

**Epiphany Four  
January 31, 2016  
10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

**Chimes call us to worship** LuAnn Stuckey

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Hans Houshower

**Call to Worship**

**Prelude** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past (I)” arr. N. Raabe

**\*Invocation**

**\*Opening Hymn** “Here in this place” HWB 6

— PRAISING —

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 71:1-6  
*(New International Reader’s Version)*

L: Lord, I have gone to you for safety. Let me never be put to shame.

**C: You do what is right, so save me and help me. Pay attention to me and save me.**

L: Be my rock of safety that I can always go to. Give the command to save me. You are my rock and my fort.

**C: My God, save me from the power of sinners. Save me from the hands of those who are mean and evil.**

L: You are the King and the Lord. You have always been my hope. I have trusted in you ever since I was young.

**All: From the time I was born I have depended on you. You brought me out of my mother’s body. I will praise you forever.**

**Time with Children**

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

**Conversation** Ashton Cluts

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

**Child Dedication** Vivian Rose Miller, daughter of Tara and Kyle Miller

**Recognition of Mentors and Mentees** Carol Welty

— RESPONDING —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**  
**Offertory** “Gift of Finest Wheat” arr. J. Carter

— PROCLAIMING —

**Scripture** Luke 4: 21-30

**Sermon** “Pushing the Boundaries” Steven Yoder

**\*Hymn** “I bind my heart this tide” HWB 411

— COMMUNION —

**The Invitation**

**Prayer of Confession (read in unison)**

Almighty and most merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the desires of our own hearts. We have offended you and your laws. We have neglected our duties, and committed evil against you and others. Lord have mercy on us. Fulfill the promise that if we confess our sins you are faithful and just and will forgive our sins. Grant us a godly, righteous and radiant life. As we partake of these elements, may we be filled with the fullness of Jesus Christ and grow into his likeness. Amen

**Sharing the Bread** “Draw Us In The Spirit’s Tether” Harold W. Friedell  
*Chancel Choir*

**Sharing the Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn** “We are people of God’s peace” HWB 407

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past (III)” arr. N. Raabe

*\*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](http://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

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**GREETERS:** Shelby and Kevin Cluts, Judy and Larry Diller,

**HOST:** Joyce and Don Hostetler

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – Janet Yoder, Shelby Cluts

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

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** SS – Gerald Mast, Elaine Suderman

*Worship* – Annette and Amelia Heslep, Amy Blount

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Moser

**CHANCEL:** Jo Croft

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmcbluffton.org](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	255
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	11
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	117
Spending plan giving Jan. 24, 2016	\$6,167.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Jan. 24 totaled \$6,846.52. Money was received for these special funds: Grades P-5 <sup>th</sup> SS – \$13.25, Sojourners - \$10, Faith and Life - \$11, Deacons' Benevolent - \$20, MDS - \$400, Habitat - \$120, Kitchen service - \$7.55, Bluffton Food Pantry - \$50, and College Scholarships - \$20.	

### 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

**Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio** is accepting applications for the Barbara Fleming Memorial Nursing Scholarship. The scholarship is meant to promote the career of nursing and is available to anyone pursuing a degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse, a Registered Nurse, or a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The scholarship is to be used to pay school-related expenses toward any of these degrees. The scholarship offers a minimum award of \$500 and will be paid directly to the vocational school or college where the student is enrolled. Applications are available by contacting Mennonite Memorial Home, 410 W. Elm St., Bluffton, OH 45817; 419-358-1015. Applications are also available at [mhcoliving.org](http://mhcoliving.org) and clicking on "What's Happening." A completed application must be postmarked and/or returned to the above address by March 31.

**MCC's Sharing With Appalachian People** is looking for summer meals coordinators and job site coordinators. These 3-month assignments include a level of interaction with youth and adult groups, youth sponsors, and local residents that provides opportunity to explore new cultures and stretch one's faith and understanding of Christ's commands. A stipend, room and board, and transportation to and from assignment are provided. For more information, visit [mcc.org/SWAP](http://mcc.org/SWAP).

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday** to Ernie Porzelius, 86, Feb. 1, and Elaine Rich, 89, Feb. 8.

