

**Easter 7
May 28, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

-- GATHERING --

Chimes call us to worship LuAnn Stuckey

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions

Call to Worship Doug Luginbill and Patrick Estell,
worship leaders

Prelude “Awake, My Heart, with Gladness” J. Cruger/arr. K. T. Kosche

Invocation

***Hymn** “Immortal, invisible, God only wise” HWB 70

-- PRAISING --

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 68:4-10

L: Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds -- his name is the Lord -- be exultant before him.

C: Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

L: God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

C: O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness,

L: The earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

All: Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Time with Children

Hymn “Firstborn of Mary!” STS 37

Conversation Chris Gott

Hymn “Firstborn of Mary!” STS 37

Pastoral Prayer Lynn Miller

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture John 17 Antiphonal Reading
(see insert)

Sermon “Beyond Self and Escape” George O’Reilly

***Hymn** “The work is thine, O Christ” HWB 396

--- RESPONDING ---

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Let All Things Now Living” arr. D. E. Wagner

***Hymn of Dedication** “As saints of old” (vs. 1) HWB 386

***Prayer of Dedication**

--- SENDING ---

***Hymn** “A charge to keep I have” HWB 393

***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: fmclubffton.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: John Rich, Vicki Laird

HOST: Heidrun Awad

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

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

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Alice Ruth Ramseyer, Mary Pannabecker Steiner

Worship – Alex Sider, Kathy Dickson, Christopher Harnish

SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

CHANCEL: Carolyn Rich

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, 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

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	208
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	8
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	79
Spending plan giving May 21, 2017	\$5,468.00
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 21 totaled \$9,159.59. Money was received for these special funds: Pk-5 - \$14.53, Faith and Life - \$8, Sojourners - \$12, Connections - \$5, College scholarships - \$500, Habitat - \$500, Kitchen service - \$3, SHYF - \$709, SHYF convention payments - \$1,600, Darrel Yoder memorial - \$25, JHYF - \$136, Food pantry - \$50, Workmen's Comp overpayment - \$104.05.

CHURCH STAFF

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

Pastoral Associate – George O'Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – fmc.george@bluffton.edu

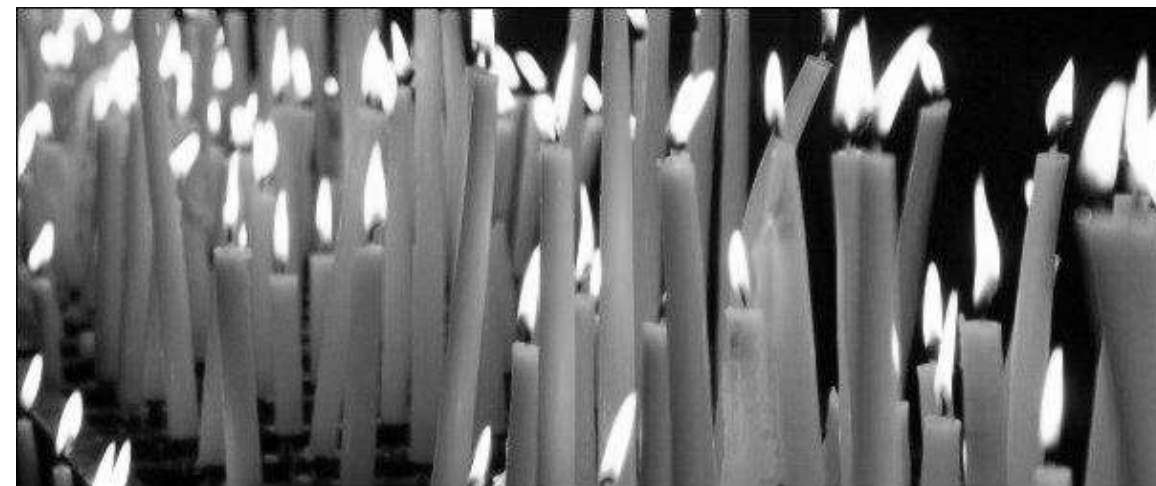
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu

Director of Music – Mark Suderman

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.



Camp Friedenswald – Summer camps and camperships

Another fun-filled summer at Camp Friedenswald kicks off soon! This summer's theme is "Psalms for the Journey."

- High School (Grade 9-12): June 12-17
- Primary Camp (Grade 1-2): June 19-21
- Jr. High Camp (Grade 7-8): June 19-24
- Pre-Junior Camp (Grade 3-4): June 26-July 1
- Junior Camp (Grade 5-6): July 3-8
- Family Camp 1: July 10-14
- Family Camp 2: July 17-21

FMC will provide camperships of 50 percent of camp fees for children and youth. For more information and to register, visit <https://friedenswald.org/summer-camps> or call [269-476-9744](tel:269-476-9744).

