

**Epiphany Three  
January 24, 2016  
10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

**Chimes call us to worship** Lucia Unrau

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Elizabeth Kelly

**Call to Worship**

**Prelude** “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken” arr. Gordon Young

**\*Invocation**

**\*Opening Hymn** “All beautiful the march of days” HWB 159

— PRAISING —

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 19:1-6  
*(New International Reader’s Version)*

L: The heavens tell about the glory of God. The skies show that his hands created them.

**C: Day after day they speak about it. Night after night they make it known.**

L: But they don’t speak or use words. No sound is heard from them.

**C: Yet their voice goes out into the whole earth. Their words go out from one end of the world to the other. God has set up a tent in the heavens for the sun.**

L: The sun is like a groom leaving the room of his wedding night.  
The sun is like a great runner who takes delight in running a race.

**All: It rises at one end of the heavens. Then it moves across to the other end.  
Everything enjoys its warmth.**

**Special Music** “All Things Bright and Beautiful” John Rutter  
*Chancel Choir*

**Time with Children**

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

**Conversation** Carol Welty

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

**Special Music** “Zion’s Children” Traditional  
*Cherub Choir*

**Pastoral Prayer** Steven Yoder

— PROCLAIMING —

**Scripture**

**Sermon** “The Space Between Us” Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn** “Heart with loving heart united” HWB 420

— RESPONDING —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It” arr. Mark Hayes

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “As saints of old” HWB 386  
*(Sing vs. 2)*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

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

**\*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: [fmclubluffton.org](http://fmclubluffton.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

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**GREETERS:** Kathy and Phil Traucht, Mary and Fred Steiner

**HOST:** Joyce and Don Hostetler

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – Ken Shenk, Tig Intagliata

*Worship* – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Sunita Hooley

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** SS – Janet Yoder, Shelby Cluts

*Worship* – Kevin Cluts, Mary Ina Hooley, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Melissa Friesen      **CHANCEL:** Mary Amstutz and Anita Lehman

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmclubluffton.org](http://www.fmclubluffton.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 223

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD) 12

Sunday school attendance last Sunday 104

Spending plan giving Jan. 17, 2016 \$5,220.25

2016 Proposed spending plan \$418,276.00

The offering Jan. 17 totaled \$5,803.13. Money was received for these special funds: Upper Room - \$2,

Grades P-5<sup>th</sup> SS – \$1.93, Grades 6-8 - \$20, Grades 9-12 - \$5, Sojourners - \$7, Faith and Life - \$12,

Community - \$1, Deacons' Benevolent - \$40, Mennonite Women - \$38, Peace, Pies and Profits (CPT) -

\$100.

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - [fmc.steve@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.steve@bluffton.edu)

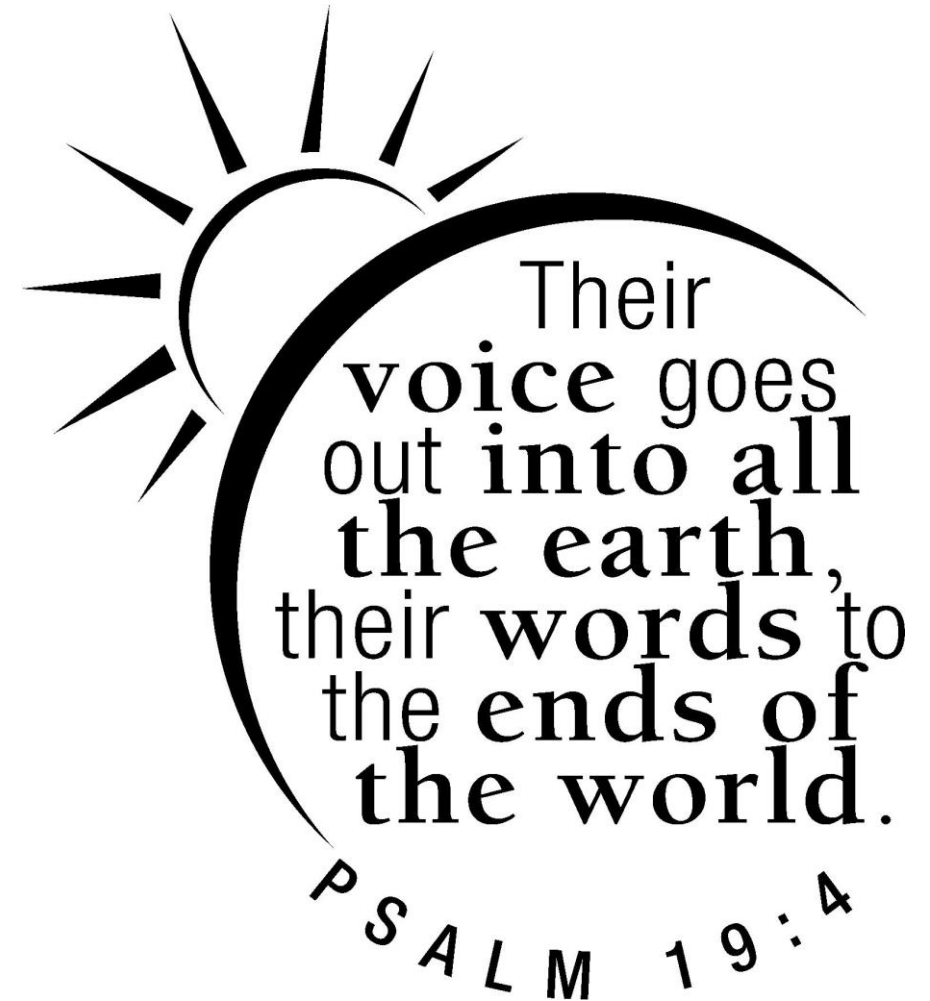
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)



## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Take your family** to camp for a weekend of fun and to reconnect with one another without the demands of home. Enjoy planned activities for all ages, Saturday child care for young children, family-centered, and child-friendly worship. Camp Friedenswald's Family Winter Retreat Feb. 12-14 will feature David Moser, pastor at Southside Mennonite Fellowship, speaking about My Immigration Story; My Neighbor's Immigration Story. For more information or to register visit [www.friedenswald.org](http://www.friedenswald.org).

**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*

**There is still time to register for** Mennonite Arts Weekend 2016, which will be held Feb. 5-7 at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati. Organized and supported by members of [Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship](http://www.cincinnati-mennonite-fellowship.org), the event invites artists and art enthusiasts to enjoy presentations, workshops, performances and worship. More details are available at <http://www.mennoniteartsweekend.org/>.

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday to** Evelyn Luginbuhl, 93, Jan. 25

**Please remember** Ron and Linda Headings and their family in your prayers. Ron's dad, Phillip Headings, died Jan. 15 in Kansas. A memorial service was held Jan. 18.

**Steve Yoder, Elfrieda Ramseyer and Joan Dailey** were each hospitalized recently and have since returned to their respective homes.

*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. 24, 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

## THIS WEEK

Monday (1/25)	Volunteers leave for Our Daily Bread, 9:30 p.m., parking lot
Tuesday (1/26)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (1/27)	Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (1/28)	Deacons, 7 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, Steven Yoder preaching Communion, child dedication, mentor commissioning Congregational meeting <b>Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30</b>

## Welcome Statement Process Dates to Remember

**Jan. 31**

Regularly scheduled Congregational Meeting will include discussion.

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 January 31 congregational meeting** will begin approximately 15 minutes after the end of the worship service. Note that there will not be a meal before the meeting. Because the meeting might include some substantial discussion, we advise church members to eat a good breakfast (or bring a snack).

**Communion Jan. 31:** Next Sunday, we will observe communion in our worship service. Preparing for communion is to take time to examine one's life and relationships with God and the body of Christ (church). It is an opportunity to mend relationships with others. Unity within the body of Christ is one of the themes of communion. Another aspect often overlooked is the giving of alms. This is done at FMC 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 within the church and in the community.

**Two new adult** Sunday school classes began today. A class of young parents is having a 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. Both classes will continue to welcome new members.

**Driver needed:** I need someone to drive me in my van to church each Sunday in April, May and June. If you have a valid drivers' license and a willingness to come to Frieda House at 9 a.m. and can wait until I am done visiting after church, to return me home, you are qualified. -- Peter DeMeo

**Volunteers are** needed to serve lunch at Our Daily Bread tomorrow, Jan. 25. Volunteers leave FMC at 9:30 a.m. If you're interested in helping, please contact John Rich.

**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 like them, please notify the church office. We do have 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 are available on the bulletin table outside the sanctuary entrance. You will also find the list of the next Sunday's text printed under the "Next Week" heading on the second page of each Sunday'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. 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. -- Nurture Commission

**Red Cross Bloodmobile:** Our December Red Cross blood drive was very successful so let's try to do even better at the next one! The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at First Mennonite on Thursday, Feb. 4, from noon-6 p.m. **Volunteers are needed in various capacities before, after and during the event.** There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. If you wish to donate blood, please call 1-800-RED Cross or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), sponsor code "fmennobl." Walk-ins are also welcome. **Remember to bring your donor card, driver's license or two other forms of ID.**

**Hunger doesn't hibernate** during the cold months. Please consider a donation to the Bluffton Area Food Pantry this month. Listed below are items especially needed during February. Bring your item(s) to the fellowship hall and place them in the box by the Mission, Peace and Service pillar. No contribution is too small. Thank you! -- MPS

*Cereals and breakfast items*

*Pastas and sauces*

*Spaghettios and similar canned foods*

*Canned fruits, especially mandarin oranges, peaches, pears and applesauce*

*Canned vegetables (no corn or green beans are needed at this time)*

*Macaroni and cheese*

*Campbell soups, also chunky soups (Progresso or similar)*

*Crackers and similar snacks*

*Packaged cookies*

*Tortillas, tacos, and packaged taco meals*

*Lotions, creams, deodorant, shampoo, hair care products (soap, toothpaste not needed)*

*Paper products – toilet paper, paper towels and tissues*

*Canned meats – beef and chicken*

*Condiments – ketchup, mustard, mayo, salad dressing*

*Baked beans*

*Hamburger helper, tuna and tuna helper*

*Packaged potatoes and rice meals Juice (apple, orange, cranapple, not frozen)*

*Coffee, tea*

*Dog and cat food*