

**First Mennonite Church  
June 3, 2018**

**Chimes call us to worship**

Laura Hartzler

**Welcome and announcements**

Ken Shenk

**Introductions**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**

**\*Opening Hymns**

Jackie Wyse Rhodes

**\*Responsive Reading**

Psalm 63:1-4 (NRSV)

L: O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**C: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.**

L: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

**All: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

**Conversation with Friends**

“When we walk with the Lord” (v. 1)

HWB 544

**Conversation**

“When we walk with the Lord” (v. 2)

Carrie and Gerald Mast

HWB 544

**Community Prayer**

Ray Person

**Scripture**

Matthew 6:19-25, 33

Heidrun Awad

**Sermon**

“Practicing faith”

Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn**

“I saw a tree by the riverside”

STS 116

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

Laura Hartzler

**\*Hymn**

“As saints of old” - verse 1

HWB 386

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn**

“This is the threefold truth”

HWB 335

**\*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

**NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS** – Shelby Cluts, Monica Harnish  
**Worship** – Mary Ina Hooley, Annette Heslep, Seth Andreas  
**NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS** – Greg and Laura Hartzler  
**Worship** – Sabrina and Kurt Longworth, Grace Paquin  
**SOUND SYSTEM:** N/A

**CHANCEL:** Carolyn Rich

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-185, MC-11
Spending plan giving May 27, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$3,539.04
Special fund giving May 27, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Pk-5-\$6.57; Faith and Life-\$14</i>	\$1,816.57
<i>Flooring-\$25; College scholar-\$300; Kitchen-\$4; Deacons benevolent-\$175; MCC-\$100</i>	
Total giving May 27, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$5,355.61
Total spending plan receipts as of April 30, 2018	\$136,553.78
Spending plan expenses as of April 30, 2018	\$128,187.11
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.*



**The 2018 CDC annual meeting** is June 21-23 at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN. The theme is “Come, walk with us. Tell us your story!” Details at: <https://www.mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting/>. First Mennonite’s delegates include Wanda Stopher, Theda Good, Carrie Mast, Gerald Mast, Ruth Naylor, Lawrence Matthews and Louise Matthews.

**The Bluffton Food Pantry** is in need of the following items. \*Please deliver items to St. John’s United Church of Christ. No glass items, please.

*Canned peaches, pears and mandarin oranges*

*Campbell’s Chunky soups*

*Taco supplies/Mexican food products*

*Spaghettios*

*Breakfast cereals*

*Canned tuna, chicken, beef, pork*

*Paper towels, toilet paper and tissues*

*Liquid bath soaps, lotion, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste*

*Cake, cookie, or brownie mixes*

*Baked beans*

***Not needed at this time:***

*Boxed macaroni*

*Ramen noodles*

*Canned green beans, corn, peas, and black beans*

*Campbell’s chicken noodle and tomato soups (water added soups)*

**The Swiss Homestead**, 8350 Bixel Road, Bluffton, will be open 1-5 p.m. every Saturday, June through August. Admission is \$5 for adults. 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 3, 2018**

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching  
Noon Connections potluck

**June 4-9**

Tuesday (6-5) Morning Prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.  
Thursday (6-7) Worship, 7 p.m., parlor

**Next Sunday, June 10**

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

**Reminders:**

**Check the literature rack and the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall for recently posted items. New on the literature rack: June edition of Prayer Vine.**

*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

**Pastor Theda is away this weekend** in Michigan at a board meeting for Brethren Mennonite Council ([www.bmclgbt.org](http://www.bmclgbt.org).)

### Summer Worship 2018--Practicing Faith

Today we begin our summer worship series focused on some of the spiritual practices or disciplines that draw us and tutor us in relationship with God and with one another. This series is not a to-do list or a precise recipe for the 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 is meant to offer glimpses into big and small ways to practice faith. See the literature rack for the schedule of themes in this series.

**All are invited** to celebrate Christopher's graduation with us at First Mennonite Church today from 2-4 p.m. ~ *The Harnishes*

**You are cordially** invited to Anna Biesecker-Mast's open house graduation party today between 2 and 4 p.m. at the Mast residence, 177 W. Kibler St. ~ *The Masts*

### Summer 2018 Sunday school

- Adult option one meets in the assembly room and will include speakers on a variety of subjects, such as conference topics and service experiences.
- Adult option two meets in the chancel choir room. Led by Gerald Mast, the class will study and discuss the theme of "Justice in the New Testament" as developed in MennoMedia's quarterly Adult Bible Study.
- Coffee time meets in the downstairs kitchen and in Room 113
- Children ages 3 years to fifth grade meet throughout the summer, with all ages beginning in room 104/106 for singing from 9:15-9:30 a.m.
- Junior and senior high youth are encouraged to join an adult option

**MCC kits** -- Thank you to all who contributed to our relief kit and hygiene kit drive. Our numbers for kits, money, and supplies collected equal: hygiene kits - 100; relief kits - 21; school kits - 11. (Our hygiene kit numbers were down, but relief kits total considerably more than four hygiene kits each, so we did better than the numbers

suggest.) We will start collecting school kits when sales begin in July. The contents for those kits have changed, so look for updated lists in a month or so.

**For those who were unable to attend** the Appreciative Way Congregation-Pastor Review on May 20, this link is the recording of the report by Ken Shenk and Pastor Wanda's response. It is about 24 minutes long. Thanks to Kendra Gott for recording this and Ray Raeburn for making it available.

<https://vimeo.com/user16346560/review/272473917/0a319b9820>

~ *Staff Relations: Ken Shenk, Rich Bucher, Annette Heslep, Elizabeth Kelly*

**Linda Houshower** was recently diagnosed with stage-one uterine cancer and will be having a hysterectomy in Findlay on Thursday, June 7. Fortunately, her medical team's prognosis is that the cancer is contained in the uterus and that the surgery will resolve her situation with no additional treatment needed. Linda and Hans appreciate your thoughts and prayers during this time.

**Kan Chan fell from a ladder** on May 27 in Michigan and was hospitalized briefly with a brain hemorrhage and broken wrist. Kan and Miev returned to Bluffton May 30. Your prayers are much appreciated.

**Sanctuary renovation schedule:** See today's insert on need for volunteers on pew restoration. *\*Please note that some of these steps/dates may change as work proceeds. We will provide updates when necessary:*

- June 24-August 26: Our worship services will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Bluffton Middle School cafetorium. Please enter by the double doors across the street from the FMC Jackson Street entrance. Sunday school classes and coffee time will meet in the basement of First Mennonite Church.
- June 18-July 24: Removal of pews, removal of organ and some pipes, plaster repair (if needed), painting, new light bulbs
- 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, along with new rubber stairs by Church Street door

**The Black Swamp Benefit** is June 15-16 at the Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon, and our *My Coins Count* jug is in great need of more coins! Please deposit your spare change in the jug in the fellowship hall. *My Coins Count* benefits MCC water and food projects. Your attendance at the benefit and your donations of quilts, wooden items, and homemade baked goods will benefit MCC and Sunshine Homes.