

**Peace Sunday**  
**July 3, 2016**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**Chimes call us to worship** LuAnn Stuckey, organist/pianist  
**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Judy Steiner, worship leader  
**Prelude** “All Things Bright and Beautiful” arr. E. Butler  
**Call to Worship**  
**\*Invocation**  
— PRAISING —  
**Opening Hymns** Wendy Chappell-Dick, song leader  
**Responsive Reading** Psalm 30  
**L: Sing the praises of the Lord, you who are faithful to him. Praise him, because his name is holy.**  
C: His anger lasts for only a moment. But his favor lasts for a person’s whole life.  
Weeping can stay for the night. But joy comes in the morning.  
**L: When I felt safe, I said, “I will always be secure.”**  
C: Lord, when you gave me your help, you made Mount Zion stand firm. But when you took away your help, I was terrified.  
**L: Lord, I called out to you. I cried to you for mercy.**  
C: I said, “What good will come if I become silent in death? What good will come if I go down into the grave? Can the dust of my dead body praise you? Can it tell how faithful you are?  
**L: Lord, hear me. Have mercy on me. Lord, help me.”**  
C: You turned my loud crying into dancing. You removed my clothes of sadness and dressed me with joy.  
**All: So my heart will sing your praises. I can’t keep silent. Lord, my God, I will praise you forever.**

**Special Music** “Appalachian Folk Tune/We are People of God's Peace” Menno Simons  
*Wendy Chappell-Dick, dulcimer/vocals*

**Time with Children**  
**Hymn** “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” (vs. 1) HWB 71  
**Conversation** Ashton Cluts  
**Hymn** “Joyful, joyful, we adore thee” (vs. 2) HWB 71

**Pastoral Prayer** Wanda Stopher  
— PROCLAIMING —

**Scripture** Mark 7:24-30

**Sermon** “Peace Beyond Welcome” Mark Rupp

**\*Hymn** “For we are strangers no more” HWB 322

— RESPONDING —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness” J.G. Walther

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn** “We are people of God's peace” HWB 407

**\*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:** Landon Cluts, Mitch and Ann Kingsley, Lynn Miller

**HOST:** Lori Nester

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – N/A

*Worship* -- Kevin and Alison King, Kevin Cluts

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

*Worship* – Darby and Jen Benroth, Betty Sommer

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Melissa Friesen

**Chancel:** Wendy Chappell-Dick

*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	172
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	8
Spending plan giving June 26, 2016	\$5,022.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering June 26 totaled \$7,096.25. Money was received for these special funds: Habitat - \$120, Deacons' benevolent - \$20, Kitchen service - \$247.77, SHYF - \$50, Steve Yoder memorial - \$1,025, Facility use - \$400, Bob Ramseyer memorial - \$100, First Night - \$11.48, MCC - \$100.	

### 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.*



**The Bluffton Food Pantry** thanks all who generously consider the needs of others. Requested items for summer are: Peanut butter, Spaghettios and similar canned products like Beefaroni Macaroni and Cheese, Tuna Helper, Hamburger Helper, Taco kits, cereals, breakfast items like oatmeal and pancake mix, syrup, ½-gallon juices (orange, cranapple, apple, grape), prepared canned soups, crackers, canned peaches and mandarin oranges, baked beans, salad dressings, ketchup, mustard, salt and pepper, sugar, coffee/tea, canned meats, baking items (such as cake mixes), paper products, deodorant, feminine products, body lotions, shampoo, toothbrushes, pet foods. **Not needed at this time:** Canned green beans, corn and peas, pasta and sauces, canned beans, bath soap and toothpaste.

**Love is a Verb** Spiritual Practices Resource began July 1. Check out Mennonite Church USA’s year-long spiritual practices resource on the 2017 convention theme, “Love is a Verb.” Written by Leo Hartshorn, it spans the year leading up to the convention in Orlando, Florida (July 4–8, 2017), focusing on the theme of love found in 1 John and exploring how each of Richard Foster’s six spiritual streams — contemplative, holiness, charismatic, social justice, evangelical and incarnational — reflects the spiritual diversity present with Mennonite Church USA. Available in English and Spanish online: [mennoniteusa.org/resource/love-is-a-verb-spiritual-practices-resource](http://mennoniteusa.org/resource/love-is-a-verb-spiritual-practices-resource)

**GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS**

**Happy birthday to** Luther Shetler, 99, July 1; Geneva Shetler, 97, July 8.

**Please pray for Joan Dailey**, who will have knee replacement surgery on Thursday, July 7 at St. Rita’s Medical Center. She expects to then be in the rehab unit at Mennonite Memorial Home.

