

**First Mennonite Church  
May 6, 2018**

**Chimes call us to worship** LuAnn Stuckey

**Welcome** Theda Good

**Introductions**

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

**Call to Worship**

**\*Opening Hymn** “I sing the mighty power of God” HWB 46

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 98:4-9 (IB)

L: Shout to the most high, all the earth, break into joyous songs of praise!

**C: Sing praise to God with the harp and melodious singing!**

L: With trumpets and the blast of the shofar, raise a shout to Yahweh, Ruler of all.

**C: Let the sea and all within it thunder; the world and all its peoples.**

L: Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy before Yahweh

**A: who comes to judge the earth, who will rule the world with justice and its peoples with equity.**

**Special Music** “Gavotte in C Major” Samuel Arnold  
*Ben Hartzler, piano*

**Conversation with Friends**

**Hymn** “Earth and all stars” (v. 1) HWB 47

**Conversation** John Rich

**Hymn** “Earth and all stars” (v. 5) HWB 47

**Community Prayer**

Theda Good

**Scripture** Psalm 42:1-4, Isaiah 6:1-6, Mark 12:29-30, Revelation 7:9-17

**Sermon** “Worship: Call and Response” Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn of Response** “Who are these” (sing twice) HWB 270

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Andante in E” F. Liszt

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “God, whose farm is all creation” (vs. 1) HWB 391

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*Sending Hymn** “Holy, holy, holy!” HWB 120

**Benediction**

**Postlude** “Earth and All Stars” D.N. Johnson/arr. A.K. Organ

*\*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](http://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:** Gene and Dottie Long

**GREETER:** Susie Gratz

**NURSERY THIS WEEK: SS** – Rachel Diller, Mary P. Steiner

**Worship** – Amy Blount, Shannon Thiebeau, Anna Biesecker-Mast

**NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS** – Pat Sheidler, Cheri Slotter

**Worship** – Amy Freeman, Bruce Steingass, Sunita Hooley

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Gott

**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	FMC-233 , MC-5
Spending plan giving April 29, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$4,653.00
Special fund giving April 29, 2018 (includes e-giving): <i>Pk-5-\$3.79; Faith and Life-\$15</i>	<u>\$1,461.84</u>
<i>Faithful Living-\$5; Kitchen-\$8.05; Deacons-\$550; Music-\$15; JHYF-\$25; SHYF-\$25</i>	
<i>Flooring-\$280; Memorials-\$450; Facility use-\$35; Syrian student-\$50</i>	
Total giving April 29, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,114.84
Total spending plan receipts as of March 31, 2018	\$105,385.07
Spending plan expenses as of March 31, 2018	\$94,613.17
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.*



**Hygiene and relief kits:** Our kit collection for this year is down in numbers, so we will continue to collect them. Content lists and bags 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:** *Relief kit lists are also on the bulletin board. Pack all items into a box, label it "Relief Kit" and place in the quilt room.*

**Lima Area Habitat for Humanity** will host Makensie Brown, the development officer of Habitat for Humanity Guatemala Thursday, May 10. Visitors may meet her at 10 a.m. in the ReStore, 550 W. Elm Street; at 11 a.m. she will discuss the work of Habitat Guatemala. Light refreshments will be provided. The Lima Area Affiliate has been a partner of HFH Guatemala since 2005 and in 12 years has tithed over \$91,000 towards reducing the housing deficit in Guatemala.

**The 2018 Black Swamp Benefit** is June 15-16 at the Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon. Your attendance and donations of quilts, wooden items, and homemade baked goods will benefit MCC and Sunshine Homes. Please place donated items, with forms attached, in the quilt room. Contact John Rich for more information.

**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. See the position description posted on various bulletin boards in the fellowship hall and near the exterior doors.

