

Service: Towel & Basin
First Mennonite Church
July 29, 2018

Music calls us to worship		Laura Hartzler
Welcome and announcements		Gene Long
Introductions		
Prelude	“Prelude No. 16 in Db Major”	Laura Hartzler
Call to Worship		
*Opening Hymns		Marlyce and Jeff Gundy
*Responsive Reading	Psalm 145:8-13 Inclusive Bible (IB)	
	L: Yhwh, you are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.	
	C: Yhwh, you are good to all and compassionate toward all your creatures.	
	L: All your creatures will praise you, and your holy people will bless you.	
	C: They will tell of the glory of your reign and speak of your strength.	
	L: You make known to all humankind your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your reign.	
	ALL: Your reign is a reign for all the ages, and your dominion endures from generation to generation.	
Special Music	“I Will Come to You in the Silence” <i>Ellie Hartzler, violin</i>	David Haas

Conversation with Friends

“Come and see” (v. 1)	HWB 20
Conversation	Jeff Boehr
“Come and see” (v. 2)	HWB 20

Community Prayer

Wanda Stopher

Scripture

Romans 12:9-21

Barb Stettler

Sermon

“By doing this... formed for service”

Theda Good

***Hymn**

“Lord of light, your name outshining”

HWB 410

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“How Great Thou Art”
Laura Hartzler

Arr. Lori Line

***Hymn**

“God, whose giving” – verse 1

HWB 383

***Prayer of Dedication**

Commissioning

Jonatan Moser

***Hymn**

“Forth in thy name”

HWB 415

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 NEXT WEEK: SS – Christopher Harnish, Gerald Mast
Worship – Kurt and Sabrina Longworth, Anna Neufeld Weaver
NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Monica Harnish, Gerald Mast
Worship – Kurt and Sabrina Longworth, Anna Neufeld Weaver
SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-154, MC-7
Spending plan giving July 22, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$4,610.80
Special fund giving July 22, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$3.50; Freudige-\$10; Misc-\$50	\$1,920.50
Kitchen service-\$7; Flooring-\$100; Jonatan Moser-\$150; ISAF-\$1,500; Syrian student-100	
Total giving 22, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,531.30
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.



MCC kit collection underway: Just as back-to-school sales have begun, MCC school kit collection has begun. Please note that kit requirements have changed this year:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes) (The sharpeners are most likely to be found in the office section of stores)

We always 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 Fellowship Hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there.

Relief kits: MCC also notes an extreme need for relief kits. Kit lists are posted on the bulletin board in the kit collection area or you may write a check to FMC listing “relief kits” on the memo line.

~ Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

Sanctuary renovation schedule:

- Ongoing: Pew and chair cleaning and renewal, construction of steps and railings
- August 6-19: Hardwood flooring installed (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

Dorothy Houts was admitted to Blanchard Valley Hospital for wound care. She appreciates the prayers offered on her behalf.

Tracey Harris fell and broke her ankle while participating in a mud run/obstacle course. She had surgery and is recuperating. Please hold her and her family in prayer through these next few weeks of recovery.

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.

Ted & Company will perform Boots, Buckets & Barrows today at 6:30 p.m. Lockport Mennonite Church, 9269 Co Rd 21 N, Stryker. The event is part theater/part auction, and will raise awareness, funds, and volunteers for Mennonite Disaster Service.

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 29, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Theda Good preaching, Middle School cafetorium
Noon	Fundraising meal for Jonatan Moser/MVS

July 23-28

Monday (7-30)	Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday (7-31)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. (prayer room upstairs) Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (8-1)	Organizational mtg., walking circles, 7 p.m., parlor
Thursday (8-2)	Worship, 7 p.m., parlor

Next Sunday, August 5, 2018

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

Reminders:

- Check the new hanging literature racks in the fellowship hall for new items.
- Left-behind kitchen items (i.e. Tupperware containers, bowls, plates, cups) are in the lost and found tub outside the fellowship hall kitchen. Please check now for items that belong to you.

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

Please note that this summer we are faced with unique challenges related to sound amplification in the Bluffton Middle School cafeteria. The level of amplification and sound quality are experienced differently at different points in the room. In an effort to hear better, please feel free to move to a different seat.

Shannon Thiebeau will be on vacation and out of the office July 28-August 4.

Jonatan Moser and friends will host a fundraising meal today 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 Immigrant Resource Center. If you are unable to attend the meal and/or would like to make a contribution you may do so through FMC, designated “MVS–Jonatan” or go to <https://mmngiving.formstack.com/forms/VoluntaryService> (MVS-write in Jonatan Moser) or contact Chris Moser or Carmen Ordonez about supporting Jonatan’s fundraising goal of an additional \$1,500 for MDS. We are thankful for your prayers and support in the coming year!
~ The Moser family

Staff Relations is pleased to report that Carrie Mast will serve as Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director beginning August 1. Carrie has past experience as FMC Christian Education Coordinator, leading program development in various settings, and a creative passion for testing new ways of providing Christian education and nurture to people of all ages. We appreciate her willingness to take on this interim challenge.
~ Staff Relations

You’ve seen the invitation to order the book we’ll be using to guide our life together in various ways as a congregation this coming year, “We Make the Road by Walking” by Brian D. McLaren. Perhaps you’ve peeked inside, even become curious about ways that you might use the book. On Wednesday, August 1, at 7 p.m. in the parlor, we will hold an organizational meeting for those who want to explore leading a walking circle. This is an exploratory meeting, so please bring your book. Come walk with us! Share your ideas and encouragement with others and receive some as well. See Pastors Theda or Wanda for more information.

We have distributed nearly 100 copies of “We Make the Road by Walking.” **You may still request your own free copy!** Sign-up sheets are at the back of the school cafeteria 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.

In response to local immigration actions, Mission, Peace and Service invites all to bring donations to worship on Sunday, Aug. 5. The most urgent need is for food (rice, dried beans, tortillas and other non-perishables,) laundry detergent, sanitary napkins, toothpaste, shampoo, body soap and size 4-6 diapers. Items will be distributed through local organizations to families of those who remain in detention or have been deported.

Mission Peace and Service will host four people from Japan who are part of the World Friendship Center PAX organization. They will be at FMC the evening of Thursday, Sept. 27, as well as Bluffton University, telling stories and doing a play of the impact of the A-bomb on Hiroshima. We are looking for host families for these individuals for two nights and breakfasts on September 26 and 27. If interested or wanting more information, please contact Alice Ruth Ramseyer at ramseyer@wcoil.com or 419-358-0835.

Music ensemble rehearsals to begin: Note the dates, times, locations and ages for the church’s music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship and encourage others to join. We gladly welcome new additions to the ensembles and greatly enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (**adults of all ages**) begins on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m., Mark Suderman, director, sanctuary
- Adult (**adults of all ages**) and Youth (**Grades 7-12**) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, Ray Raeburn, director, assembly room
- Cherub Choir (**3 yr. old-1st grade**) begins on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children’s choir room
- Jubilate (**2nd-5th grade**) begins on Wednesday, Sept., 5 at 6:30 p.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children’s choir room
- Youth Choir (**7th grade and up**) will meet on Sunday, Sept., 16 at 8:30 a.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children’s choir room
 - *Parents of young children new to choir are welcome to stay as needed.*