

**First Sunday of Lent**  
**March 5, 2017**  
**10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

**Chimes call us to worship**

Lucia Unrau

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions**

Victoria Woods-Yee, Worship Leader

**\*Call to Worship (based on Psalm 32)**

L: Let all who are faithful praise the Lord.

**C: Surely the rising waters will not cover us.**

L: You are our hiding place, you will protect us from trouble.

**C: You encompass us with songs of deliverance. Your glory is upon us.**

L: Those that trust in the Lord shall be surrounded by his mercy.

**All: All you righteous ones, sing praise to him with an upright heart.**

**\*Invocation**

— PRAISING —

**\*Opening Hymn**

“For the fruit of all creation”

HWB 90

**\*Confession and Reconciling**

**Confession (based on Psalm 32):**

L: I stood confessing my sins. Spitting them out like gravel choking me.

**Men: Stone upon stone spewing from my mouth. I could not believe the chasm of deceit -- the pit of iniquity into which I had fallen.**

**Women: Strength fled from me like a summer drought. Only rocks to feed my hunger.**

**Reconciling:**

L: Until all was revealed. Uncovered and brought into the Resurrecting Light. Then the heaviness fell away, bit and bridle thrown aside for blessings.

**All: Forgiveness. Washed clean in the river, restored, renewed -- sanctified by the tender Grace of God. We are hidden within Your arms, O' God. We are not alone.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

Wanda Stopher

**Special Music**

Mungu Ni Mwema  
*Jubilate*

arr. John L. Bell

— PROCLAIMING —

**Time with Children**

**Hymn**

“Come to me, come to us” (*vs. 1 for coming forward*) STS 60

**Conversation**

Shelby and Kevin Cluts

**Hymn**

“Come to me, come to us” (*vs. 1 for coming forward*) STS 60

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 4:1-11

Joyce Hostetler

**Sermon**

“Joining the temptations of Jesus”

George O'Reilly

— RESPONDING —

**\*Hymn**

“I hunger and I thirst”

HWB 474

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

“Lead, Kindly Light”

arr. Dale Wood

**\*Hymn of Dedication**

“Take my life” (*vs. 1*)

HWB 389

— SENDING —

**\*Hymn**

“Go, my friends, in grace”

STS 57

**\*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](http://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:** Seth Andreas, Annalise Nisly

**HOST:** Shannon Thiebeau

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Carmen Ordonez-Moser, Melissa Friesen, Mary Ann Ring

**Worship** – Andrea and Tyson Goings, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Hannah Combs, Lu Derstine, Judy Diller

