

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 10, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Chimes call us to worship** Laura Hartzler, organist/pianist

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Greg Ring, worship leader

**Prelude** “Allegro” S. Suzuki  
*Ben and Ellie Hartzler, violin; Laura Hartzler, piano*

**Call to Worship**

**\*Invocation**

— PRAISING —

**Opening Hymns** Mark Suderman, song leader

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 82

L: God takes his place at the head of a large gathering of leaders. He announces his decisions among them.

**C: He says, “How long will you stand up for those who aren’t fair to others? How long will you show mercy to sinful people?”**

L: Stand up for the weak and for children whose fathers have died. Protect the rights of people who are poor or treated badly.

**C: Save those who are weak and needy. Save them from the power of sinful people.**

L: “You leaders don’t know anything. You don’t understand anything. You are in the dark about what is right. Law and order have been destroyed all over the world.

**C: “I said, ‘You leaders are like gods. You are all children of the Most High God.’**

L: But you will die, like mere human beings. You will die like every other leader.”

**All: God, rise up. Judge the earth. All the nations belong to you.**

**Special Music** “I am a Promise” William and Gloria Gaither  
*Ellie Hartzler, vocalist*

**Time with Children Hymn** “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” (vs. 1) HWB 71

**Conversation** Doug Luginbill

**Hymn** “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” (vs. 2) HWB 71

**Pastoral Prayer** George O’Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

**Scripture** Acts 4:23-31

**Sermon** “Prayin’ and Shakin’!” Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn** “For the healing of the nations” HWB 367

— RESPONDING —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Minuet No.1” J.S. Bach  
*Benjamin Hartzler, violin*

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “Lord of all good” STJ 60

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn** “Rain down” STJ 49

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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

*HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey*

## 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

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

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**GREETERS:** Margie Closson, Jon and Phyllis Diller and Cherri Slotter

**HOST:** Darryl Nester

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – N/A

*Worship* – John and Julie Mackey, Elizabeth and Annalise Nisly

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** SS – N/A

*Worship* – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Jason Diller

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Melissa Friesen

*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	190
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	4
Spending plan giving July 3, 2016	\$9,022.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering July 10 totaled \$14,594.14. Money was received for these special funds: Facility use - \$50, SS - \$69.14, Capital campaign - \$25, Habitat - \$120, Upper Room - \$2, MVS - \$4,000, MDS - \$1,000, College scholarship - \$33, Kitchen service - \$8, SHYF - \$50, Steve Yoder memorial - \$75, Steve Yoder memorial peace pole - \$240.	

### CHURCH STAFF

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

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

*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.*



shares about SHELTER44, a ministry of Watertown Mennonite Church and New York Mennonite Conference with a goal of connecting people from nearby Fort Drum with the Mennonite community. Nancy Shebeneck of Emmanuel Mennonite Church in Gainesville, Florida, writes about what returning veterans need from the church. A six-week Sunday school curriculum from the Peace and Justice Support Network, a partnership of Mennonite Mission Network and Mennonite Church USA, explores how the church can play a part in veterans' healing journeys. For more information, see: <http://mennoniteusa.org/?s=returning+vets> -- MC USA

**Pray for youth, young adults and leaders** as they plan to travel to Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind. for "Deep Faith," a formation conference for and by Anabaptist formation leaders. May their time together be fruitful. -- MEA

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Joan Dailey had knee replacement surgery** on June 7 at St. Rita's Medical Center. Surgery went well and she plans to be at MMH for rehab before returning to her home. She appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

**Thank you for the words, thoughts and concerns** expressed after the Sunday morning announcement of my 91-year-old father's illness two weeks ago. His heart enzyme levels were slightly elevated and increasing that Sunday morning—indicating a slight heart attack was likely in progress. Thankfully, this was able to be treated conservatively with blood thinners and did not require further procedures. I enjoyed being with him in Illinois in the week after and we're grateful that he has returned home, resuming his daily visits with my mother at Eureka's Maple Lawn health center, though at a reduced pace and frequency. Again, we deeply appreciate your prayers and loving support.  
-- Steve and Monica Harnish and family

**Dwight Kauffman reports that he has been moved up** to a rehab room at St. Rita's Medical Center. Things are progressing. He and Trella continue to appreciate your 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, July 10, 2016

9:15 a.m. Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH  
Option 1: Coffee Hour, FH; Option 2: Bible study, AR  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching  
Noon Freudige/Sojourners potluck, FH  
JHYF, potluck and decluttering of junior high room

