

Lent Five
Living Ink: Jesus Meets with Friends
March 13, 2016
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship

Lucia Unrau

Call to Worship

LuAnn Stuckey

L: Come, beloved people of God! The God of Glory has restored your fortunes.

P: Let us tell of abundance as we shout with joy!

L: Come, sowers of the seed! The God of Mercy has brought rivers to the desert.

P: Let us declare our praise as we plant the fields!

L: Come, pilgrims on the way! The God of Grace has set a path through the sea.

P: Let us rejoice as we make our journey!

L: Come, people of God! The Holy One has done great things for us.

All: Let us worship the God of our Salvation!

Welcome

Invocation

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn**

“This is a day of new beginnings”

HWB 640

***Confessing and Reconciling**

Confession

All: God of new life, we confess that our faith is not always fresh and strong.

Some of us are tired and have heavy hearts.

Some of us are burdened with the weight of the past.

Though we long to know the power of resurrection,

we lose hope in the midst of suffering and loss.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

(silence)

Assurance of God’s Grace

L: God makes a way in the wilderness of our lives.

God refreshes us with water in the desert.

God equips us for the work we are called to do in Christ’s name.

Today, accept the promise of restoration.

Pastoral Prayer

Doug Luginbill

Special Music

“Ubi Caritas”

Becky Slagle Mayo

Jubilate

— PROCLAIMING —

Time with Children

Hymn

“I love to tell the story”

HWB 398

(Sing v.1)

Conversation

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

and Shannon Thiebeau

Hymn

“I love to tell the story”

HWB 398

(Sing v.2)

Gospel Reading by Logos

John 12:1-8

Readers: Jacob Suter, Ellie Nickel, Patrick Estell

Sermon

“Departure Issues”

Wanda Stopher

Time of Silent Reflection

— RESPONDING —

***Hymn of Response**

“How good a thing it is”

HWB 310

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“A Way to Calvary Leadeth”

arr. Dale Wood

(Children bring their books forward during the offertory)

***Hymn of Dedication**

“Praise God from whom”

HWB 119

(Sing vs. A)

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn**

“God of grace and God of glory”

HWB 366

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.*

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

Ohio Unit and an update on the MDS binational response in Detroit. Please RSVP to Lawrence Matthews (419-303-8056) if you plan to attend and/or have interest in carpooling.

Hannah Heinzekehr, executive director of The Mennonite, Inc., will speak about “Tending the Wild Space: My Journey Toward Understanding Sexism and Other Oppressions” in Forum at 11 a.m. on March 15 in Founders Hall, Bluffton University.

In honor of International Women’s Day on March 8, Bluffton Ten Thousand Villages and Bluffton University Women’s Circle are hosting a women’s clothing drive during the month of March. Gently used professional clothing, shoes, and bags will be donated to Hope House in Findlay. Drop off donations at Ten Thousand Villages through March 31. Donors will receive a coupon good for 20% off one item at Ten Thousand Villages.

Tickets are available for the Bluffton University Artist Series performance by the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17 in Yoder Recital Hall. Reserved seats are \$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens and non-Bluffton students and \$10 for children ages 6-13. Children ages 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu>, or at Marbeck Center information desk.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Dick and I want to thank you for your prayers, support, & encouragement during this extremely difficult time in our lives. We thank you for the many ways you “walked” with us on our health journey and are continuing to do so. You showed us the outpouring of your love through your sharing of food, cards, notes, calls. Blessings for each of you as you continue your own daily journey.
-- *Dick and Elfrieda Ramseyer*

Thank you all for the many expressions of caring and support following the death of our mother, Wanda Pannabecker. She loved her church family and so appreciated your cards, visits and prayers, especially when she was no longer able to be here. -- *Sincerely, Mary Pannabecker Steiner, Phil, John, James and Tom Pannabecker and families*

Following a fall and brief hospitalization, Bob Ramseyer is now in room 211 of the rehabilitation unit at Mennonite Memorial Home. He and Alice Ruth welcome your prayers.

The spring meeting of the Swiss Community Historical Society of Bluffton and Pandora will be held today at 2:30 p.m. in the patio room of Maple Crest. The meeting is open to the public and will feature former residents of the Swiss Homestead (Schumacher House) on Bixel Road. The presentation will include a brief history by Rachel Friesen and a panel of former residential caretakers who will share memories of living in the house. The panel, moderated by SCHS board member Ron Lora, will include former caretakers Joyce Schumacher, Heidrun Awad, Fred Steiner, John Betts, Marie Dyck, Kristi Kohli, and Mark Suter. Light refreshments will be served and panel members will be available for informal discussion.

