

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 17, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship LuAnn Stuckey, organist/pianist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Perry Bush, worship leader

Prelude “All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above” P. Manz

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

Opening Hymns Carol Welty, song leader

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 52

L: You think you are such a big, strong man! Why do you brag about the evil things you’ve done? You are a dishonor to God all the time.

C: You plan ways to destroy others. Your tongue is like a blade that has a sharp edge. You are always telling lies.

L: You love evil instead of good. You would rather lie than tell the truth.

C: You love to harm others with your words, you liar!

L: So God will destroy you forever. He will grab you and pluck you from your tent. He will remove you from this life.

C: Those who do what is right will see it and learn a lesson from it. They will laugh at you and say,

L: “Just look at this fellow! He didn’t depend on God for his safety. He put his trust in all his wealth. He grew strong by destroying others!”

C: But I am like a healthy olive tree. My roots are deep in the house of God. I trust in your faithful love for ever and ever.

All: I will praise you forever for what you have done. I will praise you when I’m with your faithful people. I will put my hope in you because you are good.

Special Music “Nothing is Lost on the Breath of God” Colin Gibson
Neufeld-Weaver family

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

Conversation Wanda Stopher

Hymn “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” (vs. 3) HWB 71

Pastoral Prayer George O’Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Acts 17:22-29

Sermon Shannon Thiebeau

***Hymn** “He comes to us as one unknown” HWB 498

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Simple Gifts (Appalachian Shaker Song)” Joseph Brackett
Erin Kerns and Ana Neufeld Weaver

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “All creatures of our God and King” (vss. 1-3, 7) HWB 48

***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

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: Margie Closson, Jon and Phyllis Diller and Lynn Miller

HOST: Ella Bazy

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – N/A

Worship – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Jason Diller

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – N/A

Worship –

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Bev Simon

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	197
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Spending plan giving July 10, 2016	\$5,928.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00

The offering July 10 totaled \$6,573.97. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$60.97, Capital campaign - \$100, MVS - \$75, College scholarship - \$150, Kitchen service - \$20, Deacons Benevolent - \$40, Steve Yoder memorial - \$200.

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 Steiner - 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.

Brazo en Brazo: In September 2004, Brazo en Brazo ministries were envisioned and initiated by Mennonite congregations including Grace, Pandora; First, Bluffton; Pike & Salem, Elida; and Lima. We were called from New Carlisle, OH to give leadership to this work with Spanish-speaking immigrants. We are now planning to pass the baton to other leadership as of September 18, the date set for the 12th Annual Fiesta Familiar. In the coming weeks we want to identify the **development** of these ministries, the **mutual blessings**, and **some observations** for the supporting congregations to consider. More information will be follow.
-- Paul & Ann Conrad

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anabaptist Disabilities Network, a small non-profit, church-related organization based in Elkhart, Ind., seeks a program director. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills, be able to manage multiple projects at once, and have experience with print and web media writing and editing. This is a part-time position, one-quarter- to one-third-time FTE, working alongside the executive director. Anabaptist Disabilities Network is dedicated to transforming faith communities and individuals with disabilities by full inclusion in the Body of Christ. For more information and job description, see www.ADNetOnline.org. Send resume to LCHRISTOPHEL@yahoo.com.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Many, many thanks to everyone for your cards, letters, phone calls, e-mails, food, memorial gifts and concerns after the death of Clarence on May 11. I appreciate your thoughtfulness very much.
-- Mary Ann Kooker

Following successful knee replacement surgery, Joan Dailey was released from St. Rita's Medical Center on July 10, and is now completing rehab at the Mennonite Memorial Home. She appreciates your prayers, visits and cards.

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 17, 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, Shannon Thiebeau preaching
Noon	Community class potluck, FH SHYF, potluck and decluttering of junior high room

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (7-19)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Thursday (7-21)	Council, 7:30 p.m., parlor
Friday (7-22)	Office closed Deadline for Menno-Life

NEXT WEEK

9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult fellowship, FH Option 1: SHYF presentation on SWAP trip, FH Option 2: Bible study, AR
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching Scripture: Acts 4:32-37

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

The church office will be closed on Friday, July 22. For pastoral care, please contact Pastor George at 402-619-7099. The July 24 bulletin will be printed on Thursday; all items for the bulletin must be submitted by 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 20.

Thank you to LuAnn Stuckey for serving as our organist/pianist and to the Neufeld-Weaver family for providing special music.

Thank you to Ethan Blount for designing today's bulletin cover. Ethan will be in third grade and is the son of Amy and Phil Blount.

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

SHYF will give a report on their service trip with Serving with Appalachian People in the fellowship hall during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, July 24.

Help us solve a mystery! If you are the person who is picking up the used greeting cards left on the small cabinet by the men's restroom, please notify the church staff. We'd love to know your identity so we can refer donors to you.

We have e-mailed the CDC Focus to most of those for whom we have e-mail addresses. Print copies are on the literature rack near the men's restroom.

The Bluffton Ministerial Association, of which FMC is a member, agreed that BAMA would again help supply school supplies for those children in the Bluffton School District on free or reduced lunches. FMC was asked to provide white board erasers, white board markers and pointed Fiskars scissors. Please place items in the tub near the office in the fellowship hall. *Donations must be made by Thursday, Aug. 4.*

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.**

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

Registration forms for the Bluffton Community VBS are located 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!" Volunteers from FMC are still needed; junior and senior high school youth are welcome to help! For more information, please contact Mary Ina Hooley at 419-369-4040 or hooleymi@bluffton.edu. 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.*

A BlauRock Café (coffeehouse variety show) will be held Sunday, July 24 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the 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. Performers include Neufeld-Weaver family, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Jeff Gundy, Brandon Rhodes, Benji and Sarah Bergstrand, Ruth Naylor, Lucas Harnish Brett Prothro, Ana Neufeld-Weaver, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin, Sara and Wendy Chappell-Dick, Tina Fleming, Susan Carpenter and Victoria Woods-Yee. A trio of Ethan Setiawan, Sadie Gustafson-Zook and Jacob Warren will also perform (This trio will provide the special music during worship on July 24.)