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday (7-12) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Wednesday (7-13) Stewardship, 8 p.m., parlor  
Thursday (7-14) Senior Concerns, 2 p.m., AR; MPS, 6:30 p.m., AR, parlor; Nurture, 7 p.m., library  
Friday (7-15) Soccer players overnight, FH and kitchen

### NEXT WEEK

9:15 a.m. Christian Education; Adult fellowship, FH  
Option 1: Coffee Hour, FH  
Option 2: Bible study, AR  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Shannon Thiebeau preaching  
Scripture: Acts 17:22-31

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

**Thank you** to Laura Hartzler for serving as our organist/pianist and to Benjamin, Ellie and Laura for providing special music.

**JHYF potluck and summer cleaning:** Potluck at noon, followed by summer cleaning to declutter the junior high room. Each youth should bring a dish, drink, or paper product to share. Meal location TBA.

**SHYF will meet at noon** Sunday, July 17, for a potluck and summer cleaning to declutter the senior high room. Each youth should bring a dish, drink, or paper product to share. Meal location TBA.

**SHYF returned July 2** from their service trip with Serving with Appalachian People in Harlan, KY. They will give a report to the congregation during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, July 24.

**School Kits:** “Back to School” sales start soon. That means the beginning of the MCC school kit collection at FMC. During the sales, kit contents can be purchased for about \$5 or less. Let’s stretch ourselves in filling a large number of kits this year! Please limit your generosity to the following items for each kit:

- 4 spiral or perforated notebooks (8 ½ x 10 ½ in. and 70 sheets)
- 8 unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, flexible plastic; indicating both 30cm and 12 in.)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large pencil eraser

We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. (Heavier fabric is ideal for school kits.) Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of the fellowship hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. **If making your own bags, please note that the bag size has changed over the years, and fabric is cut 12 ½ x 38 in.** We are teaming up to head the MCC kits this year. Thanks to Ginger Theis for her many years of service in this position. If you have any questions, please contact one of us.

-- Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

**As a fundraiser** for his year with Mennonite Voluntary Service, Lucas Harnish will perform a concert at the Bluffton town hall Saturday, July 16, from 7:30-8:30 pm. Lucas will be joined by his brother, Christopher, and Halle Steingass. Among their pieces will be *Drifting* by Andy McKee; *See You Again* by Wiz Khalifa, *Radioactive* by Imagine Dragons, *Home* by Edward Sharpe and *Lord Listen to your Children Praying*. There is no charge for the concert, but donations are appreciated. Lucas will join MVS this fall in Arizona.

**The Bluffton community worship service** will be held at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 31, on the lawn of the Bluffton Presbyterian Church, corner of Main and Cherry Streets. The service is sponsored by the Bluffton Area Ministerial Association and will be led by various pastors involved in BAMA. Children who participate in the Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School will sing songs from VBS. **There will be no worship service at FMC that day.**

**If you haven’t yet registered your child** for the Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School, you’ll find registration forms in the fellowship hall on the pillar with the heading “Upcoming Events.” VBS will be held at Emmanuel UCC, 8375 Phillips Rd, July 24-28, from 6-8 p.m. for preschool through grade 5. The program is “Deep Sea Discovery -- where kids will know that God is always with them!” Please contact Mary Ina Hooley at 419-369-4040 or [hooleymi@bluffton.edu](mailto:hooleymi@bluffton.edu) to volunteer or for information. Junior and senior high school youth are welcome and encouraged to help out! Forms may be returned to Mary Ina. Updates are available on the VBS Facebook page under “Bluffton VBS.” ***If you’re able to donate three dozen cookies, please contact Mary Ina.***

**There will be a BlauRock Café** (coffeehouse variety show) on July 24 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the FMC fellowship hall. It will include poetry, music, humor and magic, plus a summer meal featuring corn and watermelon. Dinner will be prepared by Lucas Harnish, family and friends, to help raise money for his year of Mennonite Voluntary Service starting in the fall. Donations for the food will go to MVS. Most of the performers are local, but there will be a guest trio of Ethan Setiawan, Sadie Gustafson-Zook, and Jacob Warren. More details to follow.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MC USA’s blog series:** Check out the blog series, “Returning Veterans, Returning Hope,” featuring people, congregations and organizations in Mennonite Church USA who are working with veterans who have experienced the trauma of war. Ken Landis