

**Pentecost
June 4, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Mark Suderman, worship leader
Call to Worship
Prelude Jackie Wyse-Rhodes
Invocation
***Hymn** “Immortal, invisible, God only wise” HWB 70

-- PRAISING --

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 104:24-34
L: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
C: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.
L: There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
C: These all look to you to give them their food in due season;
L: when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
C: When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
L: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.
All: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.

Time with Children

Hymn “God, who touches earth” (vs. 1 and 2) HWB 511
Conversation Rhonda Winstead
Hymn “God, who touches earth” (vs. 3 and 4) HWB 511

Pastoral Prayer

George O'Reilly

--- RESPONDING ---

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

***Prayer of Dedication**

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture

Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39

Sermon

“Spirit of Communion”

Wanda Stopher

***Hymn**

“Fire of God, undying flame”

STS 103

— COMMUNION —

The Invitation

Congregational Prayer

*Lord Jesus, take from us all obstacles that take room from you in our hearts. Forgive our sins, heal our diseases. Restore to us the joy of our salvation. Give those we have sinned against, grace to forgive us and give us grace to forgive those who have sinned against us. Make this holy Supper a foretaste of eternal life with you. Amen. (John D. Rempel, New York City, from *Words for Worship*; used by permission of Herald Press.)*

Sharing the Bread

Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

--- SENDING ---

***Hymn**

“Come, O Spirit, come”

STS 105

***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: Barb and Mel Stettler, Glen Buller

HOST: Lynn Miller

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Alice Ruth Ramseyer, Mary Pannabecker Steiner

Worship – Alex Sider, Kathy Dickson, Christopher Harnish

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Tig Intagliata, Judy Diller

Worship – Kevin and Alison King, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

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	178
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 April 30	\$132,096.87
Spending plan expenses as of April 30	\$133,257.61
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

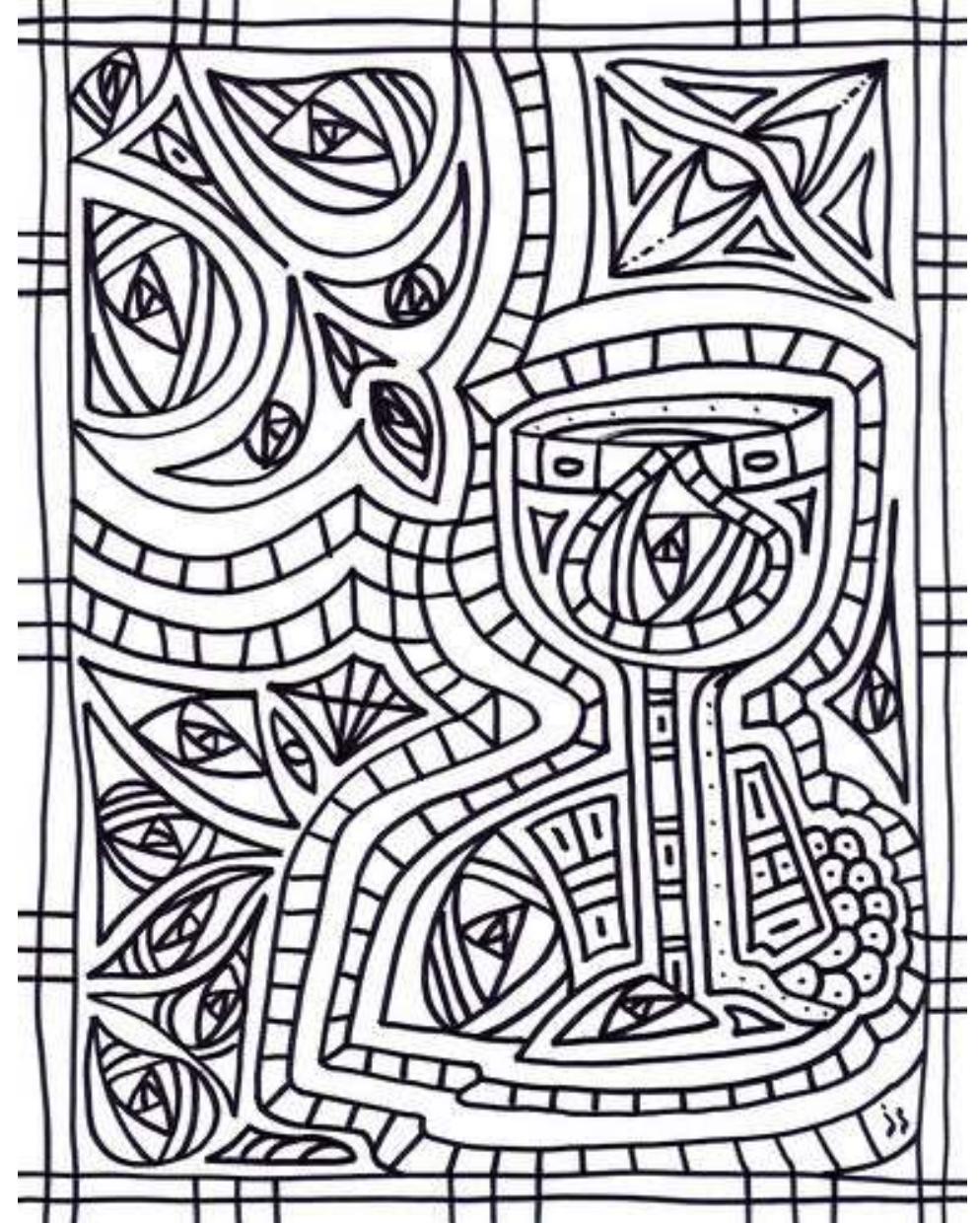
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu

