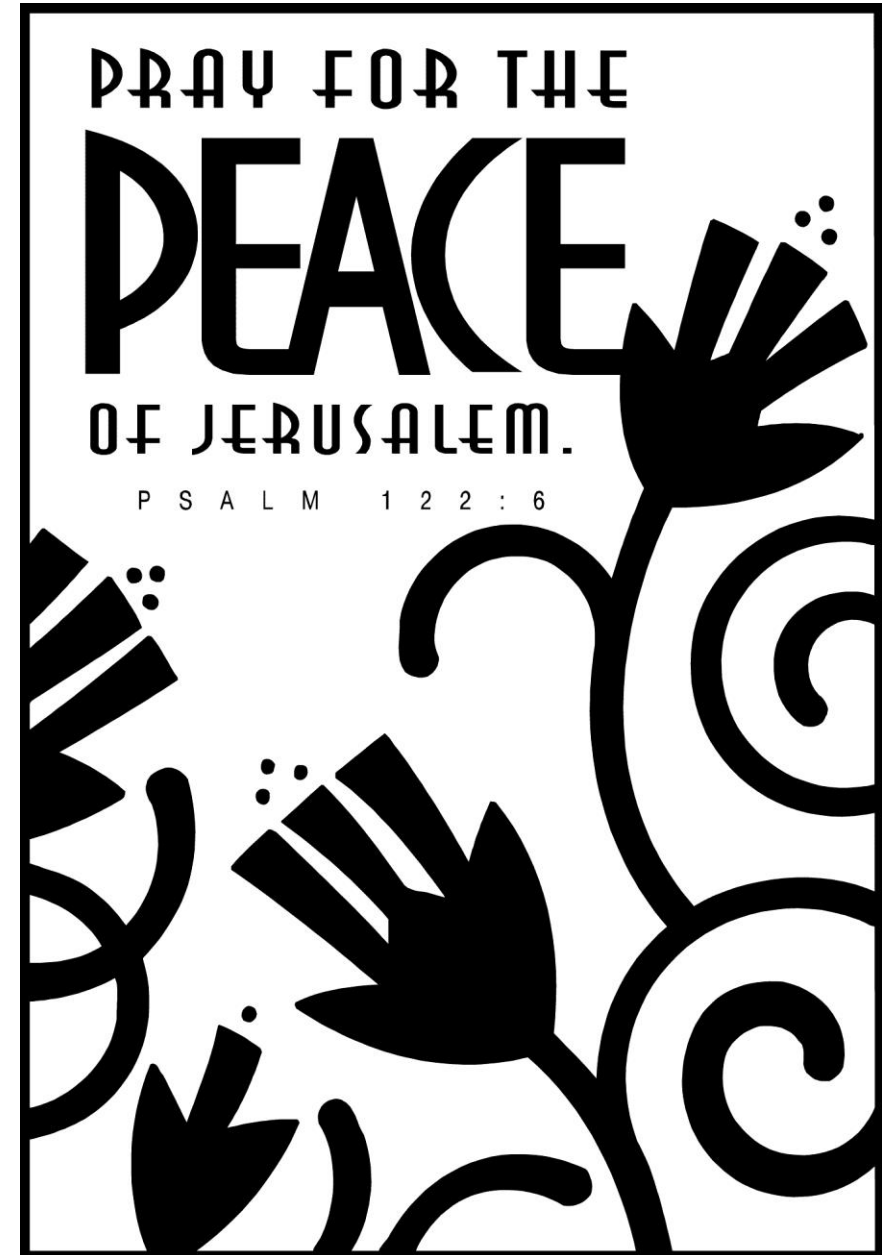
The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, www.fmcbluffton.org. Videos normally are posted on the Tuesday following the service. Previously recorded worship service videos may be found at tinyurl.com/fmc-videos

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	217
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	8
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	74
Spending plan giving Jan. 3, 2016	\$12,166.33
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
The offering Jan. 3 totaled \$9,936.83. Money was received for these special funds: Upper Room - \$2,	
Grades P-5 th SS – \$7.65, Grades 6-8 - \$5, Sojourners - \$21, Faith and Life - \$5, Connections - \$5, Capital	
Campaign - \$275, MDS - \$1,000, College Scholarships - \$83, Kitchen Service - \$4.50, \$Lily Schumacher.	

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - fmc.steve@bluffton.edu
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu
Director of Music – Mark Suderman
Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau
Custodian – Mick Hardy
Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Peace, Pies and Prophets tour will appear at Bluffton University at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 18 in Yoder Recital Hall. Ted & Company TheaterWorks collaborates with Christian Peacemaker Teams and local peacemakers to raise funds and awareness for peace. The evening includes the show, "I'd Like to Buy an Enemy," a satire that explores peace, justice and the American way. The event is sponsored by Bluffton University's Campus Ministries, PEACE Club, and the Damascus Road Anti-Racism Team as well as First Mennonite Church and Lima Mennonite Church. Admission is free and open to the public. There will be a free will offering in addition to an auction of homemade pies. All funds raised during the auction go to Christian Peacemaker Teams.

Mennonite Arts Weekend 2016 is scheduled for February 5-7 at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati. Organized and supported by members of [Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship](#), the event invites artists and art enthusiasts to join together for a weekend of presentations, workshops, performances and worship. Registration is now open – the deadline for early registration is January 15. More details are available at <http://www.mennoniteartsweekend.org/>.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Glennys Henry, 91, Jan. 14; Paul Dyck, 90 Jan. 14; Mary Amstutz, 85, Jan. 14.

Elfrieda Ramseyer is having a heart valve replacement on Monday, Jan. 11, in Cleveland. She and Dick would appreciate your prayers.