### PRAYERS AND GRATITUDE

**A special thank you** to everyone who expressed their condolences to our family following the death of Walt's father. Your support and kindness has made this time less painful.  
~ *Walt, Rhonda and Grace*

**Natalie and I are happy to announce the birth** of a granddaughter, Kylie Jae Shenk, born in Findlay on May 2. She joins her parents Allen and Anita, and sister, Emma.  
~ *Ken and Natalie Shenk*

### 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 6, 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
6 p.m.	Youth worship planning and Bible study, SHYF room

### THIS WEEK

Tuesday (5-8)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Trustees, 7 p.m.
Wednesday (5-9)	Adult bells, 6 p.m. Stewardship, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (5-10)	Caring Connections (prev Senior Concerns), 2 p.m., parlor Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (5-11)	All youth, chancel display, 5:30 p.m., sanctuary

### NEXT SUNDAY

9 a.m.	Cupcake sales, all youth, fellowship hall
9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Youth Sunday
11:30 a.m.	Cupcake sales, all youth, fellowship hall

### Reminders:

**Check the literature rack and the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall for newly posted items. New on the lit rack: MMN's "Prayer Vine" and MEA's "Prayers for Faith and Learning" (both are updated monthly.)**

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

**Believe it or not, we really DO want you to call our cell phones!** Calling the church phone is fine, but the best way to reach Pastor Wanda or Pastor Theda is to call their cell phones. **Wanda's cell is 419-551-1079. Theda's cell is 419-549-2417.** If you would like to meet with one of them, calling in advance is strongly encouraged.

- Wanda's office hours are Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday. She takes Friday as a Sabbath rest from work and responds only in emergencies on Friday.
- Theda's office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday. She takes Monday as a Sabbath rest from work and responds only in emergencies on Monday.

~ Pastors Wanda and Theda

**In an effort to describe and clarify our understandings** of how we will do our work together and our expectations of one another we as FMC staff have developed a covenant. Pastors Theda and Wanda have developed a similar document specific to their working relationship. Both covenants are posted on the bulletin board next to the church office. These covenants will be reviewed annually and revised as needed.

**Worship at FMC during Eastertide** features special emphases such as Church College Relations, Music, and Youth Sundays. We continue to focus on the 5 Priorities identified last year in our congregational discernment process. ~ Pastor Wanda

05-13-18 Youth Sunday  
05-20-18 Priority: Nurturing Faith (Pentecost)  
05-27-18 Priority: Connecting

**Congratulations to Landon Cluts**, who graduated from Ohio State University May 6 with an honors degree in neuroscience and a minor in psychology. He will attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine beginning in August. Watch for his graduation statement in the June *MennoLife*. **Congratulations also to Jordan Cluts**, who successfully defended his dissertation April 27 and graduates in August from OSU with a PhD in aerospace engineering. He recently completed a research fellowship at NASA and is now a NASA engineer.

**Thanks to Ray Raeburn** for creating an audio file of Music Sunday for those who'd like to listen to just the music parts of the service. You'll find the music at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=16Z8MvGnc30WAcnoiyNQySx9gNy8-rMmw>.

**The annual youth worship service is Sunday, May 13.** The theme of our worship is "Service" and we would like to invite you to wear jeans and your favorite service T-shirt to show support for your favorite Mennonite service or voluntary organization. With youth worship also comes the annual youth cupcake sales! Whether you are looking for a last minute Mother's Day gift or you just want to treat yourself, please stop by the display table from 9:00-10:30 AM and after worship until 12:00 PM in the fellowship hall on May 13. There will be vegan and gluten free options!

**Mennonite Women will meet Monday, May 14**, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall for the final program of the 2017-18 year. It will be a time of celebration and fellowship on the theme of "Live!" Alice Ruth Ramseyer will lead devotions, and Paula Luginbill and Elizabeth Kelly will provide refreshments.

**Thank you to everyone** who contributes so generously to our funeral meals. I am in the process of updating the distribution list for those interested in being contacted for meals. If you have not been contacted recently and would like to be added to my list, please send me your email address (or phone number if you do not have email) and I will happily add you to my list. ~ Mary Edmiston ([edmistonmary100@gmail.com](mailto:edmistonmary100@gmail.com) or 419-230-9659)

**Now through May 27**, Faithful Living class will have a series of discussions on faithful living. Each week a different guest will share a personal reflection on their journey with Christ. The class begins to gather at 9:15 a.m. and welcomes others to join them. If you have questions, contact Greg Ring at 567-204-7283.

**Black Swamp Benefit** is June 15-16 so we're collecting coins for My Coins Count for MCC's water and food project. Please deposit your coins in the jug in the fellowship hall. ~ John Rich

**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. Costs this year are \$300 (\$150 campership) for high school, junior high, junior and pre-junior; \$200 (\$100 campership) for primary.