

Congregational Discernment: Remembering Our Past

January 15, 2017

10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Rhonda Winstead, Worship Leader

Prelude “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” arr. Daniel W. Gawthrop

*Call to Worship

*Invocation

— PRAISING —

*Opening Hymn “Immortal, invisible, God only wise” HWB 70

Responsive Reading Psalm 40:1-4

L: I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

C: He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

L: He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

All: Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

Testimony Gerald Mast

Time with Children

Hymn “I will come to you in the silence” (*Verse 3 and refrain*) STS 49

Conversation George O’Reilly

Hymn “I will come to you in the silence” (*Verse 4 and refrain*) STS 49

Pastoral Prayer

Wanda Stopher

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Psalm 40: 5-11

Sermon “On the Power Grid” George O’Reilly

— RESPONDING —

*Hymn “God has chosen me” STS 114

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “When Our Song Says Peace” arr. Anne Krentz Organ

*Hymn of Dedication “What gift can we bring” (verse 4) HWB 385

*Prayer of Dedication

— SENDING —

*Hymn “Faith of the martyrs” HWB 413

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story

Large-print hymnals and bulletins are available on the cabinet next to the parlor.

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: fmclubluffton.org

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor – Wanda – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday

Pastoral Associate – George – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Custodian's schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

GREETERS: Liana Gott, Kathy Traucht

HOST: Amy Freeman

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: John and Julie Mackey, Judy Diller

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Sunita Hooley

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS -- Anita and George Lehman, Carmen Ordonez

Worship – Kyle and Tara Miller, Annette Heslep

SOUND SYSTEM: Peter Terry

CHANCEL: Bev Simon

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, 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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday 216

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday 16

Sunday school attendance last Sunday

Spending plan giving January 8, 2016 \$11,321.11

2016 Proposed spending plan \$418,276.00

The offering Jan. 8 totaled \$15,995.32. Money was received for these special funds, Sojourners - \$51, K-5th - \$4.35,

Grades 6-8 - \$10, Grades 9-12 - \$2, Faithbuilders - \$15, Faith and Life - \$9, Community - \$2, Bequests - \$3,995,

Deacons Benevolent - \$40, Kitchen service - \$15.12, College scholarships - \$50, Habitat - \$120, Trustees - \$10, Mary

Ann Kooker memorial - \$255, Ron Friesen memorial - \$105, Facility use - \$50.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu

Pastoral Associate – George O'Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – fmc.george@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 - fmc@bluffton.edu

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.



attending can get to FMC for the 3 p.m. Congregational Discernment meeting. Unrau has been on the Interlochen Center for the Arts piano faculty since 1993 and has served as camp keyboard coordinator, overseeing the keyboard curriculum, since 2005. She holds a doctorate from the University of Texas-Austin.

Dr. J. Alexander Sider, associate professor of religion and Harry and Jean Yoder Scholar in Bible and Religion, will present “If 'God Obviously Makes No Difference to the Universe,' then ‘What Is the Point of Being a Christian?’” in Bluffton University’s colloquium at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27 in Centennial Hall.

Book ReViews needs volunteers. If you love books and enjoy interacting with other book lovers, this is the opportunity for you. If you are tech savvy, you might also enjoy getting involved with the Book ReViews Etcetera “storefront” on Amazon.com. Please contact store manager Christina Walton at 358-6999. – *Mission, Peace and Service*

Mennonite Disaster Service will hold a celebration of the work of many volunteers in responding to the flood of 2014 in Detroit, on Saturday, Jan. 21, with refreshments at 12:30 p.m. and a program to follow at Community Christian Fellowship, 8131 E Outer Drive, Detroit, MI. This invitation is open to all including the many from First Mennonite who have volunteered in Detroit since the project opened in November of 2014. RSVP to Lawrence Matthews if you are able to attend and also indicate if you have or need transportation (cell: 419.303.8056; email: matthewsL@bluffton.edu.)

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Mary Anne Moser, 87, January 19.

Adan Ortiz has experienced very good results from some recent procedures. However, he faces more care and challenges, so appreciates your prayers. Those able to drive him to appointments and treatments should contact Adan at 419.358.0955.

Joan Dailey was hospitalized January 11 for two heart procedures. She is doing well and invites prayers for her recovery.