Thank you to all who were like family to Christina Detwiler, age 90, who passed to her eternal home on Christmas Day at Willow Ridge. People who visited, sent cards, bus drivers, greeters and ushers were her special church friends. -- *Joyce and Don Hostetler*

We wish to thank the FMC members for all the thoughts, prayers, cards and visits during Burton's stay in Bluffton Hospital and Mennonite Memorial Home. You are a caring congregation. -- *Burton and Elnore Yost*

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, Jan. 10, 2015

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; Combined adult classes, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Janeen Bertsche Johnson
Noon	Connections potluck
7:00 p.m.	Jonathan Brenneman, speaking about CPT experiences, FH

THIS WEEK

Monday (1/11)	Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH Library Committee, 7 p.m., library
Tuesday (1/12)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Education, 7 p.m., parlor Conversation on Welcome Statement, 7 p.m., AR (<i>see note below</i>)
Wednesday (1/13)	Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (1/14)	Senior Concerns, 2 p.m., AR Nurture, 7 p.m., library; MPS, 6:30 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, Wanda Stopher preaching Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Welcome Statement Process Dates to Remember

Jan. 12, 2016

Conversation led by team of (1) Council member and (1) Deacon for anyone **who will be unable** to attend a Sunday morning discussion group.

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

In November, six Central District Conference pastors were part of an MCC-led learning tour in Israel/Palestine. Among them was Janeen Bertsche Johnson, Campus Pastor of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. Today, Janeen will present pictures and reflections from the learning tour during our Sunday school. She will also preach during the worship service. Bertsche Johnson is in her 21st year as campus pastor at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. She also serves AMBS as an instructor, director of alumni relations, and creation care coordinator. Janeen and her husband, Barry, were married at First Mennonite (where they served as youth sponsors during college) in 1986, and are parents to Hannah (2015 Bluffton grad) and Aaron (Bluffton junior).

Jonathan Brenneman will provide a Window on Mission program at 7 p.m. today, on his work with the Christian Peacemaker Teams' Palestine project in Hebron, promoting human rights, especially children's rights. An offering will be taken to support Peace, Pies and Prophets, a dramatic production by Ted & Co to raise money and awareness of CPT's activities in Israel/Palestine. Brenneman grew up attending Lima Mennonite Church. After high school, he spent eight months in Northern Ireland with Mennonite Mission Network's Radical Journey Program. He earned a degree in history and philosophy from Huntington University and attends the Kroc Institute at University of Notre Dame. For the past six months, as a part of that program he has interned with Ndifuna Ukwazi in Cape Town, South Africa, promoting urban land justice.

The first of the small group conversations regarding the Proposed Welcome Statement and accompanying Policy Statement will take place on Tuesday, January 12, at 7 pm. This is a special opportunity to join the conversation if you are unable to join a class discussion on Sunday, January 17. There will also be an option on Sunday for those who are not a regular participant in an adult Sunday school class.

All women are invited to attend "Make it Yourself, Monday" Monday, January 11 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. You are invited to bring something that you have created, collected or enjoy putting together, to share with other women. A form will be provided for you to fill in the name of your hobby and a brief description of how it was created. Tables will surround the fellowship hall on which to place each of the displays. Nothing

is too small or too big, too unusual or too common. There will be informal time for enjoying each other's displays, after which Monica Harnish will lead our devotions, "Creativity is Best Measured in Faithfulness and Joy." Refreshments will be prepared by Heidrun Awad and Alice Ruth Ramseyer.
– Mary Ina Hooley

Time correction for First Night: First Night returns in February\March. For five weeks beginning Wednesday, Feb. 17 through March 16, we will have a First Night meal and program to follow. **There will be no 5:30 p.m. program, and the meal will begin at 6 p.m. Those attending are asked to begin gathering in the fellowship hall shortly before 6 p.m.** After the meal we will have a 30-minute program from 6:40 until 7:10. If you are interested in presenting a 30-minute program please contact Pastors Wanda or Steve. Additional information is forthcoming.
-- Nurture Commission

Attending senior high winter retreat at Camp Friedenswald this weekend are FMC youth: Christopher Harnish, Elizabeth Nisly, Douglas Nester, Seth Andreas, Isaac Andreas, Laura Strahan, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Levi Schumacher, Cassidy Bush, as well as guests, Sarah Theisen, Morgan Auchmuty, and Eli Bourassa. Shannon Thiebeau and Ray Person are chaperones.

Two new adult Sunday school classes begin meeting on January 24. A class of young parents will have a seven-week book study and discussion on "Seven Things Children Need" by John Drescher. Greg Ring is the teacher and Alison King and Jen Benroth are coordinators. A second class will be intergenerational but with an emphasis on young adult issues, and will be led by Kaye Phillips. Please share your interest by talking with Alison, Jenny, Kaye or Steven Yoder.

A breakfast for mentors will be held from 8-9 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 24 in the fellowship hall. This will be a time of fellowship and resourcing for those mentoring our youth. This year, mentoring becomes a more intentional program within Christian Education, as mentors are given more support, structure and resources to build relationships with their mentees. We're hoping to provide more intergenerational opportunities within the congregation.
-- Carol Welty, Mentor Coordinator

Parables, an eight-student worship ensemble from Goshen College, will perform at FMC at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30. Lucas Harnish is a member of Parables, which combines music, original drama and personal stories to create an engaging worship experience designed to inspire, comfort and challenge. The theme for 2015-16 is Finding Hope in Christ, Community & Creation. This year Parables explores Biblical stories and scripture that help find hope in Christ, community and creation.