**Please remember** Margaret Tiessen and her family in your prayers. Isaac died Jan. 23 at Hilty Home, Pandora. A funeral service was held January 29 in Leamington, Ontario. Isaac is also survived by a son, Robert, and daughter-in-law, Ingrid, and their two children, who live in Calgary, Alberta. Margaret traveled to the funeral with Rob, but plans to continue living at Hilty Home.

**Barb Stettler** had exploratory surgery Jan. 29 at Cleveland Clinic. Mel and Barb welcome your continuing prayers.

**We express our condolences** to Gayle Trollinger, whose mother, Barbara Alice Marston Norris died January 18 in Winona Lake, Indiana. Services were held on January 21.

**Congratulations to Gayle Trollinger**, whose daughter, Abby Trollinger, and her husband, Dan Hatch welcomed a daughter, Eloise Rebekah Trollinger Hatch on January 20 in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

*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. 31, 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, Steven Yoder preaching, Communion, child dedication, mentor recognition
11:45 a.m.	Congregational meeting, FH

## THIS WEEK

Tuesday (2/2)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (2/3)	Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (2/4)	Red Cross Bloodmobile, noon-6 p.m., FH Worship, 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, Carrie Mast preaching <b>Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36</b>

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

**Thanks to LuAnn Stuckey** for serving as our pianist in Lucia Unrau's absence.

**Part of our celebration of Communion** is a special offering for the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. You will find baskets at both the Church Street and fellowship hall doors.

**During today's worship service**, we will recognize our mentors and mentees. There is a list of the pairs on the insert. Thanks to Carol Welty for her work as coordinator. We will also dedicate **Vivian Rose Miller**, daughter of Tara and Kyle Miller.

**Today's congregational meeting** will begin approximately 15 minutes after the end of the worship service. We will meet in the fellowship hall.

**Wanda Stopher** will be out of town next weekend, Friday (02-05-16) through Sunday (02-07-16.) She will return to the office the following Monday (02-08-16.) For pastoral care concerns please call Steve Yoder.

**Most Sundays** we follow the Revised Common Lectionary in worship. The sermon will likely be based on one of the four texts listed each week. We are currently in Year C. You'll find a list of the Revised Common Lectionary texts at <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 on the second page of each Sunday's bulletin.

**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 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 "fmenncbl." Walk-ins are also welcome. **Remember to bring your donor card, driver's license or two other forms of ID.**

**Be sure to see** the beautiful fiber art work by Lois Wetherill in the display case in the Assembly Room. Her work includes penny rugs; needle felting; hand, punch needle and free motion machine embroidery; Art doll making; stumpwork; quilt piecing; flower

pounding; Ukrainian egg decorating; and more. Please let Carolyn Rich know what hobby you have to share in this display case in the future.

**"Scripture is a God-Breathed Work of Creativity,"** is the theme for Mennonite Women, Monday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Joanne Niswander will share her experiences of writing, tying it into the devotional, which she will also lead. Refreshments will be provided and served by Ginger Theis and Kay Huber. Please check our Mennonite Women pillar bulletin board for the report and photos of the January Creativity Fair. Each month, minutes and photos are posted there from the previous month's program.

**FMC members volunteer with MDS in Detroit:** Later today the following individuals will travel to Detroit to assist homeowners still recovering from the August 11, 2014 flood. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they serve through Friday, Feb. 5: Everett Collier, Dwight and Trella Kauffman, Lynn Miller, Wendell Miller, David Moser, Dennis and Pat Sheidler, Willis Sommer, and Mark Weidner.

**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. The schedule is below.

**6-6:30 p.m. Program**

-- *Nurture Commission*

**5:30 p.m. Supper begins**

**6 p.m. Cherub Choir dismissed to rehearse**

**6:30 p.m. Jubilate**

**6:20-7:15 p.m. Adult Bells**

**7:15-8:15 p.m. Youth Bells/Chancel Choir**

**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 De Meo*

**You are invited** to take comforters to hem or kits to sew into tops for the next knotting function. About six or seven comforters for hemming are located back of the kits table in the quilt room. In addition to the remaining kits, two bins contain plenty of fabric if you wish to choose your own colors. Thank you very much for your participation.

**Hunger doesn't hibernate** during the cold months. Please consider a donation to the Bluffton Area Food Pantry this month. See the insert in today's bulletin for a list of items most needed during February. Place your donations in the box by the MPS pillar. No contribution is too small. Thank you!

-- *MPS*