We are sad to share that Harold Lehman, 84, father of Louise Matthews, died Tuesday, Jan. 10. He had been a resident of Mennonite Home since December of 2014. Visitation and a funeral service are being planned for this weekend in Wellsville, NY. Details are pending with arrangements by Embser Sons funeral home and the Lehman's home church, Yorks Corners Mennonite, Wellsville.

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 15, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O’Reilly preaching
Noon	Community class potluck

THIS WEEK

Monday (1-16)	Et Cetera board, 7 p.m., AR
Tuesday (1-17)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Adriel, 9:30 a.m., FH
Wednesday (1-18)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (1-19)	Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor Community Meal, Senior Center, 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m., Council, parlor
Friday (1-20)	Menno-Life deadline
Saturday (1-21)	Women’s March on Washington, get acquainted mtg., 7 p.m., FH MCC Great Lakes Alumni Gathering, 6 p.m., FH

NEXT WEEK

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Sister Carol Inkrott, BAMA pulpit exchange
3 p.m.	Congregational Discernment Meeting, FH

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

Pastor Wanda will be out of the office Monday and Tuesday this week. She will return on Wednesday. For pastoral care, please contact Pastor George.

Those attending Camp Friedenswald's Junior High winter retreat this weekend are Elam and Jacob Suter, Ellie Nickel, Perry Bush and Shannon Thiebeau. They return this afternoon.

Community Meal: First Mennonite Church is responsible for the community meal on Thursday, Jan. 19 at the Bluffton Senior Center. We need four to five volunteers to help serve the meal and four individuals to provide two dozen cookies each. Cookies should be at the church by 2 p.m. Jan. 19. If you can help with either of these needs, please contact John Rich by Tuesday, Jan. 17.

FIRST Night rescheduled for January 31

Due to a scheduling snafu, the next FIRST Night will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31, rather than Tuesday, Jan. 24, as announced previously. Come and enjoy one of our most popular meals -- Jane Weaver's ham loaf! Those attending should bring their own table service. **A registration table will be set up in the fellowship hall after worship January 22 and 29. Registrations must be paid by noon on the Monday prior to the event.**

-- Susie Gratz, FIRST Night chair

It is time to update photos for the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Fred Steiner will take photos of individuals, couples and families in the parlor after worship on January 22 and 29. We would like to include photos of **everyone who attends regularly – not only members.** Please stop by the parlor to have your photo taken. If you have questions, please contact Mary Amstutz or Anita Lehman.

Menno-Life deadline: Please submit all items for the Menno-Life to fmc@bluffton.edu by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20.

This is one of a series of “Did You Know” announcements from the Congregational Discernment Team, as we continue to explore the history and live into the future of First Mennonite.

Did You Know...that First Mennonite has always found it important to be involved in service outside the local community...

- ... in serving our country in the armed forces?
- ... in CO Camps (Conscientious Ojection) and I-W (alternative service)?
- ... as missionaries in India, South America, China, Africa and Japan, etc.?
- ... that by 1981, 97 individuals from FMC had spent time in voluntary service around the world, continuing today with six young adults?
- ... that MDS Western Ohio Chapter was founded in 1956?

Those who are going to the Women's March on Washington will hold a rehearsal of the songs they will be singing during their bus trip and the march. The rehearsal will be held at 8 p.m. tonight in the First Mennonite sanctuary. All – including individuals not attending the march -- are welcome to join them in the rehearsal.

Plan to attend the CDC regional gathering March 11 at First Mennonite Church, Wadsworth, OH. The morning will explore the theme of Abounding in Love. . . Abiding in Grace, with input from Open Table Mennonite Fellowship, a story and tour from the host congregation and reporting on MC USA events. After lunch, participants will hear a historical vignette from Camp Friedenswald and discuss faith formation experiences. The Wadsworth church will provide lunch (donations are suggested.) *To help with lunch plans, please notify our church office at 419.358.5766 or fmc@bluffton.edu by Friday, Feb. 24.*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

MCC Alumni & Friends Gathering at FMC: All alumni or interested friends of Mennonite Central Committee are invited to attend an MCC Alumni and Friends International Potluck at 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21, in our fellowship hall. Guest speaker is Amela Puljek Shank, MCC Area Director for Europe and Middle East, with an update on MCC's response to the Syrian crisis. Please RSVP at 574-534-4133 or to img@mcc.org.

Dr. Lucia Unrau, pianist and professor of music at Bluffton University, will present a faculty recital at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22, at Yoder Recital Hall. *The performance, which will feature works by Chopin, Mozart and Ginastera, will last 45-50 minutes so those*