

**Easter Six  
May 21, 2017  
10:30 a.m.**

**-- GATHERING --**

**Chimes call us to worship** LuAnn Stuckey

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Greg Ring

**Call to Worship**

**Prelude** "My Soul Rejoices" G. Gastoldi/K. Kosche

**Invocation**

**\*Hymn** -- PRAISING --  
"Come, gracious Spirit" HWB 303

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 66:16-20

L: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

**C: I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.**

L: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

**C: But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.**

**All: Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.**

**Special Music** "Halle, Halle Halle" arr. Marty Haugen  
*Jubilate and Youth Choir*

**Time with Children**

**Hymn** "Firstborn of Mary!" STS 37

**Conversation** Kathy Dickson

**Hymn** "Firstborn of Mary!" STS 37

**Pastoral Prayer** George O'Reilly

**Special Music** "I'm So Glad that Jesus Lifted Me" arr. Mark Sedio  
*Youth Choir*

**— PROCLAIMING —**

**Scripture** John 14:15-24 Mary Pannabecker Steiner

**Sermon** "Going to stay" Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn** "Filled with the Spirit's power" HWB 289

**--- RESPONDING ---**

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** "Gift from God" F. Liszt

**\*Hymn of Dedication** "As saints of old" (vs. 1) HWB 386

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**--- SENDING ---**

**\*Hymn** "Come down, O Love divine" HWB 501

**\*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

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**GREETERS:** John Rich, Vicki Laird

**HOST:** Heidrun Awad

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS** – Shelby Cluts, Tig Intagliata, Mitch Kingsley

**Worship** – Kevin Cluts, Kendra Nickel, Ellie Nickel

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Melinda, Patrick & Rebecca Estell, Melissa Friesen

**Worship** – Rachel Diller, Mary Ina Hooley, Anna Biesecker-Mast

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Kevin Cluts

**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	191
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	NA
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	38
Spending plan giving May 14, 2017	\$5,243
Spending plan receipts as of April 30	\$132,096.87
Spending plan expenses as of April 30	\$133,257.61
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

The offering May 14 totaled \$5,935.74. Money was received for these special funds: Pk-5 - \$47.74, Faith and Life - \$8, Freudige - \$25, Sojourners - \$28, College scholarships - \$100, Habitat - \$120, Kitchen service - \$4, SHYF - \$100.

### 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 Steiner - [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.*



assisting guests with mobility concerns and other needs. Contact Lori Nester for more information.

**MCC Great Lakes is seeking** a Church Relations/Material Resources Coordinator, responsible for relating to congregations and constituents in eastern Ohio, as well as coordinating the MCC Material Resource Center in Kidron. This part-time position is .75 FTE. For a full job description, visit [mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings](http://mcc.org/get-involved/serve/openings).. For more information or questions, contact Amber Falcón at 574-534-4133 or [AmberFalcon@mcc.org](mailto:AmberFalcon@mcc.org)

**Join others across CDC** to peruse and ponder the pages of “Trouble I've Seen” by theologian, blogger, and activist Drew G. I. Hart. Written for each member of the church, the book is an impassioned urging by Hart to consider new ways of seeing and discussing racism. Consider participating in *The Big Read* as preparation for the Annual Meeting in June where Drew G. I. Hart will lead a plenary session, as well as an afternoon seminar/book discussion. Consider participating in The Big Read with your Sunday school class or small group. Books and a free, downloadable study guide are available through MennoMedia: <http://www.heraldpress.com/titles/TroubleIveSeen/Praise/>.

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday** to Robert Stratton, 91, May 28.

**Willis Sommer continues to recover** from surgery and to regain strength. He remains at Cleveland Clinic. He and Betty and their family appreciate your prayers. Cards may be sent to Willis Sommer, Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Ave., H Building H62 Bed 3, Cleveland, OH 44195.

