

**Bridges among us: Inter-faith Conversation**

**July 30, 2017**

**10:30 a.m.**

**-- GATHERING --**

**Chimes call us to worship** Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Gerald Mast, worship leader

**Prelude** “We are people of God's peace” Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

**Call to worship**

**\*Opening Hymns** Gerald Mast

**Responsive Reading** Psalm 105:1-11

L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

**C: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**

L: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**C: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.**

**All: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered.**

**Special Music** “Hope is a Candle” Richard Leach, Scottish folk melody  
*Lucas, Julian and Christopher Harnish on piano, cello and guitar*

**-- PRAISING --**

**Conversation with Friends**  
**Hymn** “God's Family” (vs. 1) See insert  
**Conversation** Louise Matthews  
**Hymn** “God's Family” (vs. 3) See insert

**Pastoral Prayer** George O'Reilly

**— PROCLAIMING —**

**Scripture** John 14:1-11

**Sermon** “By the way” Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn** “In thee is gladness” HWB 114

**– RESPONDING –**

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Lord, we have come to the lakeshore”  
*Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, piano; Wendy Chappell-Dick, guitar; Jan Wiebe and Sophia Gott, flute*

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “Grant us, Lord, the grace” HWB 388

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**--- SENDING ---**

**\*Hymn** “Sent forth by God's blessing” HWB 478

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*\*Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.)  
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey  
Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.*

**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

**GREETERS:** Alice Ruth Ramseyer, Margie Closson

**HOST:** Mary Amstutz

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Gerald Mast and Jenny Moser

**Worship** – Annette Heslep, Jason Diller, Jacob Biesecker-Mast

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Marilyn Bishop, Amy Freeman

**Worship** – Kurt and Sabrina Longworth, Sunita Hooley

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Gott

**CHANCEL:** Alison King/Banner

*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	167
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	NA
Spending plan giving July 23, 2017	\$2,880.95
Spending plan checks, envelopes, loose offerings	\$185,099.87
E-giving	\$9,947.00
Total spending plan receipts as of June 30	\$195,046.87
Spending plan expenses as of June 30	\$206,209.62
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

The offering July 23 totaled \$5,536.17. Money was received for these special funds: K-5 - \$5.22, Deacons Benevolent - \$20, Kitchen service - \$350, Willis Sommer memorial - \$1,045, Evelyn Luginbuhl memorial - \$485, Casket fund - \$500, Food pantry - \$50, MMN - \$200, A/V - \$20.

**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
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto: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.*

# Bridges Among Us



Inter-faith  
conversation

**The Bluffton Area Food Pantry's supplies are running low**, according to Ed Yeager, board president of the Community Assistance Program. Items listed below may be delivered to St. John's United Church of Christ.

- Paper towels, toilet paper, tissue paper, napkins, lotions, creams, hair care products, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, bath soaps, soft soaps
- Breakfast cereals, instant oatmeals
- Macaroni and cheese, Spaghettios, spaghetti noodles and spaghetti sauce
- Chunky soups – Progresso, Campbells
- Canned peaches, pears, mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail
- Canned meats, including tuna, chicken, beef, and pork
- Hamburger and tuna helper
- Crackers
- Cookies
- Baked Beans
- Peanut butter
- Rice, noodles
- Cake mixes
- Jello, Jello pudding
- Tortillas and salsa

**GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS**

**Happy anniversary** to Joan and Sam Diller, 58<sup>th</sup>, August 2; Romaine and Don Pannabecker, 59<sup>th</sup>, August 2.

**Irene Martens**, mother of Marlyce Gundy, died on July 21 in Surrey, British Columbia. A memorial service will be held on August 19 in Surrey. We offer prayers of support to Marlyce, Jeff and their family.

**Raymond R. Raeburn**, father of Ray Raeburn, died July 23 near Cleveland. Services were held July 28 in Amherst. We offer prayers of support to Ray, Beth, Andrew and their family.

**New addresses: Corrinne Boehr** has moved to Maple Crest, Room W135. **Ernie Porzelius** has moved to Maple Crest, N121.

**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 30, 2017**

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

**THIS WEEK**

Monday (7-31) Volunteers leave for Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m.  
Tuesday (8-1) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
MPS, 7 p.m., parlor  
Thursday (8-3) Worship, 7 p.m., parlor

**NEXT SUNDAY**

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Sister Ellen Lamberjack of Project Hope, preaching

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 watched over while you worship, our staff will care for them in the nursery downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Early deadline for August 6 bulletin: The deadline for next Sunday's bulletin, August 6, is 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 2. The bulletin will be printed on Thursday morning.**

**Artwork and resources displayed on the back communion table** are on loan from The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton University to reflect the various conversation topics during the summer worship series.

**You are invited** to join Charles Buller, a non-resident missionary with Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission, and Leonard and Antoinette Kiswangi to learn the latest on the unfolding crises in the Congo on Sunday, August 13, at 5 p.m. at FMC. They'll discuss unprecedented opportunities for grace to bring healing to this beleaguered nation. The Kiswangis lead Africa Enterprise RDC which works at conflict resolution, leadership development, and evangelization across Africa. They are also instrumental partners in the Congo Leadership Coaching Network (Charles' ministry in association with AIMM.)

**Janie and Neil Blough**, our mission partners currently serving with Mennonite Mission Network in Paris, France, will report on their work in France, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 16 in the fellowship hall. The Bloughs teach in a variety of settings and provide leadership as serve as worship leaders and preachers at the Mennonite congregation in Châtenay-Malabry, as well as for other French-Mennonite congregations. They serve on the staff of the Paris Mennonite Center.

**We have delivered 27 comforters to The Lantern near Pandora**, where they will be picked up and taken to The Depot in Goshen, IN, sometime in early fall for Mennonite Central Committee's comforter project. Thank you to all who helped cut, sew, knot, and hem these comforters. You are invited to cut or sew fabrics in preparation for this coming year's program. Kits are on a table in the Quilt Room and fabrics are in a large bin on a shelf. Watch in the church bulletins for future cutting, sewing, and knotting days.  
-- *Comforter Committee*

**School Kits:** "Back to School" sales start soon. That means the beginning of 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 Fellowship Hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. -- *Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller*

**Kitchen Cleaning:** Now is your opportunity to get some of FMC history! During our cleaning of the basement kitchen we have discovered a number of items that are no longer used at FMC. These items will be on display on the counter tops in the basement kitchen for several weeks. Help yourself to whatever suits you. Donations are optional. Anything that is not taken will be donated to the Et Cetera Shop.  
-- *The Kitchen Trio*

**Jan Wiebe and Jonathan Andreas** are looking for responsible house sitters while they are in Guatemala for four months in the fall (leaving August 28.) Terms are negotiable. Call Jonathan or Jan at 419-358-0979 for more information.

**To raise money for his upcoming year** with Mennonite Voluntary Services-Chicago, IL Erie Neighborhood, Justin Neufeld Weaver will be doing caricatures at the Bluffton Farmers' Market on Saturdays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. He is able to do caricatures from photographs as well. Donations of any amount are appreciated. Thanks for your support. Checks should be made out to MVS with Justin Weaver placed on the memo line.

**Electronic Giving is an option** for giving in support of First Mennonite Church. There is a link, "ONLINE GIVING," at the far right of the red navigation bar on the FMC website. To register, you will need your bank routing and checking account numbers. You'll choose a starting date, as well as frequency. **All forms of donations are still appreciated, whether by cash, check or e-giving.**