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, March 13, 2016

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Sojourners/Freudige class potlucks

THIS WEEK

Monday (3/14)	Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (3/15)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor Education, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (3/16)	First Night, supper 5:30 p.m., program 6 p.m., FH Cherub choir 6 p.m.; Adult bells 6:30 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7:15 p.m.
Thursday (3/17)	Adriel board meeting, noon-6:30 p.m., FH/kitchen Church Council, 7 p.m.

NEXT WEEK

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult Fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service

Scripture: Luke 22:14-23:56; Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11

Welcome to our worship service today. Please sign and pass the friendship pads in the pews. 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

Holy Week Schedule

Communion

This year the usual Maundy Thursday celebration of communion will be moved to Sunday morning, March 20. This will allow us to experience communion in the context of the story of Jesus' passion in worship. On that day, as is our practice, we will have opportunity to contribute to the Deacon's Benevolent Fund.

Maundy Thursday

Although we will not celebrate communion, we will still gather on Maundy Thursday, March 24, to share a simple potluck meal beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

The traditional Good Friday Procession of the Cross begins at St. Mary's Catholic Church and ends at Bluffton Presbyterian Church. The procession begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by the Good Friday Community Worship at noon at Bluffton Presbyterian Church.

Invitation to Prayer

You are invited to experience a self-guided prayer walk in the sanctuary. Come any time between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, March 24, or Good Friday, March 25.

Easter Sunday Brunch

Easter Sunday brunch will be held Sunday, March 27, at 9:15 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Please bring food to share: egg casseroles, fruit, muffins, pastries. Coffee and juice will be provided. To save on use of paper products, all are asked to bring their own table service. There will be no Sunday school that morning.

Update on Steve and Janet, 03-11-13

After nearly a week of recover from surgery, Steve is day by day making progress. We thank you for the many expressions of love and concern. – Janet for Steve

Would you like to lessen worry in your life? "Consider the Lily: Worry and Creativity," is the theme for the Mennonite Women meeting, Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Esther Yoder Strahan will be the speaker. Gloria Hernandez Bucher will lead devotions, taken

from April Yamasaki's devotional, *Spark! Igniting your God-Given Creativity*. Mary Anne Moser and Jenny Moser will provide refreshments.

The theme for our series of Lenten services is *Living Ink*, telling The Story and telling our stories. Accordingly, the chancel display features various ways that stories have been told through history: the scroll, with quill and ink; the book; the typewriter; and my narrative sculpture depicting the story of Jonah and the Whale. The display also features books written by First Mennonite authors, and the packets that the children are given to write or draw their stories during this series of services. The cloth on the lectern says nothing literal, but represents the energy of storytelling through dynamic letter forms. -- Gregg Luginbuhl

Order forms for the final First Night of this series are available at the ticket table in the fellowship hall. You may purchase tickets today in the fellowship hall and **on Monday in the office from 9 a.m.-noon; payment is due no later than noon Monday.** Cost is \$4/person and \$12/family.

Shannon Thiebeau's office hours have changed. She will now be in the office from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesdays, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays.

It's hygiene kit season! There is a list of items that make up a kit on the bulletin board above the pew in fellowship hall. On the pew are four boxes -- one each for fabric cut for bags, empty bags for kits, supplies and complete kits. We need fabric for bags and volunteers to sew bags, cut fabric into designated sizes, or donate funds for supplies. Checks should be written to FMC with MW kit on the memo line.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Service Group of the Mennonite Memorial Home Communities of Ohio will hold its annual Easter bake sale on Saturday, March 19. The bake sale will feature a variety of home-baked goods including cinnamon rolls, cakes, cookies and breads. This annual event will be held in the MMH lobby from 9 a.m.-noon.

Bluffton University's Camerata Singers will present the annual Home Concert on Sunday, March 20, at 2:30 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. The program features sacred choral music from the Renaissance period through the present. Ana Yoder Coulter, adjunct professor of music and staff accompanist at Bluffton, will accompany the choir. Student instrumentalists will also perform on some of the pieces. Dr. Mark J. Suderman, professor of music and director of choral activities at Bluffton, is the conductor.

Mennonite Disaster Service: Kevin King, MDS executive director, is the featured speaker at an MDS meeting April 2 at Lockport Mennonite, Stryker. A complimentary breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m. and the program at 9 a.m., ending before noon. Kevin will report on MDS - past, present, and future. There will also be a progress report on the fund raiser for a tool trailer for the Western