

**Scripture Study: Digging Deeply**  
**First Mennonite Church**  
**July 1, 2018**

**Music calls us to worship** Laura Hartzler

**Welcome and announcements** Ray Person

**Introductions**

**Prelude** “When Morning Gilds the Skies” setting by R. Hartsell

**Call to Worship**

**\*Opening Hymns** Marlyce and Jeff Gundy

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 19:7-11 (NRSV)

L: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

**C: the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

L: the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**C: More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

**ALL: Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.**

**Special Music** “I Dreamed of Rain” Jan Garrett  
*Marlyce, vocals, and Jeff Gundy, guitar and vocals*

**Conversation with Friends**

“Come and see” (v. 1)

HWB 20

**Conversation**

“Come and see” (v. 2)

Amber Shelly

HWB 20

**Community Prayer**

Theda Good

**Scripture**

Ezekiel 2:8-3:3

Mitch Kingsley

**Sermon**

“Eat this book”

Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn**

“The word of God is solid ground”

HWB 314

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

Laura Hartzler

**\*Hymn**

“God, whose giving” – verse 1

HWB 383

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn**

“Move in our midst”

HWB 418

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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

*Please ask an usher for assistance in locating large print hymnals.*

**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  
 Pastor – Theda – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday  
 Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Custodian’s schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

**GREETER:** Todd Rainey  
**NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS – N/A**  
**Worship – N/A**  
**NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – N/A**  
**Worship – N/A**  
**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Moser

**CHANCEL:** Anita Lehman/Mona Reichenbach

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-165, MC-4
Spending plan giving June 24, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$3,140.51
Special fund giving June 24, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Flooring-\$355; Freudige-\$10 K-5-\$7.21; SHYF service trip-\$1,470; Trustees (janitorial services)-\$400</i>	\$2,242.21
Total giving June 24, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$5,382.72
Total spending plan receipts as of May 31, 2018	\$160,317.09
Spending plan expenses as of May 31, 2018	\$160,652.81
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor Wanda Stopher – **419-551-1079 (cell)** -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu  
 Pastor Theda Good – **419-549-2417 (cell)** -- fmc.theda@bluffton.edu  
 Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu  
 Director of Music – Mark Suderman – sudermanme@bluffton.edu  
 Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu  
 Custodian – Mick Hardy

*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.*



**Jonatan Moser and friends** will host a fundraising meal July 29 in the assembly room to support his work with Mennonite Voluntary Service. Jonatan will serve with MVS in Alamosa, CO, from August 2018–August 2019 as an immigrant assistant case worker and English teacher at the local Immigrant Resource Center. Alamosa’s MVS unit is located in the San Luis Valley, a high-altitude, high-poverty rural area in southern Colorado. The population is a blend of traditional Latino and Anglo settlers, plus newer immigrants from Mexico and Guatemala. If you are unable to join us for the meal at First Mennonite Church and/or would like to make a contribution you may do so to FMC, designated “MVS–Jonatan” or go to <https://mmngiving.formstack.com/forms/VoluntaryService> (MVS-write in Jonatan Moser) or you can contact Chris Moser or Carmen Ordonez for information about supporting Jonatan’s fundraising goal of an additional \$1,500 for MDS. Jonatan is thankful for direct support already received from FMC and others. We are thankful for your prayers and support in the coming year!

**Ann Schumaker** is in rehab at Mennonite Memorial Home following a fall. Please remember her in your thoughts and prayers.

**Beth and Jeff Boehr are moving back to Bluffton** and will need help with unloading on Saturday, July 7. They plan to begin unloading at 1 p.m. If you’re available to help, show up at the Boehr’s, 137 W. Kibler St. (brick house, corner of Kibler and Jackson Streets.)

**In the past weeks**, more than 250 people working in agriculture related companies in nearby Sandusky and Salem, Ohio were arrested, detained and placed in detention facilities by Immigration Customs Enforcement. Many of those now in detention were separated from spouses and children. If you are interested in how to be part of the response to those impacted by the raids, detentions, and separations, please send your email address to Lynda Nyce at [lyndanyce@gmail.com](mailto:lyndanyce@gmail.com).

**You are invited** to attend a fundraiser meal for Jill Steinmetz on Sunday, July 22 in the fellowship hall at Grace Mennonite, Pandora, from noon-2 p.m. Jill will serve with MCC SALT in San Pedro Sulas, Honduras, from August 2018- July 2019, as a digital media specialist. If you are unable to attend the meal or would like to make a tax-deductible contribution toward her fundraising goal of \$5,500, you may do so at <https://donate.mcc.org/registry/jill-steinmetz-honduras> or by contacting Teri Steinmetz at [steinmetzt@blufftonschoools.org](mailto:steinmetzt@blufftonschoools.org) or text 419-604-9109. We are so grateful for your prayers and support! (Jill is the granddaughter of Jane Steinmetz.)

