

# God, Humanity & Relationships

## Lent Three

March 4, 2018

**Chimes call us to worship**

Deb Niswander

**Welcome and Announcements**

Lynn Miller

**Prelude**

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Cruger/Burkhardt

**Call to Worship**

L: Come rule makers, rule breakers, and you who are still finding your way. Come. Whether you speak with wise words or with wisecracks, you are made in the image of God. Come into God’s house. Hear God’s Word. Prepare to meet your Maker and your match. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is greater than human strength.

**C: Some of us like certainty and structure. Some of us don’t. We come by different roads, yet we are here together. We want to know God, and to be known by God. We are here to worship the Lord.**

L: Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there.” We are here and Christ Jesus is here. We join our hearts in worship.

**Invocation**

**\*Opening Hymn**

“Teach me, O Lord”

HWB 487

**\*Confession**

God, we call you ruler of all, but sometimes we make excuses. We try to avoid applying your rules to our actions and interests. At other times, we hold so tightly to rules that we break relationships. It is easier to imagine that you are like us than it is for us to be like you. We judge ourselves by success; you judge us by how we treat others. Help us to face our truth. Forgive us when we fail. Give us the courage to keep trying to live as you love.

**\*Words of Assurance**

The Lord’s rules can be trusted. They make plain people wise.

**Special Music**

“This is My Father’s World”  
*Jubilate and Youth Choirs*

**Old Testament Reading**

Exodus 20:1-17

Lynn Miller

**Conversation with Friends**

**Hymn**

“Between Me and You”

Insert

**Conversation**

Amber Shelly

**Hymn**

“Between Me and You”

Insert

*(Accompaniment by Harnish family)*

**Pastoral Prayer**

Theda Good

**Special Music**

“Asia”

William Billings  
(setting of Psalm 19)

*Chancel Choir, singing in an early American style*

**Gospel Reading**

John 2:13-22

Cheri Slotter

**Sermon**

“A Beautiful Mess”

Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn of Response**

“Gentle God, when we are driven”

STS 71

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“How Deep the Father's Love for Us”

Townend/Tornquist

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

“We give thee but thine own” (vs. 1&4)

HWB 384

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Hymn of Sending**

“Love the Lord your God”

STS 55

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

“To God Be the Glory”

Doane/Kaiser

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

*\*Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*

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

*Large print hymnals are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.*

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: [fmclubffton.org](http://fmclubffton.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

**HOST:** Mary Amstutz

**GREETER:** Don Hostetler

**NURSERY TODAY: SS** – Shelby Cluts, Monica Harnish, Alice Ruth Ramseyer

**Worship** – Annette Heslep, Kristen Niekamp, Sunita Hooley

**NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS** – Judy Diller, Lori Nester

**Worship** – Mary Ina Hooley, Sabrina and Kurt Longworth

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Moser

**CHANCEL:** Amber Shelly

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmclubffton.org](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-216, MC-5
Spending plan giving Feb. 25, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$11,044.96
Special fund giving Feb. 25, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$18.30, Sojourners-\$26; Freudige-\$90; Faith and Life-\$14; Faithful Living-\$4; Kitchen-\$12.75	<u>\$621.20</u>
Capital campaign-\$400; Easter flowers-\$56.15	
Total giving Feb. 25, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$11,666.16
Total spending plan receipts as of January 31, 2017	\$42,545.67
Spending plan expenses as of January 31, 2017	\$26,805.89
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)

Pastor Theda Good – 419-549-2417 (cell) -- [fmc.theda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.theda@bluffton.edu)

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

Director of Music – Mark Suderman – [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto: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.*



**We regularly post letters, invitations and notices** from various organizations on the “Here and Now” pillar in the fellowship hall. Please take time to review these items.

**Maple Crest Senior Living Village** will hold a Soup Cook Off and Silent Auction on Thursday, March 8, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the patio room. The public is invited to sample soups prepared by local restaurants and caterers. The silent auction will feature pieces created by area artists, including pottery, handmade jewelry, wood carvings, hand-quilted items and more. Artwork will be on display in the lobby area of Maple Crest beginning Monday, March 5 and bids will be accepted until 6 p.m. during the soup cook off. The meal includes soup/s, salad, breadsticks, beverage and dessert. Cost is \$7/person for adults and \$3 for children age 5 and under. Proceeds will benefit the hair salon construction at Maple Crest. For more information, call 419-358-1015, ext. 100.

**Rally Point is an afterschool ministry** for youth in Lima, sponsored by the area Mennonite churches. FMC provides afterschool snacks 2-3 times per month as an extension of our support. Another way to support the ministry is for you to purchase tickets to attend the BBQ chicken dinner after church on Sunday, March 25, from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at St. John Mennonite Church, 15988 Road 4, Pandora. Tickets cost \$8 per meal with the options to dine in or carry out. Contact Louise Matthews to purchase tickets.

**Changes to exhibit: Bluffton University senior artists and graphic designers** will show their work in an exhibit “Branching Off” **March 12-28** in the Grace Albrecht Gallery of Sauder Visual Arts Center. Artists include Amanda Diller, Bluffton; Miriam Fike, Lima; Tyler Frank, Maumee; Alissa Hauke, Leesburg, and Chase King, Cairo. Each collection includes digital prints, sculpture, painting, drawing and photography. The artists will discuss their work during a reception from 1-3 p.m. **Sunday, March 18** at Sauder. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F and 1-5 p.m. S-S.