**I want to thank the church family** for the sympathy and support during Darrel’s illness. The visits and understanding were so helpful to us. Both pastors were there for us throughout.  
*-- Mary Yoder and family*

### 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 21, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Mentor breakfast, FH
8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir and Jubilate
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Community class potluck

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday (5-23)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Thursday (5-25)	Pastor’s visit with Maple Crest residents, 2:30 p.m. Deacons, 7:30 p.m., parlor
Saturday (5-27)	Andreas/Nester graduation party, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., FH Bluffton High School graduation, 7 p.m., BHS
Sunday (5-28)	Antony Kingsley graduation party, 2:30-4 p.m., FH

### NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Sunday worship, George O’Reilly preaching

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

**Pastor Wanda** will out of the office Monday 05-22-17 through Tuesday 05-23-17. She will then leave to visit family on Friday, 05-26-17 through Saturday, 06-03-17. For pastoral care please call Pastor George. Ellis Leatherman, infant grandson of Bret and Wanda, will have cleft lip repair surgery on 05-30-17. Please remember Ellis and his family in your prayers.

**Pastoral Position Descriptions** have been developed by the Congregational Discernment Team, with some input from Staff Relations Committee. One is for Pastor of Formation (lead pastor), and the other is for Pastor of Connections (associate pastor). These are posted on the FMC staff bulletin board outside the office door. You are encouraged to read them. The Pastoral Search Committee has initiated a search for a candidate to serve full-time as Pastor of Connections. Pastor Wanda will assume the role of Pastor of Formation. Your prayers for God's guidance throughout this process are appreciated.

-- Ken Shenk, Staff Relations Committee

**“Connecting” is one of the five priorities** determined during our Congregational Discernment process. How do we connect with visitors to First Mennonite? Today we begin a new way of extending our hospitality to our guests by placing **Guest Books** at the three main entrances into the sanctuary. We ask that our visitors sign one of the guest books and include a mailing address or e-mail address. This enables me to follow up with a note. FMC regular attenders are asked to take time to welcome guests and encourage them to sign a guest book. To simplify this process – and to focus more on welcoming guests – we have removed the Friendship Pads from pews in the sanctuary. This is an experiment; at the end of the summer, we will evaluate the process and will welcome your suggestions on how to make it more effective.

– Pastor Wanda Stopher

**E-mail updates from the church office:** If you wish to receive the periodic e-mail updates regarding health concerns, births, deaths, emergencies, etc., and are NOT already receiving them, please notify the church office at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu). Also, if you change your e-mail address, please notify the church office so that we may update our records.

**Please join us in celebrating** Douglas Nester's and Isaac Andreas' graduation from Bluffton High School on Saturday, May 27, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at First Mennonite Church. A light brunch will be served.

-- Nester and Andreas families

**All are invited to celebrate** Antony Kingsley's graduation from Bluffton High School on Sunday, May 28, from 2:30-4 p.m. in the FMC fellowship hall.

**The collection of MCC hygiene kits** is completed for this year. We collected kits and supplies for approximately 180 kits. Mennonite Women is also sending an additional \$300 directly to MCC to purchase hygiene kits and supplies. Thank you all for your generosity. Another large supply of kit bags will be needed for school kits starting in July. We will keep cut material and string bagged and ready to sew for those who like to use those. Also, feel free to make bags on your own (instruction cards are on the bulletin board) or donate any extra material. Thanks.

-- Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf

**Penny Power:** Do you have loose change in your pockets? Drop it in the Penny Power jug in the fellowship hall to help bring water and food to third world countries through Mennonite Central Committee. Together, we can make a difference in the world.

### More summer musicians needed!

**Summer musicians needed:** Pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types: There are again opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer.

#### Opportunities include:

- Lead the singing for our opening songs
- Play piano or organ
- Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

Please contact Mark Suderman at 419.230.5368 or at [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu).

**The Central District Conference annual meeting** will be held June 22-24. FMC, Grace Mennonite, Lima Mennonite, Cincinnati Mennonite, Emmaus Road and Shalom Community are the host congregations. The meeting opens with a golf outing and RAWTools event. (If you know someone willing to donate a gun for the blacksmith demonstration that will transform weapons into garden tools, please contact [RAWtoolEvent@gmail.com](mailto:RAWtoolEvent@gmail.com).) We need help providing childcare for nursery- and preschool-age children, as well as help with snack times, serving as ushers in worship,