

Easter Sunday
Living Ink: Jesus Lives
March 27, 2016
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship

Lucia Unrau

Hymn/Special Music

“This joyful Eastertide”

HWB 276

(Congregation join in unison on verse 3 with short pauses between each phrase)

Don Hooley & Mike Edmiston, trumpet; Ray Raeburn, bells

Welcome

Leader: The Risen Christ greets us with arms outstretched.

Congregation: The Lord of Light has overcome the darkness.

We are made alive in the splendor of Christ’s resurrection.

Leader: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Invocation

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn**

“Christ the Lord is risen today”

HWB 280

***Confession of Faith** *(Read in unison)*

We believe in a bright and amazing God
who has been to the depths of despair on our behalf;
who has risen in splendor and majesty;
who decorates the universe
with sparkling water, clear white light, twinkling stars and sharp colors,
over and over and over again.

We believe that Jesus is the light of the world;
that God believes in us, and trusts us,
even though we make the same mistakes
over and over and over again.

We commit ourselves to Jesus,
to one another as brothers and sisters,
and to the Maker’s business in the world.

Pastoral Prayer

Mark Weidner

— PROCLAIMING —

Time with Children

Hymn

“I love to tell the story”
(Sing v.1)

HWB 398

Conversation

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

Hymn

“I love to tell the story”
(Sing v.2)

HWB 398

Special Music

“Laudate Jehovam, Omnes Gentes”

Georg Philipp Telemann

Monica Harnish, Melissa Friesen, Grace Paquin, Anna Biesecker-Mast, violin

Lynda Nyce & Fran Core, viola

Gospel Reading by Logos

John 20:1-18

Readers: Cheryl Slotter, Kendra Nickel, Marilyn Bishop

Sermon

“Resurrection Dawning”

Wanda Stopher

— RESPONDING —

***Hymn of Response**

“Lift your glad voices”

HWB 275

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”

arr. Dale Wood

(Children bring their books forward during the offertory)

***Hymn of Dedication**

“Praise God from whom”

HWB 118

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn**

“Lift high the cross”

HWB 321

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

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

Note: Translation for “Laudate Jehovam, Omnes Gentes”: *Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Alleluia.*

Psalm 117

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

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: Dave Moser, Walt Paquin, Chris Moser

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: NO SS

Worship – Kevin and Alison King

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

Worship – Darby and Jen Sommer, Betty Sommer

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.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	231
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	4
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	86
Spending plan giving March 27, 2016	\$5,133.78
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00

The offering March 27 totaled \$7,178.81. Money was received for these special funds: Grades P-5 - \$4.77, Sojourners - \$16, Freudige - \$50, Faith and Life - \$9, Deacons' Benevolent special funds - \$350, Deacons' Benevolent - \$515, First Night - \$374, Kitchen service - \$11.29, Capital campaign - \$125, College scholarships - \$33, Mennonite Women - \$180, Wanda Pannabecker memorial fund - \$100, SHYF - \$100, SWAP - \$50.

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.

The 2016 MCC Relief Sale will be held at the Wayne County Fairgrounds at Wooster. In lieu of the traditional "kick-off" meeting, the Relief Sale Executive Board will hold an informal, informational planning meeting with all volunteers on Friday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m. Because of the nature of this "walk-through" meeting, the kick-off meeting has been postponed until the fairground buildings have been cleared of vehicles - the buildings are winter storage for RVs. For more information, please contact the board chairman, Maynard Miller, at 330-231-2413.

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 Lawrence Templin, 94, April 4.

Happy anniversary to Lynn and Linda Miller, 51, April 2.

Please remember Celia Blough's family in your prayers. Celia, 93, died March 24 at the Mennonite Memorial Home. At the time of printing, arrangements were incomplete at Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services.

