

**First Mennonite Church
May 20, 2018**

Music call us to worship		LuAnn Stuckey
Welcome and announcements		Elizabeth Kelly
Introductions		
Prelude	“Prelude”	R. Gliere, Op. 43
Call to Worship		
*Opening Hymn	“Like the murmur of the dove’s song”	HWB 29
*Responsive Reading	Psalm 104:24, 30-34, 35b (NRSV)	
	L: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.	
	C: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.	
	L: May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works – who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.	
	C: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.	
	ALL: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the Lord...Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!	
Special Music	“Festivus March” Isaac and Theo Andreas, violin duet	Mazas

Conversation with Friends

Hymn	“Earth and all stars” (v. 1)	HWB 47
Conversation		Gloria Hernandez Bucher
Hymn	“Earth and all stars” (v. 3)	HWB 47

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“Stay with Us” <i>Jan Wiebe, flute; LuAnn Stucky, piano</i>	W. Pelz/D. Cherwien
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Community Prayer

Theda Good

Scripture

Acts 2:1-21

Judy and Glenn Buller

Sermon

“What does this mean?”

Wanda Stopher

***Hymn**

“Fire of God, undying flame”

STS 103

Communion

The Invitation

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

***Hymn**

“Wind who makes all winds”

HWB 31

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

J. Dykes/T. Shaw

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

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: fmcbluffton.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: Sara Brenner

GREETER: Susie Gratz

NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS –Alice Ruth Ramseyer, Ashton Cluts

Worship – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Christopher Harnish

NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS – Wendy Chappell-Dick, Bobbie Chappell, Victoria Woods-Yee

Worship – Melinda, Patrick and Rebecca Estell, Mary Ina Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

CHANCEL: Anita Lehman

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	FMC-182, MC-11
Spending plan giving May 13, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$5, 370.00
Special fund giving May 13, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Pk-5-\$2.05; Sojourners-\$20 Faith and Life-\$11; Faithful Living-\$5; Freudige-\$20; Flooring-\$725; Hygiene kits-\$50</i>	<u>\$833.05</u>
Total giving May 13, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,203.05
Total spending plan receipts as of April 30, 2018	\$ 136,553.78
Spending plan expenses as of April 30, 2018	\$ 128,187.11
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Wanda Stopher – **419-551-1079 (cell)** -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu

Pastor Theda Good – **419-549-2417 (cell)** -- fmc.theda@bluffton.edu

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

Director of Music – Mark Suderman – sudermanme@bluffton.edu

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - 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.



Due to Mary Ina Hooley's retirement, there is a teaching position open in the second and third grade classes of Release Time/Weekday Christian Education. The description is posted on various bulletin boards in the fellowship hall and near the exterior doors.

The 2018 Central District Conference annual meeting will meet June 21-23 at College Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN. The theme is "Come, walk with us. Tell us your story!" Registration is now open. For details, visit <https://www.mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting/>. A general schedule and other information is posted on the "Here and Now" pillar in the fellowship hall.

Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship invites all Anabaptist healthcare professionals to its annual gathering June 22-24, at Bluffton University. Held in a family-friendly atmosphere, this year's theme is "Stories of Healing." Healthcare professionals from the full spectrum of training and academia, health care services, and ministry are welcome. Students in professional healthcare study programs are welcome at a reduced rate. A children's program is also included. Worship, plenary session, workshops and networking are all part of the weekend. For more information and registration, see www.mennohealth.org/gathering, call 1-888-406-3643 or write info@mennohealth.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, May 20, 2018

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, Communion
Noon	All-church potluck, followed by pastoral review report
5 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF end-of-the-year party, Steingass home

May 21-26

Monday (5-21)	Et Cetera Board, 7 p.m., AR
Tuesday (5-22)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Thursday (5-24)	Pastor visit with Maple Crest residents, 2:30 p.m. Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor

Next Sunday, May 27

9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Theda Good preaching

Reminders:

Check the literature rack and the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall for recently posted items. New on the literature rack: May Central District Reporter with CDC annual meeting information.

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

Please note: Pastor Wanda will be on vacation May 21-28. For pastoral care needs, please contact Pastor Theda.

Governance Task Force has begun meeting! See your church mailbox for a report provided by the GTF to Council on May 17. The task force includes Greg Hartzler, Elizabeth Kelly, Gerald Mast, and Pastor Wanda. More information will be coming soon.

Are you curious about FMC and Pastor Wanda? Potluck! If you are curious about the results of the recent Appreciative Way Congregation-Pastor Review process, please attend the all-church potluck today following worship. Staff Relations Committee will present the results and report of the Appreciative Way Review that many of you participated in. Pastor Wanda will have an opportunity to respond and share her reflections on these (nearly) 3 years of ministry with us. Please plan to stay for the report, lunch, and fellowship.
~Peace, Staff Relations

Today we will receive Communion together. Please note that all the bread is gluten free. As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC include the giving of alms. We do this by giving to the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community. Baskets are available at the doors.

Communion Invitation: Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer! Come to the table humbly, not because you have earned a place here, but because you know your need of mercy and help. Come because you love God and want to love God more. Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us. Come, by the mystery of God's grace, one Spirit-filled people of God, the body of Christ present here and now.

The SHYF and JHYF will gather at Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass' house (3381 Road Q, Pandora) today from 5-7 for their annual end-of-the-school-year party. There will be food, games, fellowship, and swimming (weather permitting.).Bring your friends!

The JHYF and SHYF thank you for supporting them in their cupcake sales. With your help, we raised \$390 for the youth groups. Thank you!

In the church year Easter joy and resurrection are celebrated not just one day, but for 50 days, Easter through Pentecost. This Eastertide, worship at FMC has featured special emphases such as Church College Relations, Music, and Youth Sundays. We have focused on our 5 Priorities identified in our congregational discernment process:

1. Following Jesus 2. Nurturing faith 3. Connecting 4. Worship 5. Gifts expression. As we observe the final Sunday, we focus on our priorities and imagine ways we might live into them with new life, or celebrating special emphases, we worship the Resurrected Christ. May Spirit breathe life, joy and peace as we gather and worship together.

May 27, 2018 Priority: Connecting

~Pastor Wanda

Summer 2018 Adult Christian Education elective option: Study and discuss the theme of "Justice in the New Testament" as developed in MennoMedia's quarterly Adult Bible Study by Dorothy Jean Weaver, Professor of New Testament at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. The study is based on the gospels of Matthew and Luke as well as the Pauline epistles of Romans, 2 Corinthians, and Colossians. The class, led by Gerald Mast, will meet in the assembly room at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays, beginning June 3.

You are invited to help cut and package fabric squares for comforter kits on Tuesday, May 29, beginning at 1 p.m. Please bring your own rotary cutter, ruler, and mat. If you have never done this job, come to learn. Two irons and ironing boards will be set up if someone would rather iron fabrics. No kits are left in the quilt room, so your participation will be greatly appreciated.

All are invited to celebrate Christopher's graduation with us at First Mennonite Church on Sunday, June 3, from 2-4 p.m.

~ The Harnishes

The plantings along the tan fence enclosing the air conditioning units have been cared for by Margie Closson for many years. Margie has retired from this service so we need someone to take over -- it could be a shared opportunity. Please contact Bob Suter in person or call him at 419-230-2744. **Thank you Margie!**

~ Trustees

Camp Friedenswald scholarships: Parents who wish to make use of our Camp Friedenswald scholarships should pay the full amount when registering a child. Submit a copy of your confirmation to the church office. We will reimburse you for the church's portion. Camperships this year are one-half of the cost for one camp per child.