

Examination: Measuring Well-being
First Mennonite Church
July 15, 2018

Music calls us to worship	Judy Steiner
Welcome and announcements	Shannon Thiebeau
Introductions	
Prelude	Judy Steiner
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymns	John and Melinda Estell
*Responsive Reading	Psalm 85:8-13 (NRSV)
L: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.	
C: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.	
L: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.	
C: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.	
L: The Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.	
ALL: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.	

Conversation with Friends

“Come and see” (v. 1)	HWB 20
Conversation	Melissa Friesen
“Come and see” (v. 2)	HWB 20

Community Prayer

Steve Harnish

Scripture

Jeremiah 29:7

Sermon

“Faith: the choice of the nobler hypothesis”

George Lehman

***Hymn**

“All who love and serve your city”

HWB 417

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Judy Steiner

***Hymn**

“God, whose giving” – verse 1

HWB 383

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn**

“God be with you”

HWB 430

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: Ann Kingsley
NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS – Elaine Suderman, Tig Intagliata
Worship – Lori Nester, Melinda Estell, Patrick and Rebecca Estell
NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Rachel Diller, Pat Sheidler
Worship – Bruce Steingass and Amy Freeman, Seth Andreas
SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-155, MC-9
Spending plan giving July 8, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,441.90
Special fund giving July 8, 2018 (includes e-giving): Community class-\$10;	\$2,244.88
SHYF -\$1,848.88 (funds returned); College scholarships-\$86; MCC-\$100; Flooring-\$130	
MCC (Jonatan Moser)-\$20; ISAF-\$50	
Total giving July 8, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$8,686.78
Total spending plan receipts as of June 30, 2018	\$189,473.39
Spending plan expenses as of June 30, 2018	\$198,232.79
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.



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!
~ Moser family

Central District annual meeting report: A summary of actions taken at the 2018 Annual Meeting is posted on the CDC website at <https://www.mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting-2018/>. Audio files will be posted when they become available.

The International Student Assistance Fund assists international students attending Bluffton University with financial needs. Many individuals in our area have given direct assistance to international students. This community fund is a way to funnel that assistance. Donations can be made to First Mennonite Church and designated for ISAF. There will be a larger number of international students this fall and specific needs have already emerged. Thanks for your support. For more information contact Paul Neufeld Weaver, Lori Nester, or Ivan Friesen.
~ Paul Neufeld Weaver

All are invited to a fundraiser meal for Jill Steinmetz on Sunday, July 22, at Grace Mennonite from noon-2 p.m. Jill will serve with MCC SALT in Honduras. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution toward her fundraising goal of \$5,500, go to <https://donate.mcc.org/registry/jill-steinmetz-honduras> or contact Teri Steinmetz at steinmetzt@blufftonschoools.org or text 419-604-9109. (Jill is the granddaughter of Jane Steinmetz.)
~ 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 15, 2018

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, George Lehman preaching, Middle School cafetorium
Noon Sojourners/Freudige potlucks

July 15-21

Tuesday (7-17) Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. (prayer room upstairs)
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.

Wednesday (7-18) Lima Mennonite worship planning team, library, 1 p.m.

Thursday (7-19) Council, 7 p.m.

Friday (7-20) Menno-Life deadline

Next Sunday, July 22

9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

Reminders:

- If you have not yet requested a copy of "We Make the Road by Walking," which we will use for the 2018-19 year, sign-up sheets are at the back of the middle school cafetorium and in the fellowship hall or you may request one at fmc@bluffton.edu. Information about using the book is available on the literature rack in the fellowship hall.
- Morning Prayers will be held in the prayer room upstairs throughout the summer. Fellowship will take place afterward in the assembly room.
- Check the literature rack in the fellowship hall for new information about the Ohio Relief Sale.

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

Pastor Theda is visiting friends in Colorado, and will return to FMC on Wednesday, July 18. Please contact Pastor Wanda with any pastoral care needs during this time.

Children and Youth Ministry

As announced in May, Shannon Thiebeau will conclude her work as Director of Youth Ministries on August 19. Encouraged by Church Council, Staff Relations Committee has developed a plan and gained Council approval to move toward hiring a part-time Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director. The intent of this interim position is twofold:

- To provide coverage of youth ministry leadership in a one year interim period while the congregation explores questions of governance and structure and the implications for staffing
- To use this interim time deliberately as a time of dreaming, exploration and even experimentation regarding ways to empower and support the congregation's ministry in two areas: Children's ministry and Youth ministry

You are encouraged to read the job description posted outside the church office.

*~ Staff Relations Committee (Ken Shenk, Annette Heslep,
Rich Bucher, Elizabeth Kelly, Pastor Wanda)*

Sunday morning drivers needed: FMC needs 2-3 additional drivers and helpers for the MHCO bus on Sunday mornings. The bus transports members from Mennonite Memorial Home, Maple Crest and Willow Ridge to the church and back after church. The helper assists passengers on and off the bus. Interested individuals should call or text Mona Reichenbach at 419-230-9187 or call 419-358-6016 or e-mail monalou@roadrunner.com.

Mission happens when congregations fully align themselves with God's purposes. As the missional church movement matures, Anabaptists offer a robust theological tradition, a contemporary spiritual vitality and practical stories of witness to the conversation. We have some copies of "Fully Engaged: Missional Church in an Anabaptist Voice" (eds. Stanley W. Green, James R. Krabill.) If you would like a copy, please notify the church office by Monday, July 23 at fmc@bluffton.edu or 419.358.5766.

We plan to have a photo history of the sanctuary renovation process. Leah Schroeder is our official photographer, but others may send photos to fmc@bluffton.edu.

Congratulations to David Hooley and Natalie Graber, who were married July 13 at Lockport Mennonite Church, Stryker. David's parents are Don and Mary Ina, his sister is Sunita and brother is Robert. David and Natalie plan to live in Lansing, MI, where David is a data analyst for Auto Owner's Insurance and Natalie will teach first grade in the Holt school system.

Dorothy Houts was injured recently and is recovering at Mennonite Memorial Home. Please pray for Dorothy as she heals.

Sanctuary renovation schedule:

- July 9: Painting of the top of the ceiling began!
- Ongoing: Painting, 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

Where are items located during the renovation?

- Hearing assist units are available in the cafetorium. Please return to the container.
- Offering envelopes, worship bags, hymnals and guest book are in the cafetorium.
- Sign-up sheets for a copy of "We Make the Road by Walking" are in fellowship hall and in the cafetorium.
- New literature racks are near the Jackson St. doors to the fellowship hall.
- Mailboxes are in the fellowship hall by the office.
- MCC kit collections remain outside the library doors.

Jonatan Moser and friends will host a fundraising meal on Sunday, 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