

Epiphany Two
January 17, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Steven Yoder

Call to Worship

Prelude "What Star is This?" arr. Franklin Ritter

***Invocation**

***Opening Hymn** "How brightly beams the morning star" HWB 222

— PRAISING —

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 36:5-10
New International Reader's Version

L: Lord, your love is as high as the heavens. Your faithful love reaches up to the skies.

C: Your holiness is as great as the height of the highest mountains. You are as honest as the oceans are deep. Lord, you keep people and animals safe.

L: How priceless your faithful love is! People find safety in the shadow of your wings.

C: They eat well because there is more than enough in your house. You let them drink from your river that flows with good things.

L: You have the fountain of life. We are filled with light because you give us light.

All: Keep on loving those who know you. Keep on doing right to those whose hearts are honest.

Special Music "Sing Jubilate Deo" Jerry Estes
Youth Choir

Time with Children

Hymn "Jesus, friend so kind and gentle" HWB 621
(Sing v.1)

Conversation Jeff Gundy

Hymn "Jesus, friend so kind and gentle" HWB 621
(Sing v.2)

Pastoral Prayer Steven Yoder

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture John 2:1-11

Sermon "The Reception" Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** "My life flows on" HWB 580

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "Brightest and Best" arr. John M. Rasley

***Hymn of Dedication** "As saints of old" HWB 386
(Sing vs. 1)

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** "You shall go out with joy" HWB 427

***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: Todd Rainey, Gayle Trollinger

HOST: Gloria and Rich Bucher

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Monica Harnish, Carmen Ordonez

Worship -- Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass, Christopher Harnish

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Ken Shenk, Tig Intagliata

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Walt Paquin

CHANCEL: Mona Reichenbach

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	184
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	13
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	77
Spending plan giving Jan. 10, 2016	\$9,329.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Jan. 10 totaled \$11,218.41. Money was received for these special funds: Habitat for Humanity - \$20, Rejoice - \$90.60, Grades P-5 th SS – \$3.81, Grades 6-8 - \$1, Capital Campaign - \$185, Christine Purves memorial - \$570.	

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

Rally Point is a ministry for youth in Lima supported, in part, by the area Mennonite churches. We at First Mennonite have offered to provide after-school snacks several times each month through the school year. If you would like to be involved or want to know more about the ministry, see the most recent newsletter and the sign-up sheet with additional information in the fellowship hall below the Mennonite Women bulletin board. Your interest and participation are appreciated. *-- Louise Matthews*

Sarah Thompson, Executive Director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, will present “Moving Toward Conflict” at Bluffton University’s Martin Luther King Day Forum at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 19 in Founders Hall. Thompson earned a Master of Divinity from Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in 2011 and is a graduate of Spelman College, with majors in Comparative Women’s Studies and International Studies.

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 Mary Anne Moser, 82, Jan. 19.

At the time of printing, Elfrieda Ramseyer’s family had reported that her surgery to replace two heart valves was successful. On Thursday, she was up and walking, gaining strength and energy. They expected her to be released on Saturday.

Thank you so much for the encouraging words and prayers to support us in the death of our son-in-law, Bob Konicek. It is so good to be blessed with your prayers and concern--to benefit from the strong support system of First Mennonite.

– Alice Ruth and Bob Ramseyer

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. 17, 2015

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Community class potluck

THIS WEEK

Monday (1/18)	Martin Luther King Day, Church Office Closed
	Et Cetera Board meeting, AR, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday (1/19)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary
	Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (1/20)	Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.;
	Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.

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: Nehemiah 8:1-3; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a;
	Luke 4:14-21

Welcome Statement Process Dates to Remember

Today	Sunday school and small group conversations will be led by teams of (1) Council member and (1) Deacon.
Jan. 21	Regularly scheduled Council meeting, during which the next step(s) will be identified based on feedback and discussions

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

The church office will be closed tomorrow, January 18, in observance of Martin Luther King Day. If you have a pastoral need, please contact Wanda Stopher at 419.551.1079 or Steven Yoder at 567.712.1841.

Steven Yoder will be out of the office for most of the week. He and Janet will be at the Cleveland Clinic for regularly scheduled maintenance of his implanted device. He welcomes your prayers.

Church directory: The pages of the church directory are posted on tables in the fellowship and will remain there through Sunday, Jan. 24. Please take time to review and make changes/corrections to your entry (and those of your family members who are not here to do so).

We have distributed the 2016 contribution envelopes via church mailboxes of those who have indicated their wish to use them. If you have not requested envelopes, but would now like to use them, please notify the church office. We do have some extra boxes of envelopes.

Most Sundays we at First Mennonite Church follow the Revised Common Lectionary in worship. That means that the sermon will likely be based on one of the four texts listed each week. We are currently in Year C. You may use this link to a listing of the Revised Common Lectionary texts : <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. Hard copies of the texts will be available by next Sunday on the bulletin table outside the sanctuary entrance. You will also find the list for each Sunday printed in the previous week's bulletin.

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. After the meal we will have a 30-minute program. If you are interested in presenting a 30-minute program please contact Pastors Wanda or Steve. Additional information is forthcoming.

-- *Nurture Commission*

Pies needed for Peace, Pies and Prophets: Ted & Company TheaterWorks, led by Ted Swartz, 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. TheatreWorks will present "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. All proceeds from the auction will benefit Christian Peacemaker Teams. FMC's Mission, Peace and Service commission is requesting the donation of pies to be auctioned off or sold after the performance. Pies should be delivered to Yoder Hall by 6 p.m. Monday, prior to the show. Please also include a note with the baker's name, the type of pie and if there is any significance or story to the pie. **RSVP to Liana Gott and Wendy Chappell-Dick, wendy@mennofolk.org, or sign up with Ruth Early in the fellowship hall after worship today.**

Coming Soon! Two new Sunday school classes will begin Sunday, Jan. 24 at 9:15 a.m. A young parents class led for seven weeks by Greg Ring will meet in the VIP room downstairs. Another new class (Faithbuilders) will meet in Room 113 – across from the adult choir practice room. If you are interested in the young parents class, contact Jennifer Benroth or Alison King. If you are interested in Faithbuilders, contact Kaye Phillips or Associate Pastor 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.

Red Cross Bloodmobile: The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at First Mennonite on Thursday, Feb. 4, from noon-6 p.m. Volunteers are needed in various capacities. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. **Thanks to all who volunteered during the December Red Cross blood drive. It was very successful!**
-- *Heidrun Awad*