~ The Steinmetz family

### **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.*

### **CALENDAR**

#### **Today, July 1, 2018**

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, Middle School cafetorium  
Noon Connections class potluck

#### **July 2-7**

Tuesday (7-3) Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. (prayer room upstairs)  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.  
Wednesday (7-4) **Church office closed**  
Thursday (7-5) Worship commissioned CANCELLED

#### **Next Sunday, July 8**

9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Julie Hart preaching, Middle School cafetorium

### **Reminders:**

**Check the literature rack and the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall for recently-posted items. Information about the 2017-18 worship series We Make the Road by Walking is available on the literature rack.**

**Due to the sanctuary project, Morning Prayers will be held in the prayer room upstairs throughout the summer. Fellowship following will take place in the assembly room.**

*Welcome to our worship service today. If you are a visitor, please sign one of our guest books located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Wireless hearing aids are available. If you would like your children cared for while you worship, our nursery is downstairs in the church. Worship activity bags for children are available.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**First Mennonite Church office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4.**

**During summer, our worship services** will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Bluffton Middle School cafetorium. SS classes and coffee time will meet in the basement of FMC. *The nursery will operate as usual in the First Mennonite nursery.*

**Those of you who have already requested a copy** of “We Make the Road by Walking” will find the book in your mailbox. FMC will be using this book from September 2018-August 2019, so if you’ve not yet signed up, do so now. There is a sign-up sheet just inside the entrance to the middle school cafetorium, another in the FMC fellowship hall, or you may email the church office at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu). Additional copies of the introductory brochure, Sept. 2018-Aug. 2019 worship schedule, and suggestions for using “We Make the Road...” are available on the literature rack in the fellowship hall or request electronic copies at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu).

**There are several changes** to the summer adult Sunday school speaker schedule. On July 29, Isaac Andreas will talk about Camino de Santiago and on August 5, Paul Neufeld Weaver will report on his visit to our sister church in Honduras.

**Governance Task Force** invites the congregation to engage with us in a process of re-envisioning our structure for organizing church life, resource management and mission. August Menno-Life will include more information as well as a timeline for congregational gatherings over the coming year. This is the work of the church, not of a small group of people. We look forward to discovering the way together!

*~ Greg Hartzler, Elizabeth Kelly, Gerald Mast, and Pastor Wanda*

### **Summer Worship 2018--Practicing Faith**

This summer, our worship series focuses on some of the spiritual practices that draw us and tutor us in relationship with God and with one another. This series is not a to-do list or recipe for spiritual life, nor does it cover the breadth of spiritual practices that Christians throughout the ages have incorporated into their lives as they strive first for the kingdom of God. Instead, it offers glimpses into ways to practice faith. See the literature rack for the schedule of themes in this series.

**FMC youth at Camp Friedenswald June 25-30:** Ethan Blount and Braylon Goings.

**We plan to have a photo history** of the church sanctuary renovation process. Leah Schroeder will be our official photographer, but all are welcome to send photos digitally to Mary Pannabecker Steiner at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu).

**Sanctuary renovation schedule:** *Please note that some of these steps/dates may change as work proceeds. We will provide updates when necessary.*

- Ongoing-Painting in the sanctuary, pew and chair cleaning and renewal
- July 25-August 5: Construction of steps and railings
- August 6-19: Hardwood flooring put in (front of sanctuary floor and stage area), sanding and clear coating of wood floor under and in balcony
- August 20-25 or 31: Carpet installed and new rubber stairs by Church St. door

**Lost and Found:** There’s been a lot of moving and shaking going on around here! This is what we know about where things have landed:

- Hearing assist units are available just inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium. Please return to the container provided at the end of each service.
- Offering envelopes are available inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium.
- Worship Bags are available inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium.
- Guest book for visitors who join us in worship is just inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium.
- Hymnals may be found just inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium and should be returned to the racks following worship each week.
- Sign-up sheets to receive your family copy of “We Make the Road by Walking” are in fellowship hall near the church office and just inside the doors to the cafetorium.
- Literature rack is in the fellowship hall outside the church office.
- Extra bulletins for the past four weeks are available as usual outside the parlor.
- Mailboxes are in the fellowship hall directly in front of the office door.
- MCC kit collections remain just outside the library doors.
- Lost and found tub is still outside the fellowship hall kitchen door.