**Gloria Hernandez Bucher** had back surgery at Riverside Hospital, Columbus, and is now recovering at home. Please keep Gloria and Rich in your thoughts and prayers.

**Gregg Luginbuhl was hospitalized** at St. Rita’s Medical Center last week, and has returned home. Gregg and Karen appreciate your thoughts and 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 3, 2016**

9 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; Adult fellowship, FH Option 1: Strangers No More, Jackie Wells, FH; Option 2: Bible study, AR
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Mark Rupp preaching
Noon	Connections class potluck, FH

**THIS WEEK**

Monday (7-4)	OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday (7-5)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Education, 6:30 p.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., AR
Thursday (7-7)	Worship, 7 p.m., parlor

**NEXT WEEK**

9 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult fellowship, FH Option 1: Coffee Hour Option 2: Bible study, AR
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching Scripture: Acts 4:23-31

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

**The First Mennonite office will be closed Monday, July 4.**

**We welcome Mark Rupp**, who is preaching today. Mark is Pastor of Christian Formation at Columbus Mennonite Church. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Bluffton University and a Master of Divinity from The Methodist Theological School in Ohio. He enjoys spending time with his fiancé Jeremy and his two cats, Rory and Oswin.

**Today we observe Peace Sunday** with the theme “Strangers no More” as we host Jackie Wells' art display of that title, and Mark Rupp as our guest preacher. Jackie's artwork highlights portraits of LGBTQ people within the Mennonite Church, including our congregation, affirming that they are not strangers but belong in our community. First Mennonite will host the art display through the month of July and will close with a Blau Rock Cafe July 24 from 4-7 p.m. The theme of the café is “Strangers no More,” although not all performances must connect to the theme. Spoken word, skits, magic, music and more are welcome. Contact [wendy@mennofolk.org](mailto:wendy@mennofolk.org) if you would like to perform.

**Thank you** to LuAnn Stuckey for serving as our organist/pianist and to Wendy Chappell-Dick for providing special music.

**The empty frames on the chancel** represent beloved members of the First Mennonite Community throughout history who felt they needed to hide their love for a same-gender partner from their church family. Because of that omission, we could not know them fully. We honor them today as “Strangers no More.”

**We have received** many notes from the wider church over the past month – notes sharing our loss and sadness and others sharing gratitude. As we receive them, we will continue posting the notes on the pillar near the kitchen in the fellowship hall.

**Camp Friedenswald pre-junior camp** was held June 27-July 2. Those attending from FMC included Ben and Ellie Hartzler, Emma Hartzler, Theo Andreas, John Paul Yoder, Milo Combs, Ethan Nickel, Xavier Diller, Rebecca Estell and Kayleigh Coffman.

**We delivered 73** complete hygiene kits and multiple miscellaneous items to round out kits at MCC for pick-up at The Lantern. There were also several items to be added to relief kits. Thank you to all who participated in any way. – *Ginger Theis*

**Phone number correction:** Please note that Dave Moser's cell phone number is different than that printed in the directory. His correct number is 419-889-5074. New addresses for Bess and Sara Moser are: Bess: 44 Concord Ave., # 5, Somerville, MA 02143; and Sara: 259 North St., Saco, ME 04072.

**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.

**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. Completed forms may be returned to Mary Ina. Updates are available on the VBS Facebook page under “Bluffton VBS.”

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Salem Mennonite Church, Lima**, invites all to attend their next Celebrating 175 Years event featuring authors Alan and Eleanor Kreider on Sunday, July 24. The Kreiders, Mennonite missionaries, scholars, teachers and pastors, have been studying and teaching about the early church for 40 years. For many years they served in England. At the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Alan taught church history and mission and Eleanor taught worship. The Kreiders will deliver the sermon, “Patient Ferment: the Life of the Early Church,” at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Lunch will be available (donations accepted) at noon, and the afternoon session on “Patience as a Life Style for a Missional Church: Visuals, Writings, Teaching” will begin at 1 p.m. Children are welcome to attend a special program during the afternoon session. Please RSVP for the afternoon meal by calling the church at 419-339-1505.