

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
July 24, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship LuAnn Stuckey, organist/pianist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Lois Wetherill, worship leader

Prelude “Cornet Voluntary: Allegro” W. Walond

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

Opening Hymns Mark Suderman, song leader

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 85

L: Lord, you were good to your land. You blessed the people of Jacob with great success again.

C: You forgave the evil things your people did. You took away all their sins.

L: You stopped being angry with them. You turned your great anger away from them.

C: God our Savior, make us new again. Stop being unhappy with us.

L: Will you be angry with us forever? Will you be angry for all time to come?

C: Give us new life again. Then we’ll be joyful because of what you have done.

L: Lord, show us your faithful love. Save us.

C: I will listen to what God the Lord says. He promises peace to his faithful people. But they must not turn to foolish ways.

L: I know he’s ready to save those who have respect for him. Then his glory can be seen in our land.

C: God’s truth and faithful love join together. His peace and holiness kiss each other.

L: His truth springs up from the earth. His holiness looks down from heaven.

C: The Lord will certainly give what is good. Our land will produce its crops.

All: God’s holiness leads the way in front of him. It prepares the way for his coming.

Special Music “Welcome To The Rain” Elisabeth Pixley-Fink
“A Lot More Time” Sadie Gustafson-Zook
Goshen trio (Jacob Warren, Ethan Setiawan, and Sadie Gustafson-Zook)

Time with Children

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

Conversation Paul Neufeld Weaver

Hymn “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” (vs. 4) HWB 71

Comforter Blessing Lois Wetherill and Wanda Stopher

Pastoral Prayer George O’Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Acts 4:32-37

Sermon “Household Economics” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** “Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life” HWB 587

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Pastorale in F: Allegretto grazioso” J.S. Bach

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “Bless’d be the tie that binds” (verses 1-3, 6) HWB 421

***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, Cheri Slotter

HOST: Ella Bazy

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – N/A

Worship – Annette Heslep, Mary Ina Hooley, Carmen Ordonez

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: *Community Worship Service*

SOUND SYSTEM: Walt Paquin

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	178
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	10
Spending plan giving July 17, 2016	\$5,932.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering July 17 totaled \$6,830.48. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$.98, Capital campaign - \$233, MCC school kits - \$50, College scholarship - \$150, Kitchen service - \$12.50, Deacons Benevolent - \$20, Habitat - \$170, church maintenance - \$500.	

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.



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.** If you have any questions, please contact one of us. -- Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

Brazo en Brazo: Since 2004, Brazo en Brazo has developed these ministry activities: English language classes, interpretation and transportation for appointments and social concerns, Bible classes and worship in Spanish, annual Fiesta Familiar, meetings of supporting congregational representatives, mailings, publicity to supporting congregations and conference, Pro-Bienestar for administrative and spiritual needs, weddings, dedications, baptisms, and funerals. -- Paul and Ann Conrad

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale and Auction will be held August 5-6 at Wayne County Fairgrounds, 199 Vanover Street, Wooster. There will be a quilt auction, wood and tool auction and a children's auction. Many items for the auctions have been posted on their website at <http://www.ohiomccreliefsale.org/>.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

As people of FMC identify concerns for prayer or expressions of gratitude for kindnesses, we list those here. Please feel free to let us know what we could share for you. -- The Staff

A note of thanks to our FMC family for the prayers, cards, visits, and garden goodies as I recover from back surgery. I am making slow but steady progress. -- Gloria Bucher

Please pray for Toru Matsuo, as he is separated from his wife Naoko and their two children, ages 15 and 12, over Visa issues around a job change in his work in the U.S. Naoko was refused entry to the U.S. and sent back to Japan from a recent trip while these VISA issues are addressed. The children, who are both U.S. citizens, decided to return with their mother to Japan to support her in these difficulties.

Several persons continue to recover from health care issues, some with additional doctor or hospital visits, from recent surgeries or health concerns. Please continue to pray for Dwight Kauffman, Greg Luginbuhl, Joan Daily and Halle Steingass. These folks seem to be doing well.

