

Bridges among us: Starting the conversation

June 11, 2017

10:30 a.m.

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship	Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions	Walt Paquin, worship leader
Call to Worship	
Prelude	Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
Invocation	
Opening Hymns	Mark Suderman

-- PRAISING --

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 8:3-9

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

C: what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

L: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

C: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

L: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

C: the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

All: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Conversation with Friends

Hymn	“God's Family” (vs. 1)	See insert
Conversation		Louise Matthews
Hymn	“God's Family” (vs. 2)	See insert

Pastoral Prayer

George O'Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture I Peter 4:7-11

Sermon “Just Hospitality” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** “For the healing of the nations” HWB 367

--- RESPONDING ---

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

***Hymn of Dedication** “God, whose giving” - vs. 1 HWB 383

***Prayer of Dedication**

--- SENDING ---

***Hymn** “Heart with loving heart united” HWB 420

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story

Large-print hymnals and bulletins are available on the cabinet next to the parlor.

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: Marilyn and Gary Bishop

HOST: Lynn Miller

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Tig Intagliata, Judy Diller

Worship – Kevin and Alison King, Sunita Hooley

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Kathy Traucht, Mary Ann Ring

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Seth Andreas

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Carolyn Rich

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	185
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	NA
Spending plan giving May 28, 2017	\$5,003.17
Spending plan receipts as of May 31	\$165,251.32
Spending plan expenses as of May 31	\$174,772.00
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

The offering May 28 totaled \$5,452.39. Money was received for these special funds: Pk-5 - \$15.22, Connections - \$4, Kitchen service - \$80, SHYF convention payments - \$250, My Coins Count - \$100.

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

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.

Bridges Among Us



Starting the
conversation

The 2017 Black Swamp Benefit will be held Friday and Saturday, June 16-17 at the Fulton County Fairgrounds, 8514 State Rte. 108, Wauseon. Events begin at 4 p.m. on Friday and 7:30 a.m. Saturday. More information is available at <http://www.blackswampbenefit.org/>.

The Bluffton/Pandora Swiss Community Historical Society is open for self-guided or docent-led tours every Saturday from 1-5 p.m. during June, July and August at the Schumacher Homestead, 8350 Bixel Road. Visitors may tour the house, garden, summer kitchen, and workshop. In addition, the barn will be open on the last Saturday of each month. Public admission to the homestead is \$5 per person; members of the society and children 16 and under are admitted free. More information is available on Facebook at Swiss Community Historical Society. For more information, contact Gary Wetherill at 419-358-1049 or wetherillgl@bluffton.edu.

You are invited to attend a Service of Celebration & Dedication on Saturday, July 15, at 2 p.m. to honor the completion of the Renew Friedenswald projects. A reception and tours of the renewed facilities will follow. Take this opportunity to retreat for the day and reconnect with Camp Friedenswald! RSVP appreciated to [269-476-9744](tel:269-476-9744).

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Joan Dailey, June 13; Anne Buller, June 14.

Happy anniversary to Joyce and Don Hostetler, 57, June 11; Barb and Mel Stettler, 51, June 12.

Willis Sommer continues in hospice care at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay. Betty and family are with him. Visits may be arranged by texting Betty at 419-236-4403. Cards may be sent to their home.

Vicki Laird had heart catheterization Wednesday, during which a stent was placed in an artery, at Lima Memorial Health System. Prayers are appreciated.

Eleanor Baumgardner has moved to Florida. Her new address is 717 Landover Circle #104, Naples, FL 34104.

Kim McCullough has moved to Findlay. Her new address is 1614 Pinehurst Dr., Findlay, OH, 45840.

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, JUNE 11, 2017

9:15 a.m. SHYF, MCUSA Convention Bible study "Love is a Verb," senior high classroom (**3rd payment of \$150 due today**)
Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon Sojourners/Freudige potlucks

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (6-13) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Education, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Trustees, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (6-14) Pastor's visit with MMH residents, 2:30 p.m.
MPS (rescheduled) 6 p.m., parlor
Stewardship, 7 p.m., parlor
Thursday (6-15) Council, 7 p.m., AR
WCE annual meeting, 7 p.m., 301
Fri.-Sat. (6/16-17) Black Swamp Benefit, Fulton County Fairgrounds

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Sunday worship, Peace Sunday, Kyle Miller preaching
Peace pole dedication
Noon Community class potluck

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

Thank you to Alison King for designing the banner and bulletin covers for our summer worship series on “Bridges Among Us.”

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.

Deadlines to remember: The deadline for submitting items for a Sunday bulletin is noon on Thursdays. The deadline for submitting items for the July (2017) Menno-Life is 9 a.m. Friday, June 23.

Our peace pole will be dedicated during worship on June 18. The pole will include a small brass plate saying that it is dedicated to Pastor Steve Yoder. The six-sided pole is constructed of cedar and painted white. Each side has the phrase “May Peace Prevail on Earth” printed in one of six languages: English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Swahili, and Pennsylvania Dutch, the language that Pastor Steve grew up speaking. The pole will be placed about halfway between the Jackson Street entrance and the corner of the church at Jackson and Church Streets. There will be a small walkway of pavers from the sidewalk to the peace pole, with landscaping around the base of the pole. *The Peace Pole Committee includes John Rich, Carolyn Rich, Ruth Early, Chad Paul, and Janet Yoder.*

We received a letter with news about Elaine Rich from her son, Andy Rich. You may read the letter, which is posted on the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall.

Camp Friedenswald camperships: FMC will provide camperships of 50 percent of camp fees for children and youth. The invoice you receive when you register should reflect the campership. If it does not, please call the Friedenswald office at 269-476-9744. For more information and to register, visit <https://friedenswald.org/summer-camps>.

Summer options for adult Sunday school

*Adult Bible Study (Menno Media) (meets in the assembly room)

Beginning June 4 and continuing through the summer, this class will explore God’s urgent call in biblical texts from Exodus, Judges, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos and Acts, using the Adult Bible Study quarterly as a starting point for discussion.

*Coffee Fellowship (meets in the fellowship hall)

Coffee and space for informal gatherings will be available in the fellowship hall every Sunday.

*Special Topics (location to be determined)

Special opportunities for reporting, reflection, and discussion will be offered throughout the summer. Other June sessions include:

June 18 – Peace Sunday panel discussion

Electronic Giving is a new option for giving in support of First Mennonite Church. The process is now ready for those who want to sign up for this new option. On the FMC website a link titled “ONLINE GIVING” is located at the far right of the red navigation bar. To sign up, you will need your bank routing and checking account numbers, found on the bottom of any check on your account. A starting date will be requested, as will frequency (weekly, monthly, and quarterly.) Our FMC “beta testers” have found the process to be easy. Bill Suter will answer any questions at 419-235-0584. The e-giving option was developed due to requests to the Stewardship Commission. All forms of donations are still appreciated, whether by cash, check or e-giving.

RAWtools will hold a blacksmith demonstration at the CDC annual meeting Thursday, June 22. RAWtools is a work of performance art, replacing narratives of violence with narratives of creation. Throughout the afternoon on Thursday, blacksmiths will forge guns into garden tools and by the event’s end, they will complete a physical representation of the Bible’s prophecy of “beating your swords into plowshares” from Isaiah and Micah. Those watching will experience opportunities for healing, purpose, and a reinvigoration of imagination as a new reality is encountered in this physical representation of “forging peace.” Everyone is invited to “Peacemaker,” a worship service at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. Songs, art, stories, and scripture will be shared and a gun will be transformed into a gardening hoe. Learn more about RAWtools at <http://rawtools.org/>.