**Worship** – Kevin and Alison King, Seth Andreas

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Moser

**CHANCEL:** Amy Freeman

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

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

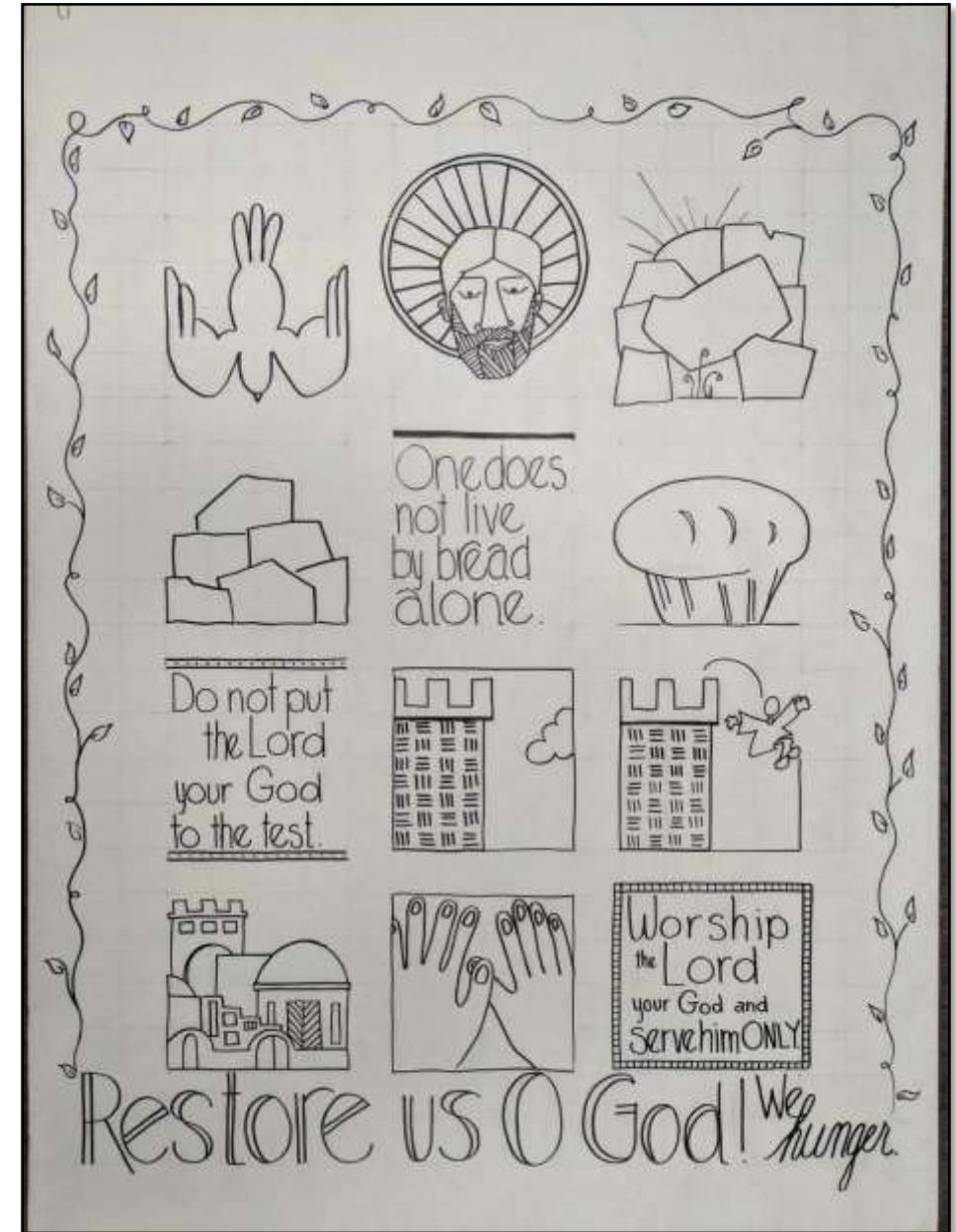
Worship attendance last Sunday	221
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	90
Spending plan giving February 26, 2017	\$9,542.00
Spending plan receipts as of February 28	\$67,481.59
Spending plan expenses as of February 28	\$65,777.69
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

The offering Feb. 26 totaled \$10,531.42. Money was received for these special funds, K-5<sup>th</sup> - \$10.67, Sojourners - \$21, Faith and Life - \$5, Community - \$2, Connection - \$5, SHYF - \$200, Deacons Benevolent - \$45, Kitchen service - \$4.75, FIRST Night - \$596, Audio visual - \$15.

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 (cell) -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)  
Pastoral Associate – George O'Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – [fmc.george@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.george@bluffton.edu)  
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)  
Director of Music – Mark Suderman      Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau  
Custodian – Mick Hardy  
Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)

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 Sunflower Trio**, comprised of Hesston College music faculty Matthew Schloneger, tenor; Rebecca Schloneger, violin, and Ken Rodgers, piano, will present a program about Mennonite composer J. Harold Moyer during Forum at 11 a.m. March 14 in Yoder Recital Hall. The trio will also perform a concert of Moyer's works at 7:30 p.m. that evening in Yoder Recital Hall. The program will feature sacred choral music from the Renaissance period through the present, including music from a variety of styles and genres: gospel music, choruses from major works, and spirituals. The trio performs music featuring voice, violin and keyboard and has released one recording, "All Good Gifts."