Thanks so much for your many expressions of caring support and prayers during my recent surgery. I feel truly blessed to be part of this loving church family. -- *Anne Buller*

Dear Friends at FMC: Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. (Martin Luther King, Jr.) I wish I could say we are at the top of the staircase...looking down and saying we are here – not so...slow climb. Thanks for your continued gift of money through the Benevolent fund...May the grace and peace of Christ be with you all. Blessings, Janet for Steve

Bob Ramseyer continues in care at the Mennonite Memorial Home. He and Alice Ruth appreciate your prayers and support.

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 27, 2016

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Easter potluck brunch, no Sunday school
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching

THIS WEEK

Monday (28)	Church office closed
Tuesday (29)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor Education, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (30)	Cherub choir 6 p.m.; Adult bells 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (31)	Deacons, 7:30 p.m., parlor

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
Noon	Connections class potluck
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Tig Intagliata preaching
	Scripture: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150; Revelations 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

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

Update on Steve and Janet, 3/23/16

Steve has been moved to an area where he will start cardiac rehab with his total artificial heart. He tires very easily and needs to regain strength for the continued journey ahead. We are thankful...Janet Yoder

Address for Steve and Janet Yoder: Steve Yoder, J52, c/o Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44195.

Wanda Stopher will be out of town April 1-3. She will return to the office on Monday, April 4. Please contact Ruth Naylor for pastoral care needs during this time at 419-358-6309.

The church office will be closed on Easter Monday, March 28. If you have an emergency, please call Wanda Stopher at 419-551-1079.

Central Christian High School Concert Choir from Kidron, under the direction of Tim Shue, will perform on Wednesday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m. in Yoder Hall. First Mennonite and Grace Church have been asked to provide housing and breakfast for 48 students and four adults. Signup sheets for hosting will be in Fellowship Hall. Hosts will meet their guests at FMC Fellowship Hall after the concert. Hosts will provide breakfast and transportation to FMC Thursday morning by 7 a.m. where a sack lunch will be provided for the choir.

Mennonite Mission Network's SOOP program has asked Lynn Miller to be the construction supervisor for the a new thrift store building on the Cheyenne Indian reservation in Lame Deer, MT, this spring. Lynn will leave for Montana on April 4 (and can take one person with him) to begin the construction of the first floor of the 9,000 square foot building. SOOP is recruiting volunteers to work as framing carpenters, laborers, cooks, and drivers (the nearest lumberyard is 104 miles away). If you might be interested in working with Lynn on this project, either speak to him or contact Arloa Bontrager at SOOP (ArloaB@MennoniteMission.net) For more information about the thrift store go to www.EverythingBeautifulThriftStore.org or see their Facebook page using the same name.

This summer's Central District Conference annual meeting will be June 23-25 at Columbus Mennonite Church, with the theme of *Abounding in Love ... Abiding in Grace*. We can send up to 18 delegates, as well as a high school age youth delegate. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, please notify the church office (fmc@bluffton.edu or 419-358-5766.) For more information, contact Darryl Nester or Kendra Nickel.

If you'd like to complete an evaluation sheet and volunteer survey for First Night, stop by the church office by noon Tuesday, March 29. There will be decisions made about the next phase of First Night.

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.

Those wishing to assist with hygiene kits will find 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 Bluffton Community Preschool is accepting applications for three- and four-year-old children for the 2016-2017 school year. Children must be age 3 by August 1, 2016. The Preschool meets at the First United Methodist Church at 116 Church St., Bluffton. The early registration deadline is June 1. Please call Shelly at 419-358-0268 to register and to get more information.

Would you like to be part of Mennonite Church USA's new storytelling project, Love is a Verb? We're exploring the idea of love in action -- highlighting stories of individuals, families, congregations, communities and agencies across Mennonite Church USA who are living out the transformative love of Christ all around them. Write for the Menno Snapshots blog, submit a feature story idea or congregational service snapshot, or tell us what you think "love is ..." at mennoniteusa.org/mennolove.

Brazo en Brazo: Wilson sends greetings from Brazil and is remembering the good time he had here in the church with us. He attached a Photo of the two cups we give out. He signed off, "Blessings and prayers are with you from Brazil." -- *Manny Meza*