Continue to remember those who have lost family members and this congregation as well, over the passing of Pastor Steve Yoder, as they continue to engage the journey of grief in days ahead.

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 24, 2016

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
6 p.m. VBS begins, Emmanuel UCC
4:30 p.m. BlauRock Café, FH; Dinner prepared by Harnish family and friends

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (7-26) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Swiss Historical Society board, 7 p.m., AR
Thursday (7-28) Deacons, 7:30 p.m., parlor

NEXT WEEK

9 a.m. Community Worship Service, Bluffton Presbyterian Church lawn,
Main and Cherry Streets (**No Sunday school today**)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Thank you to LuAnn Stuckey for serving as our organist/pianist and to the Goshen trio for providing special music. The trio includes Sadie Gustafson-Zook, Ethan Setiawan and Jacob Warren. Sadie has performed across the United States and Europe for over 15 years and in 2010 released her first album, *Mélange*. Ethan attends Berklee College of Music, performed on NPR syndicate *Prairie Home Companion* and won the 2014 National Mandolin Championship. Jacob studies classical performance at the University of Michigan and has toured internationally with the National Youth Orchestra of the USA.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

For more than 50 years, First Mennonite Church has been making comforters to support MCC world relief efforts. During today's worship service, we will dedicate the 22 comforters made this year by our congregation as an outreach project of Mennonite Women. Last year through MCC, 45,443 comforters were shipped to more than 13 countries worldwide. The MCC website states, "a handmade comforter provides not only warmth but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten."

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.

Bluffton Community VBS begins this evening and continues through Thursday, July 28, from 6-8 p.m. at Emmanuel UCC, 8375 Phillips Rd. The program is "Deep Sea Discovery" and is open to children in preschool through grade 5. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. this evening. Registration forms are on the fellowship hall pillar near the office. Each evening, children are encouraged to dress in a specific color (Sunday -purple, Monday - pink, Tuesday - yellow, Wednesday - orange, Thursday- green.) If you're able to donate three dozen cookies for Thursday evening, please contact Mary Ina Hooley at 419-369-4040 or hooleymi@bluffton.edu. Each evening, an offering will be collected for Family Promise, which serves homeless families in the Lima-Allen County area and connect them with agencies that help them secure jobs. FMC is one of the churches that provide families with temporary overnight accommodations and a meal.

A BlauRock Café will be held today 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 upcoming year of Mennonite Voluntary Service. 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.

The Bluffton community worship service will be held at 9 a.m. Sunday, July 31, on the lawn of the Bluffton Presbyterian Church. The service is sponsored by the Bluffton Area Ministerial Association. Wanda Stopher and George O'Reilly will participate. 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.**

Everence has released the third resource of its new series, *7 steps to integrating faith and finances*. This month's topic, *Connect my faith with my debt reduction plan*, provides some biblical perspective on the topic of debt, along with practical tools to help us get out (and stay out of) debt. We encourage you to take a little time with this resource as a way of looking at your finances from a faith perspective. We have e-mailed the document to those for whom we have e-mail addresses. Print copies are located on a table in the fellowship hall. Willis Sommer is our Everence advocate.

The Bluffton Ministerial Association will provide school supplies for 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.**

Some members of area churches are sponsoring the first Syrian refugee as a student at Bluffton University, much as we did in the past for the two Iraqi students, Shahad and Tamara. If you are interested in supporting this project, you can make a donation by writing a check to First Mennonite Church with "Syrian Students Project" on the memo line of your check. We hope you'll consider these donations to be over and above any pledges you have made to First Mennonite or to Bluffton University. Also, the student, Lorca Ali, will arrive on Monday, Aug. 1 and we need temporary housing for him until he is able to move into the dorm on Friday, Aug. 26, preferably walking distance from campus. If you can provide housing, please contact Ray Person (r-person@onu.edu) or Elizabeth Kelly (ekelly@embarqmail.com).

School Kits: We have begun the collection of MCC school kits. Buy supplies now while sales are in progress. 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.