**MCUSA's Peace and Justice Support Network** is offering offering training on how to do "Peace Circles." Peace circles are small groups that operate with the goal of participants identifying a peace/justice issue about which they are passionate and then taking action to get involved in some way with that issue. They operate like a small group for six weeks and incorporate Scripture study and group support/accountability. These will be via video conference and be led by Jane Roeschley of Normal Mennonite Church. You can find more information at:  
<http://www.pjsn.org/Resources/congregations/Pages/Peace-Circles.aspx>

**GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS**

**Ann Shumaker** has moved back to her home at 102 Magnolia Lane, Bluffton. Her phone number is 567-525-0858.

**Please remember the family of Royce Engle**, who died February 24. A memorial service was held yesterday at FMC.

**Please pray for the Bluffton University Camerata Singers** during their spring tour March 16-19. They will return to campus for a home concert on Sunday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Pray that those in attendance of their concerts will hear the message of God through them.  
 – *Mennonite Education Agency*

**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 5, 2017**

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching
Noon	Connections class potluck; Catechism (will eat with Connections)
5 p.m.	Venture Club, progressive supper
6 p.m.	JHYF/SHYF, Revelation

**THIS WEEK**

Monday (3-6)	Lent Practice, 7 p.m., FH, childcare will be provided
Tuesday (3-7)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Education, 6:30 p.m., Library
Wednesday (3-8)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, 7 p.m., <b>NO Chancel Choir</b> Stewardship, 7 p.m., 301
Thursday (3-9)	Senior Concerns, 2 p.m., AR Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

**NEXT WEEK**

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Freudige/Sojourners class potlucks Catechism

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

**Venture Club will meet tonight** for a progressive supper. They will begin at the Hartzlers at 5 p.m. Pick up will be at the church at 7 p.m.

**In your mailbox today** is a summary of the third Congregational Discernment event, "Live Our Journey." You will find details on a separate packet on the small table by the Here and Now bulletin board.

**Sometimes we think of giving up something for Lent.** At other times we add a practice to help us focus on the themes of the season. This year, you are invited to join others in a creative venture called Lent Practice. Each Monday through April 3, everyone is invited to gather and share something you've created in response to the prompt each week. The prompts for Monday March 6 are: "Restore us, O God! We thirst," Psalm 95, and John 4:5-42. All kinds of creations are welcome. Entering this space of awe and beauty with us is an act of creativity in itself. Come to one or come to all! Get creative! (Please come even if you do not have something to share.)

- Write a song, piece of music, story or poem
- Draw, sculpt, whittle, paint, sew, knit, crochet or weld
- Use wood, yarn, cloth, clay, marbles, metal, paper or string

**See the display case in the entrance stairway** for some of the creative work of Lent Practice 2017! This display will change each week in conjunction with the scriptures and theme of worship.

**Mennonite Women announce a change to the March 13 meeting:** Instead of the regular meeting, you are invited to join the Lent Practice scheduled for all members. Don't feel limited to attend Lent Practice only on March 13. You are invited to attend as many as you wish.

**We received the February** Central District Conference *Focus* this week. Those of you who do not receive the electronic version via e-mail will find print copies in the literature rack near the church library.

**Members of Jubilate and the Youth Choir** will participate in the Mennonite Youth Choir Festival Sunday, March 12 at Goshen College. Hal Hess will direct the choir in concert at 2 p.m. in Sauder Recital Hall. All are invited to attend.

**The young adult Sunday school class** invites anyone to join us for a series of weekly challenges during the Lent season. We will discuss the following during class:

- being more deliberate in faith
- being more positive
- being less dependent on technology/social media
- consuming less/tithing more
- taking care of self
- focusing on fellowship/relationships
- challenging ourselves to be more mindful throughout the week

Contact Jen Benroth @ [jesommer2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jesommer2000@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

**Hygiene Kits:** MCC has made an urgent call for hygiene kits! Hygiene kit contents include the following (NEW items, in original packaging):

- 1 adult-size toothbrush – (individually wrapped)
- 1 large bar bath soap
- 1 fingernail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (dark color)

Bags and content lists are located on the table and bulletin board near the church office. We also need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area. Some pre-cut bags and cords are also there. (If making your own bags, please note that the bag size has changed over the years, so fabric is now cut 12 ½ x 38 in.)

**Easter flower orders:** We will again order potted flowers for Easter from K&J Greenhouses, Inc. If you wish to order flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please complete the order insert and submit to the church office with your payment. **Note that the deadline to submit your order is Monday, March 20.**

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lima Mennonite Church** now has a new e-mail address. Please contact them at [limamc1318@gmail.com](mailto:limamc1318@gmail.com).