The 2017 Black Swamp Benefit is only three weeks away! Mark your calendars to attend the event on Friday and Saturday, June 16-17. Volunteers are needed to help sell meat and cheese on Friday night and Saturday morning and to carry auction items across the stage on Saturday. If you would like to volunteer, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

-- John Rich

The Bluffton/Pandora Swiss Community Historical Society will be open for self-guided or docent-led tours every Saturday from 1-5 p.m. during June, July and August at the Schumacher Homestead, 8350 Bixel Road. Visitors may tour the house, garden, summer kitchen, and workshop. In addition, the barn will be open on the last Saturday of each of the three months. Public admission to the homestead is \$5 per person; members of the society and children 16 and under are admitted free. More information about the homestead and the society is available on Facebook at Swiss Community Historical Society. For more information contact Gary Wetherill at 419-358-1049 or wetherillgl@bluffton.edu.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Esther Brauen, June 2, and Phyllis Friesen, June 3.

Willis Sommer has moved to Birchhaven Village, 15100 Birchaven Lane, Findlay, OH 45840, for recuperation and rehabilitation. Your continued prayers and cards are appreciated.

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 28, 2017

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching
2:30-4 p.m. Antony Kingsley graduation party, FH

THIS WEEK

Monday (5-29) CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
Tuesday (5-30) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
No staff meeting
Thursday (6-1) Worship, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m. Sunday worship, Communion, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon Connections potluck
3 p.m. Congregational gathering, FH

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING JUNE 4

You are invited to attend an informal time of conversation as a congregation on Sunday, June 4 at 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will hear from the Congregational Discernment Team, Staff Relations Committee and other church leaders about how the discernment gatherings shaped our five priorities, which, in turn, have shaped the revised job descriptions for a Pastor of Formation and Pastor of Connections. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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

The church office will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29.

Pastor Wanda will out of the office through Saturday, 06-03-17. 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. For pastoral care please call Pastor George.

Congratulations to our 2017 high school graduates! Isaac Andreas, Antony Kingsley, Douglas Nester, Levi Schumacher, Tad Steiner, and Zander Woods-Yee graduated from Bluffton High School last night. We wish them well.

Next Sunday during worship we will receive communion together, an act of faith and love. The service is a communion of the reality that in Christ we are made one body and together we make him present in the world. In preparation, we are invited to examine our own hearts, to reconsider and renew our commitment to Jesus, the supper's host; and to one another, our sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus. The prayer below is offered as a way for us to share in common, our preparation this week. Another aspect often overlooked is the giving of alms. This is done at FMC 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.

Prayer -- Lord Jesus, take from us all obstacles that take room from you in our hearts. Forgive our sins, heal our diseases. Restore to us the joy of our salvation. Give those we have sinned against, grace to forgive us and give us grace to forgive those who have sinned against us. Make this holy Supper a foretaste of eternal life with you. Amen. (John D. Rempel, New York City, from *Words for Worship*; used by permission of Herald Press.)

Electronic Giving is a new option for giving in support of First Mennonite Church. The process is now ready for those who want to sign up for this new option. On the FMC website a link titled "ONLINE GIVING" is located at the far right of the red navigation bar. To sign up, a person will need their bank routing number and their checking account number, found on the bottom of any check on their account. A starting date will be requested, as will frequency (weekly, monthly, and quarterly). Our FMC "beta testers" have found the process to be quick and easy. Bill Suter will be pleased to answer any questions at 419-235-0584. The "E-Giving" option was developed due to requests to the Stewardship Commission. All forms of donations are still appreciated, whether by cash, check or E-Giving.

A peace pole has been ordered from *Peace Pole Makers*, Maple City, MI. It is a six-sided pole constructed of cedar and painted white. Each side of the pole has the phrase "May Peace Prevail on Earth" printed in one of six languages: English, Spanish, French, Japanese, Swahili, and Pennsylvania Dutch, which was the language that Pastor Steve Yoder grew up speaking. The pole will be placed about halfway between the Jackson Street entrance and the corner of the church at Jackson and Church Streets. There will be a small walk-way of pavers from the sidewalk to the peace pole, with landscaping around the base of the pole. The pole will have a small brass plate saying that it is dedicated to Pastor Steve Yoder. The peace pole dedication will be held during worship on June 18. *The Peace Pole Committee includes John Rich, Carolyn Rich, Ruth Early, Chad Paul, and Janet Yoder.*

"Connecting" is one of the five priorities determined during our Congregational Discernment process. We extend our hospitality to our guests by placing **Guest Books** at the three main entrances into the sanctuary. We ask that 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 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. 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

Summer options for adult Sunday school

***Adult Bible Study (Menno Media) (meets in the assembly room)**

Beginning June 4 and continuing through the summer, this class will explore God's urgent call in biblical texts from Exodus, Judges, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos and Acts, using the Adult Bible Study quarterly as a starting point for discussion.

***Coffee Fellowship (meets in the fellowship hall)**

Coffee and space for informal gatherings will be available in the fellowship hall every Sunday

***Special Topics (location to be determined)**

Special opportunities for reporting, reflection, and discussion will be offered throughout the summer. Don't miss these sessions offered in June:

June 18 – Peace Sunday panel discussion

June 25 – CDC update and reflections

The trustees employed Thermal Guard Window and Door to replace six windows in the oldest part of the church's basement. These windows are along the Church Street side of the church and behind the air conditioners. The cost of the windows was \$4,107.00 and was covered by the trustees' budgeted money. There are five windows along the Jackson Street side of the church which the Trustees hope to replace in the fall if there is money remaining in the trustee budget. -- John Mackey