

**Spiritual Companions: Walking Together**  
**First Mennonite Church**  
**June 24, 2018**

**Music call us to worship** LuAnn Stucky

**Welcome and announcements** Ruth Naylor

**Introductions**

**Prelude** “When Morning Gilds the Skies” setting by R. Hartsell

**Call to Worship**

**\*Opening Hymns** Mark Suderman

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 98 (NRSV)

L: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

**C: The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

L: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**C: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

L: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**C: With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.**

L: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

**All: Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

**Conversation with Friends**

“When we walk with the Lord” (v. 1) HWB 544

**Conversation**

Rhonda Winstead

“When we walk with the Lord” (v. 3) HWB 544

**Community Prayer**

Wanda Stopher

**Scripture**

John 15:9-17

Rita Dietrich

**Sermon**

“One Anothering”

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

**\*Hymn**

“Help us to help each other”

HWB 362

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

setting by J. Leavitt

**\*Hymn**

“As saints of old” - verse 3

HWB 386

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn**

“Heart with loving heart united”

HWB 420

**Postlude**

**Benediction**

*\*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:** Todd Rainey

**NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS** – Mitch Kingsley, Judy Diller

**Worship** – Victoria Woods-Yee, Melissa Friesen, Ana Neufeld Weaver

**NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS** – N/A

**Worship** – N/A

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Art Shelly

**CHANCEL:** Gary and Lois Wetherill

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-186, MC-4
Spending plan giving June 17, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,142.20
Special fund giving June 17, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Flooring-\$910; Kitchen-\$2</i>	\$1,112.00
<i>Deacons benevolent-\$100; ISAF-\$100</i>	
Total giving June 17, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$7,254.20
Total spending plan receipts as of May 31, 2018	\$160,317.09
Spending plan expenses as of May 31, 2018	\$160,652.81
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.*



**You're invited!** Plan now to join FMC as "We Make the Road by Walking." If you've not yet done so, check your mailbox for details:

- Brochure introduction and invitation
- Sept. 2018-Aug. 2019 Worship schedule with scripture texts
- Sheet of ideas for using "We Make the Road..."

*Note: One copy (paper or digital) of the book will be made available to each family. To reserve your copy: Sign up in fellowship hall outside the office door OR email the church office at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu).*

**Ruth Unrau died June 20** at the Mennonite Memorial Home. A memorial service will be held at Mennonite Memorial Home chapel at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26. The service will be followed by a social time for coffee, cookies and sharing. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Flower Fund at MMH in honor of Ruth, for whom the grounds have added such great pleasure. Ruth's husband, Bob Flick, and their families appreciate your prayers.

**Beth and Jeff Boehr are moving back to Bluffton** so will need some help with unloading on Saturday, June 30 and July 7. They plan to begin unloading at 1 p.m. on both days. If you're available to help with unloading, show up at the Boehr's, 137 W. Kibler St. (brick house, corner of Kibler and Jackson Sts.)

**Congratulations to Emily Intagliata and Ryan Frazier** of Chicago, IL, who were married June 23 outside Findlay. Emily's parents are Karen and Stephen "Tig" Intagliata.

**The Swiss Homestead**, 8350 Bixel Road, Bluffton, will be open 1-5 p.m. every Saturday, June through August. Learn more at [swissmennonite.wordpress.com](http://swissmennonite.wordpress.com).

### **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, June 24, 2018**

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Gloria Hernandez Bucher preaching, Middle School cafetorium  
Noon Community class potluck

#### **June 25-30**

Monday (6-25) Our Daily Bread volunteers, 9:45 a.m.  
Tuesday (6-26) Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. (prayer room upstairs)  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.  
Adriel, 9:30 a.m., library  
Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR  
Thursday (6-28) Et Cetera, 9:30 a.m., AR  
Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor  
Saturday (6-30) SHYF returns

#### **Next Sunday, July 1**

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

#### **Reminders:**

**Check the literature rack and the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall for recently-posted items. New on the literature rack: July "Prayer Vine."**

**Due to the sanctuary project, Morning Prayers will be held in the prayer room upstairs throughout the summer. Fellowship following will take place in the assembly room.**

*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**

Beginning today, our worship services will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Bluffton Middle School cafetorium. Enter by the double doors across the street from our Jackson Street entrance (*NOT* the elementary school doors.) SS classes and coffee time will meet in the basement of FMC. **The nursery will operate as usual in the First Mennonite nursery during SS and worship.**

**Thank you to the nearly 50 volunteers** who showed up last week to remove the pews from the sanctuary! Book racks were removed from the pews, sound board was disconnected and moved, and cleaning was begun. Work on the pews continues in preparation for new book racks. If you can help, contact Jerry Tripp at 419-420-3500 or [jerrytripp@gmail.com](mailto:jerrytripp@gmail.com).

**Governance Task Force** invites the congregation to engage with us in a process of re-envisioning our structure for organizing church life, resource management and mission. August Menno-Life will include more information as well as a timeline for congregational gatherings over the coming year. This is the work of the church, not of a small group of people. We look forward to discovering the way together!

*~ Greg Hartzler, Elizabeth Kelly, Gerald Mast, and Pastor Wanda*

**Pray for the SHYF as they participate in a** summer service trip with MDS in Pine Ridge, SD. The group left June 23 and will return July 1. Youth and sponsors include Christopher Harnish, Patrick Estell, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Jake Suter, Sophia Gott, Jan Christoph Shultze, Ana Neufeld Weaver, Gary Wetherill, Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Paul Neufeld Weaver and Shannon Thiebeau.

## **Summer Worship 2018--Practicing Faith**

This summer, our worship series focuses on some of the spiritual practices that draw us and tutor us in relationship with God and with one another. This series is not a to-do list or recipe for spiritual life, nor does it cover the breadth of spiritual practices that Christians throughout the ages have incorporated into their lives as they strive first for the kingdom of God. Instead, it offers glimpses into ways to practice faith. See the literature rack for the schedule of themes in this series.

**Lost and Found:** There's been a lot of moving and shaking going on around here! This is what we know about where things have landed:

- Mailboxes are in the fellowship hall directly in front of the office door.
- MCC kit collections remain just outside the library doors.
- Lost and found tub is still outside the fellowship hall kitchen door.
- Hearing assist units will be available before worship just inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium. Please return to the container provided at the end of each service.
- Offering envelopes will be available just inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium.
- Worship Bags will also be available just inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium.
- Guest book for visitors who join us in worship is just inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium.
- Hymnals may be found just inside the doors as you enter the cafetorium and should be returned to the racks following worship each week.
- Sign-up sheets to receive your family copy of "We Make the Road by Walking" are in fellowship hall on a table just outside the church office.
- Literature rack is in the fellowship hall outside the church office.
- Extra bulletins for the past four weeks are available as usual outside the parlor.

**FMC youth at Camp Friedenswald June 18-23** included: Primary camp -- Ryan Blount, Kari Diller, Kennedy Longworth, Jorian Mast and Kaden Niekamp; Junior high camp – Allison Diller, Ellie Nickel.

**Sanctuary renovation schedule:** *Please note that some of these steps/dates may change as work proceeds. We will provide updates when necessary.*

- June 20-Painting in the sanctuary began
- July 25-August 5: Construction of steps and railings
- August 6-19: Hardwood flooring put in (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