

Congregational Discernment: Remembering Our Past
January 8, 2017
10:30 a.m.

— **GATHERING** —

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Chimes call us to worship | | Lucia Unrau |
| Welcome, Announcements, Introductions | | Chris Moser, Worship Leader |
| Prelude | “Trumpet Tune” | Vivaldi/Wolff |
| *Call to Worship | | |
| *Invocation | | |
| | — PRAISING — | |
| *Opening Hymn | “Fairest Lord Jesus” | HWB 117 |
| Testimony | | |
| Special Music | “Ascribe to the Lord” <i>Chancel Choir—Text: Psalm 29:1-4</i> | Rosephanye Powell |
| Time with Children | | |
| Hymn | “I will come to you in the silence” (<i>Verse 1 and refrain</i>) | STS 49 |
| Conversation | | Chris Gott |
| Hymn | “I will come to you in the silence” (<i>Verse 2 and refrain</i>) | STS 49 |

Pastoral Prayer

— **PROCLAIMING** —

George O’Reilly

Scripture

Isaiah 42:1-9

Sermon

“Remembering Our Beginnings”
Matthew 3:13-17

Wanda Stopher

— **RESPONDING** —

***Hymn**

“The church of Christ in every age”

HWB 403

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Thou Fount of Grace”

Bedrich Janacek

***Hymn of Dedication**

“What gift can we bring” (verse 4)

HWB 385

***Prayer of Dedication**

— **SENDING** —

***Hymn**

“Love divine, all loves excelling”

HWB 592

***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: fmcbluffton.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, LuAnn Stuckey

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: Pat Sheidler, Shelby Cluts, Cheri Slotter

Worship – Jen and Darby Benroth, Betty Sommer

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS -- John and Julie Mackey, Judy Diller

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Anita Lehman

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 | 144 |
| Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday | 10 |
| Sunday school attendance last Sunday | NA |
| Spending plan giving January 1, 2016 | \$6,252.00 |
| 2016 Proposed spending plan | \$418,276.00 |
| The offering Jan. 1 totaled \$6,562. Money was received for these special funds, Faithbuilders (White Gift) - \$50, Deacons Benevolent - \$100, Kitchen service - \$50, College scholarships - \$50, Habitat - \$20, Trustees - \$10. | |

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.



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](https://www.amazon.com). Please contact store manager Christina Walton at 358-6999. – *Mission, Peace and Service*

Mennonite Disaster Service is planning a celebration of the work of many volunteers in responding to the flood of 2014 in Detroit. Volunteers, partners, and many of the clients in whose homes we served are joining together for this event: Saturday, January 21, with refreshments at 12:30 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].

What songs connect you to God? What songs do you turn to in joyful or difficult times? These are questions the Mennonite Worship and Song Committee is asking, inviting you to complete out a survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWSC_Heart_Song as it begins a study phase toward developing a new hymnal collection, to be released in 2020. The collection is being designed to succeed *Hymnal: A Worship Book, Sing the Journey* and *Sing the Story*. For more information about the Mennonite Worship and Song Collection project, contact LeAnn Hamby at (540) 908-3941 or email LeAnnH@mennomedia.org.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Margaret Weaver, 95, Jan. 8; Glennys Henry, 92, Jan. 11; Paul Dyck, 91, Jan. 14.

Phyllis Friesen’s new address is Frieda House, 103 Willow Ridge, Bluffton, OH 45817. Her phone number is 567-226-4063. Phyllis welcomes your visits!

Marilyn Diller is recovering well at Mennonite Memorial Home, Room 210 and appreciates your continuing prayers.

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

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon Freudige/Sojourners potlucks, FH
Noon SHYF/JHYF Christmas clean-up, pizza

THIS WEEK

Monday (1-9) Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (1-10) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Education, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Trustees, 7 p.m., AR
Women’s March organizational mtg., 7 p.m., FH
Wednesday (1-11) Pastor-Peer, 9-noon, AR
Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Stewardship, 7 p.m., parlor
Thursday (1-12) Senior Concerns, 2 p.m., AR
Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor

NEXT WEEK

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, George O’Reilly preaching

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

SHYF/JHYF: The youth will meet today at noon for Christmas clean-up and pizza.

“**Mentoring Others**” will be the theme for Mennonite Women, Monday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Ruth Naylor, an experienced spiritual director, will be the presenter. Laurel Neufeld Weaver will lead devotions. Judy Diller and Jane Weaver will provide refreshments. Remember to check the pillar by the kitchen for all that is happening with Mennonite Women.

A breakfast for mentors is planned for Sunday, Jan. 15 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. This is a resource time for those who serve as mentors to youth at FMC.

-- Carol Welty, mentor coordinator

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!

-- Susie Gratz, *FIRST Night chair*

Plan to attend the CDC regional gathering Saturday, March 11 at First Mennonite Church, Wadsworth. Regional gatherings allow us to hear developments and work in progress and to meet others in the conference. They are intended for all in the conference -- not only leaders in congregations or the conference.

Winter is back! That means that from time to time functions at the church may need to be cancelled. When needed, cancellations will be posted on the church website, on the Bluffton Icon, Lima FOX-WLIO (Hometown Stations,) The Findlay Courier, WFIN, WKXA and 106.3FOX. Cancellations will also be noted on the church answering machine. Recognizing that members come from many different places and that road conditions vary, everyone is urged to use caution and good judgment in deciding whether or not to attend.

This is the first 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 worship has always been very important to us?

- that in 1923 there were 150 members in the church choir?
- that the first pipe organ was installed in 1924?
- that in 1976 a new 22-rank organ was installed for \$55,000?
- that our music program has always had a strong relationship with Bluffton College/University?

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rehearsals for Bluffton University’s Masterworks performance of Vivaldi’s “Gloria” will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning January 10, in Mosiman Hall. All are invited to join the chorus and scores will be provided. The performance will be held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, in Yoder Recital Hall. Dr. Mark J. Suderman will conduct the performance, which will feature regional soloists and orchestra. For more information, contact Suderman at sudermanm@bluffton.edu or 419-358-3364.

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 will be 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 lmg@mcc.org.

Transition Bluffton will hold a Transition US national launch training February 25-26. The purpose of the training is to familiarize people with the Transition movement, provide instruction and tools for setting up a local initiative, and empower our community to tackle the issues of peak resources and climate change by rebuilding community resilience and self-reliance. Cost is \$90 through February 3 and \$110 thereafter. For more information, go to transitionbluffton.org or contact Sara Brenner, 358-0572, sara@blueflax.org.

– Mission, Peace and Service