**Grace Mennonite Church**, Pandora, will be having an all-day comforter knotting on Thursday, March 8, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Please RSVP to Cindy Luginbill, [lugc@watchtv.net](mailto:lugc@watchtv.net).

**MCC Alumni & Friends International Potluck:** Alumni and friends of Mennonite Central Committee are invited to attend an MCC Alumni and Friends International Potluck at 6 p.m. Sunday, April 8, at Central Mennonite Church, 21703 State Route 2, Archbold. Guest speakers will be Doug Hostetter, director of the MCC United Nations Office, and Thien Tran, Vietnamese intern in the MCC U.N. office, sharing about the past and present work of MCC in Vietnam. Please RSVP by Apr. 4 at 574-534-4133 or to [lmg@mcc.org](mailto:lmg@mcc.org).

### **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 4, 2018**

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Connections potluck

### **THIS WEEK**

Tuesday (3-6)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (3-7)	Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m. Evening Song and Prayer, 8 p.m., parlor
Thursday (3-8)	Senior Concerns, 2 p.m., parlor Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

### **NEXT SUNDAY**

8:30-9:30 a.m.	SHYF Pancake breakfast fundraiser, FH
8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

**Reminder: The deadline for submitting items for the Sunday bulletin is noon on Thursdays, unless otherwise noted.**

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

**Spring forward:** Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 11. Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour!

**Easter flowers:** We are taking orders for Easter flowers. If you wish to order flowers in honor or memory of someone, complete the order form on the insert included with this bulletin. **Orders must be submitted by Wednesday, March 7.** All flowers ordered will be placed in the chancel on Easter Sunday morning. Plan to pick up your flowers after worship on Easter.

**We will gather on Wednesday, March 7** at 8 p.m. for a Lenten Evening Song and Prayer. This particular evening we will have a focus on healing. We will pause, pray, sing, and offer a few rituals to enter into this service of healing and hope. Oil, candles, and water will be available for this service. You are welcome to participate as little or much as you desire. Childcare will be provided.

**The SHYF will hold a pancake breakfast fundraiser** on March 11 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall to raise money for our summer service trip and the 2019 MCUSA Youth Convention. There will be seasonal flavors and gluten free options. Hope you'll all attend!

### **Pastors' Office Hours and contact information:**

**Wanda** -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu); 419-551-1079

**Theda** – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; [fmc.theda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.theda@bluffton.edu); 419-549-2417

Please contact a pastor by e-mail or phone to schedule an appointment. Calling ahead is strongly encouraged. **Wanda** takes Friday as a Sabbath rest from work – including emails. She responds only in emergencies on Friday. **Theda** takes Monday as a Sabbath rest from work – including emails. She responds only in emergencies on Monday.

**“Affirm” is the theme for Mennonite Women** on Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Participants will learn how women are being helped with addictions, trafficking and similar problems, through agencies in Lima. Guests will be Lydia

Brenneman, of Lima Mennonite Church, and Kelly Baeza, housemother of Andrew's house, a home for women overcoming opioid addictions. Andrew House has a “wish list” to which all are encouraged to contribute; it includes cleaning supplies, toiletries, feminine hygiene products, adult coloring books/colored pencils, gift cards to grocery, retail stores, gas stations and restaurants. See the MW pillar for a complete list. A box will be provided at the meeting for contributions. Laurel Neufeld Weaver will lead devotions and Kay Huber and Betsi Werling will provide refreshments.

**The Young Adult Sunday school** class has renamed itself “Faithful Living” and invites any interested persons to join them at their 9:15 a.m. class. This week they will begin studying Lynn Miller's book, “The Power of Enough.” The class meets in the room across from the nursery downstairs. Greg Ring is the class contact and may be reached at 567-204-7283 or by email at [gregring@roadrunner.com](mailto:gregring@roadrunner.com).

**Hygiene Kits** - MCC has made an urgent call for hygiene kits and relief kits, and we will be collecting kits for a few months. MCC has recently added a comb to the hygiene kit list, so be sure to check the content list carefully.

Hygiene Kit Contents – Only NEW items, in original packaging

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6–8 in)

Please limit your generosity to the items listed. Bags and content lists are on the table and bulletin board near the church library. We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of fellowship hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. **\*Relief Kits:** *These kits are larger and more expensive to complete, but are also desperately needed. They would be a good project for Sunday school classes or small groups. Relief kit lists are also on the bulletin board. Just pack all items into a box, label it “Relief Kit,” and place in the quilt room. We will send these to MCC where the items will be placed into a new plastic pail with a lid.*

**The Lima Area Habitat for Humanity** thanks First Mennonite Church for their recent help with the floor project at the ReStore. There were at least 15 people associated with FMC who worked at some point on this endeavor. We, as a staff, are grateful for your generosity. In total, there were 167 volunteers and they worked 718 hours. Please come visit our “new” store at 550 W. Elm Street in Lima.

-- Mark Suderman, Volunteer Coordinator