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.



The 2017 Black Swamp Benefit will be held Friday and Saturday, June 16-17. Volunteers are needed to help sell meat and cheese on Friday night and Saturday morning and to carry auction items across the stage on Saturday. If you would like to volunteer, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

-- John Rich

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).

Traveling to the Mennonite USA 2017 Convention in Orlando? Learn everything you need about getting there and getting around at: <http://convention.mennoniteusa.org/logistics/>. The link takes you to information on transportation with an area map, shuttle information, attraction information, accessibility options, schedule and more.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Margaret Tiessen, June 11; and Eileen Kehler, June 12.

Willis Sommer remains in the intensive care unit in Findlay at this time, but is making progress. They anticipate he will be transferred out of the ICU within the next couple of days. He is getting good care and we are thankful for that. He and Betty will be ready for short visits soon, but please call Betty first to confirm that. Her phone number is 419-236-4403. Cards may be sent to Willis at their home.

Esther and Keith Brauen have returned to their home at 5900 Pevee Road, Bluffton, with some home health. Your continued prayers and cards are appreciated.

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 4, 2017

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Communion, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Connections potluck
3 p.m.	Congregational gathering, FH

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (6-6)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. MPS, 7 p.m., parlor
Thursday (6-8)	CDC worship, 1-3 p.m., parlor Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Sunday worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Sojourners/Freudige potlucks

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

Today we will receive Communion. As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC observe the giving of alms by giving to the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community. **All of the bread today is gluten free.**

Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer! Come to the table humbly, not because you have earned a place here, but because you know your need of mercy and help. Come because you love God and want to love God more. Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us. Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Come, by the mystery of God's grace, One Spirit-filled people of God, the body of Christ present here and now. (Compiled and adapted from various sources)

You are invited to attend an informal time of conversation as a congregation today at 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will hear from the Congregational Discernment Team, Staff Relations Committee and other church leaders about how the discernment gatherings shaped our five priorities, which, in turn, have shaped the revised job descriptions for a Pastor of Formation and Pastor of Connections. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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.*

Senior Concerns Committee wishes to make you aware of a seminar for senior citizens at the Bluffton Senior Center on Thursday, June 8, at 6 p.m. More information may be found on a sign posted on the Coming Events pillar in the fellowship hall. Contact Tonya Meyer at 419-358-8981 or srcenter@wcoil.com.

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

June 25 – CDC update and reflections

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.

Camp Friedenswald – Summer camps and camperships

Another fun-filled summer at Camp Friedenswald kicks off soon! This summer's theme is "Psalms for the Journey."

- High School (Grade 9-12): June 12-17
- Primary Camp (Grade 1-2): June 19-21
- Jr. High Camp (Grade 7-8): June 19-24
- Pre-Junior Camp (Grade 3-4): June 26-July 1
- Junior Camp (Grade 5-6): July 3-8
- Family Camp 1: July 10-14
- Family Camp 2: July 17-21

FMC will provide camperships of 50 percent of camp fees for children and youth. For more information and to register, visit <https://friedenswald.org/summer-camps> or call [269-476-9744](tel:269-476-9744).