

Palm/Passion Sunday
Living Ink: Jesus Suffers Death
March 20, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Laura Hartzler
Call to Worship LuAnn Stuckey

L: Lent began in the wilderness; it concludes at Golgotha, near Jerusalem.

P: We now come near to the end of one story; another story will begin soon.

L: We have followed Jesus this far. Today we remember how he faced betrayal, rejection, and torment.

All: We witness, once again, that Jesus taught and walked in love through every step of the journey.

Welcome

Invocation

-- PALM --

***Opening Hymn** "Christ is our cornerstone" HWB 43

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory "In the Garden" Lorie Line

***Hymn of Dedication** "Praise God from whom"
(Sing vs. A) HWB 119

***Prayer of Dedication**

Time with Children

Hymn "Hosanna, loud hosanna"
(Sing v.1) HWB 238

Conversation Gloria Hernandez Bucher
and FMC children

Hymn "Hosanna, loud hosanna"
(Sing v.2 and 3) HWB 238

(Children should leave their books at their seats at the end of worship)

Readings -- PASSION --
Last Supper Luke 22:14-38

***Hymn** "Alone thou goest forth" HWB 244

***Confessing and Reconciling**
Confession

All: God of steadfast love, hear our plea.

Forgive us when our tongues are silent.

Forgive us when we forget the ways of peace.

Forgive us when we turn away from you in times of suffering.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

(silence)

Assurance of God's Grace

L: God hears our prayers; God offers salvation to all.

God assures peace to all who will follow the One who bears our sins.

Today, accept the promise of new life.

Readings *Betrayal and Arrest* Luke 22:39-62

***Hymn** "Gentle God, when we are driven" STS 71

Readings *Sentenced to Death* Luke 22:63-71; 23:1-25

***Hymn** "O sacred head, now wounded (vs. 1-4)" HWB 252

Readings *Crucified* Luke 23:26-49

***Hymn** "Ah, holy Jesus" HWB 254

Communion

Readings *Burial* Luke 23:50-56

Please depart in silence.

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

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

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: fmclubffton.org

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor – Wanda – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday

Associate Pastor – Steve – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Custodian's schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

GREETERS: Doug and Paula Luginbill, Todd Rainey, Walt Paquin

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Amy Blount, Ken Shenk

Worship – Kristen and Ryan Niekamp, Kevin Cluts, Megan Coffman

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Annette and Amelia Heslep

Worship – Kevin and Alison King

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

CHANCEL: Gregg Luginbuhl and Alison King

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, www.fmclubffton.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	204
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	6
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	79
Spending plan giving March 13, 2016	\$7,732.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering March 13 totaled \$10,287.59.50. Money was received for these special funds: Grades P-5 - \$6.12, Sojourners - \$2, Freudige - \$50, Faith and Life - \$7, Deacons' Benevolent special funds - \$1,320, Deacons' Benevolent - \$80, First Night - \$323.75, Kitchen service - \$12.66, Capital campaign - \$58, MDS - \$20, Easter flowers - \$94.40, College scholarships - \$50, Casket fund - \$50, Wanda Pannabecker memorial fund - \$465.	

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - fmc.steve@bluffton.edu

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

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu



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 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.

Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes is accepting applications for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director is responsible for the program, staff and budget of the Great Lakes region. This person will represent MCC Great Lakes within the broader MCC system, within the constituent churches of the region and actively collaborate with other MCC entities. Among the director's responsibilities are fund raising, program development, informal conversations, policy discussions. For more information visit serve.mcc.org or contact Susan Wadel at 717-552-5785. The application deadline is Monday, March 21.

MCC Alumni & Friends Gathering: Alumni or friends of MCC are invited to attend an MCC Alumni and Friends International Potluck at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora. Guest speakers will be Ben & Beth Weisbrod, MCC Area Directors for Central and West Africa. Please RSVP at 574-534-4133 or to MatthewTschetter@mcc.org.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Corrinne Boehr, March 23, and Linda Suter, March 28.

Happy anniversary to Sharon and Carlin Carpenter, 55, March 25.

Dear friends at FMC: As we reflect back on the journey Steve began 3½ years ago to be placed on the heart transplant list and now we are in the hospital knowing this is part of the plan in the near future, we are thankful for the generous support at this time. We received a gift of money from the Benevolent Fund. Thank you, Janet and Steve

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 20, 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, no sermon
Noon	Community/Young parents class potlucks

THIS WEEK

Monday (21)	Deadline for submissions to Menno-Life
Tuesday (22)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor Education, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (23)	Cherub choir 6 p.m.; Adult bells 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (24)	Prayer walk, 7 a.m.-9 p.m., sanctuary Maundy Thursday potluck, 6:30 p.m., FH
Friday (25)	Good Friday procession of the cross, 11:30 p.m., begins at St. Mary's Catholic Church, ends at Bluffton First Presbyterian

NEXT WEEK

9:15 a.m.	Easter brunch potluck, no SS
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching Scripture: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; John 20:10-18; Luke 24:1-12

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

The traditional Maundy Thursday celebration of communion will be observed today. This will allow us to experience communion in the context of the story of Jesus' passion in worship. 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. Please bring your own table service.

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, 03-16-16

It has now been 10 days since Steve's total artificial heart pump surgery. His body and organs continue to recover from that surgery. The journey of recovery sometimes feels like a roller coaster with multiple highs and lows in the same day. At this time Steve

remains in cardiovascular intensive care unit and it is best not to visit at this time. Your continued presence with us in spirit and through your care and prayers sustains us.

-- Janet for Steve

Readers in today's worship service include: Story teller--Gloria Bucher; readers: Ruth Naylor and Darryl Nester; LOGOS: Cheryl Slotter, Greg Ring, Kendra Nickel, Melissa Friesen and Chris Moser.

Voice your opinions! On March 16, First Night concluded a five-week series of meals and programs. Those in attendance received an evaluation sheet and volunteer survey. Anyone else who wishes to complete these forms may pick them up in the church office. Please return the forms to the box on the small table outside the office by Monday, March 28. There will be decisions made about the next phase of First Night.

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

The Mission, Peace and Service Commission reminds the congregation that we have funds to assist people in doing Voluntary Service. Please contact the commission if you would like to explore VS options.

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

Bluffton University's Camerata Singers will present the annual home concert today 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 is the accompanist. Student instrumentalists will also participate. Dr. Mark J. Suderman, professor of music and director of choral activities, is the conductor.