

Congregational Discernment: Remembering Our Past
January 29, 2017
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship		LuAnn Stuckey
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Rich Bucher, Worship Leader
Prelude	“Be Thou My Vision”	Irish melody/arr.R. Harsell
*Call to Worship		
*Invocation		
	— PRAISING —	
*Opening Hymn	“The Lord is king”	HWB 69
Testimony		Lynn Miller
Special Music	“How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place”	Felix Goebel-Komala
	<i>Psalm 84; Chancel Choir and Soloists: Ray Person, Kay Huber, and Carol Welty</i>	
Time with Children		
Hymn	“I will come to you in the silence” (<i>Verse 3 and refrain</i>)	STS 49
Conversation		Chris Gott
Hymn	“I will come to you in the silence” (<i>Verse 4 and refrain</i>)	STS 49
Pastoral Prayer		Wanda Stopher

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Stay with Us” W. Pelz/D. Cherwien

***Prayer of Dedication**

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Matthew 5:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Sermon “Topsy Turvy” George O’Reilly

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

— COMMUNION —

The Invitation

Congregational Prayer STS 187

Sharing the Bread

Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “Be thou my vision” HWB 545
(Verses 1, 2, & 5)

***Benediction**

***Postlude** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” arr. E.T. Rogers

**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.

Plan to attend the CDC regional gathering March 11 at First Mennonite Church, Wadsworth. 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.**

Mennonite Women: CDC Mennonite Women has sent a letter of invitation to FMC women regarding six organizations they feel “encourage all women on their spiritual journey towards wholeness and joy in Jesus Christ.” These organizations “step away from complacency and speak out as Jesus did for those who have been marginalized and silenced.” The letter is posted on the MW pillar in the fellowship hall. All are encouraged to read the letter and join in supporting and donating to these organizations. Donations can be made by checks through our MW organization or directly to the organizations. Details are in the letter and will be in the February Menno-Life.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Ernie Porzelius, 88, Feb. 1.

Together we feel the loss of Adan Ortiz, who died January 22 at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay. A memorial service for Adan will be held at 11 a.m. at FMC. All are invited to a fellowship meal following the service.

Ernie Porzelius was hospitalized at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay, for testing. He appreciates your continuing prayers.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Helen Winkler, who died January 22 at the Mennonite Memorial Home. A funeral service was held January 27 at Chiles-Laman Funeral Home.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Gary and Lois Wetherill. Gary’s mother, Colene Wetherill, died January 24 at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay. A funeral service was held January 27 at Clark-Shields Funeral Home, Forest.

Congratulations to Kristen and Ryan Niekamp on the birth of their son, Jackson Stanley Niekamp, born on January 25, at 8 lbs., 13 oz., and 21 inches long. Jackson has two siblings, Kaden and Leah. Ruth Naylor is Jackson’s great-grandmother. Kim McCullough is his grandmother and Karen McCullough is his aunt.

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 29, 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 All-church potluck

The annual congregational meeting will be held today in the fellowship hall. An all-church potluck will follow worship, with the annual meeting taking place immediately after the potluck. Please join us.

THIS WEEK

Monday (1-30) Volunteers leave for Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday (1- 31) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (2-1) Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.
Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (2-2) Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor
Worship commission, 7 p.m., parlor
Saturday (2-4) Adan Ortiz memorial service, 11 a.m.; fellowship meal to follow

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
3-5:15 p.m. Congregational Discernment : Explore our Possibilities (all invited)

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

Today we will receive Communion. As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC include the giving of alms. We do this 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 who have need within the church and in the community. Please note that all the bread today is gluten free.

Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer!
Come to the table humbly,
not because you have earned a place here,
but because you know your need of mercy and help.
Come because you love God and want to love God more.
Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us.
Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
Come, by the mystery of God's grace,
the body of Christ present here and now.
(compiled and adapted from various sources)

Thank you Dwight and Trella Kauffman, who crafted the lovely communion ware we will use for the first time this morning as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Last Sunday afternoon 90 youth and adults, and eight children gathered for the first of three congregational discernment events. We talked. We laughed. We remembered. We had snacks. For a more substantive summary, see the one-page synopsis in your church mailbox. Also see the FMC timeline just outside the sanctuary. Please join us again Sunday, Feb. 5, from 3-5:15 p.m. for our second event. We will explore our challenges and our resources, and the opportunities they hold for our future together. *Congregational Discernment Team: Rich Bucher, Laura Hartzler, Chris Moser, Rhonda Winstead, George O'Reilly, Wanda Stopher*

We at FMC are actively and intensely engaged in a time of discernment. The big questions guiding us are: Who are we as a fellowship of followers of Jesus Christ? Where is God's Spirit moving among us? What does that mean for the next chapter in our shared life together? Throughout January and February, worship is one way we focus on

themes important to this process of discernment. Each week we will hear a testimony from someone in the congregation. These will range from observations or stories of FMC at her best to stories of beginnings at FMC. They might include stories of challenges we face or of dreams for our future together.

We are updating photos for the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Fred Steiner is taking photos of individuals, couples and families in the parlor after worship today. 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.

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 land was purchased for Camp Friedenswald by Central District Conference in the late 1940s on Shavehead Lake, Cassopolis, MI?
...that Camp Friedenswald means "Peaceful Woods?"
...that the first summer of camping was either 1950 or 1951?
...that the camp now consists of 365 acres?
...that in 1961, 69 children from First Mennonite attended one or more weeks of camping?
...that Lake View Lodge (an old KOA camp) was purchased in 1979?
...that Camp has played an important part in the lives of many of our children, youth and families?

FIRST Night will be held Tuesday, Jan. 31. Those attending should bring their own table service. The menu for January 31 will include ham loaf/edamame salad, buttered corn, cabbage salad, dinner rolls with butter and jelly, and fruit. **A registration table will be set up in the fellowship hall after worship today. Registrations must be paid by noon on the Monday prior to the event.** -- *Susie Gratz, FIRST Night chair*

The next First Mennonite blood drive will be held Thursday, Feb. 9 from 1-6 p.m. Volunteers are needed for this event: If you can provide cookies, help with registration, make sandwiches, help serve food, or unload and load the truck with their equipment, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. **To schedule your blood donation appointment,** call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to redcrossblood.org, sponsor code "fmennobl."