

**Mother's Day
May 8, 2016
10:30 a.m.**

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship	Lucia Unrau
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions	Elizabeth Kelly
Call to Worship	
Prelude	“Italian Hymn” arr. Richard Proulx
Invocation	

— PRAISING —

*Opening Hymn	“I sing the mighty power of God”	HWB 46
*Responsive Reading		Psalm 97
L:	The Lord rules. Let the earth be glad. Let countries that are far away be full of joy.	
C:	Clouds and thick darkness surround him. His rule is built on what is right.	
L:	The Lord sends fire ahead of him. It burns up his enemies all around him.	
C:	His lightning lights up the world. The earth sees it and trembles.	
L:	The mountains melt like wax when the Lord is near. He is the Lord of the earth.	
C:	The heavens announce that what he does is right. All people everywhere see his glory.	
L:	All who worship statues of gods are put to shame. All you gods, worship the Lord!	
C:	Zion hears about it and is filled with joy. Lord, the villages of Judah are glad because of how you judge.	
L:	Lord, you are the Most High God. You are honored much more than all gods.	
C:	Let those who love the Lord hate evil. He guards the lives of those who are faithful to him. He saves them from the power of sinful people.	
L:	Good things come to those who do what is right. Joy comes to those whose hearts are honest.	
All:	You who are godly, be glad because of what the Lord has done. Praise him, because his name is holy.	

Special Music “Sing with Joyful Pleasure” Haydn/Lieberman
Youth Choir

Hymnal Presentation Laura Hartzler, Ellie Nickel, Allison Diller

Time with Children

Hymn “Let the children come to me” STS 47
(Sing v.1)

Conversation Pat Sheidler

Hymn “Let the children come to me” STS 47
(Sing v.2)

Pastoral Prayer Shannon Thiebeau

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Acts 1:1-14

Sermon “Power and Patience” Wanda Stopher

— RESPONDING —

***Hymn** “Nothing is lost on the breath of God” STS 121

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “We Worship and Adore You” arr. Mark Hayes

***Hymn of Dedication** “Grant us, Lord, the grace” HWB 388
(Sing vs. 1)

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “Renew your church” HWB 363

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STS – Sing the Story*

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

Associate Pastor – Steve – 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: Shelby and Kevin Cluts, Jan Wiebe

HOST: Mary Ann Moser

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Marilyn Bishop, Melinda, Patrick, Rebecca Estell

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Christopher Harnish

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Hannah Combs, Lu Derstine, Sunita Hooley

Worship – Sabrina and Kurt Longworth, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin

SOUND SYSTEM: Don Pannabecker

Chancel: Gary Wetherill

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	249
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	95
Spending plan giving May 1, 2016	\$9,910.36
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering May 1 totaled \$10,852.02. Money was received for these special funds: Sunday school – \$40.81, Kitchen service - \$10.85, Capital Campaign - \$205, Deacons' Benevolent Special Fund - \$495, College Scholarships - \$70, Habitat - \$20, Celia Blough memorial - \$100.	

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - fmc.steve@bluffton.edu
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu
Director of Music – Mark Suderman
Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau
Custodian – Mick Hardy
Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu

"You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ...



and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8, NRSV

Today's Disciples class of Grace Mennonite Church invites all to a program about the Mennonite Disaster Service Detroit project Sunday, May 15, at 7 p.m. at Grace. This will be an informational program. There are an estimated 5,000 residents in Detroit who cannot afford to hire help to haul away debris left by the August 2014 flooding that caused storm water and sewage backup in basements. Typically, community foundations offer recovery grants to disaster response agencies, but foundations in Detroit have not done so and few agencies are responding. Donations to MDS are needed and very much appreciated. MDS work in Detroit for 2016 is estimated to cost \$680,000. Come prepared to generously support this mission and to enjoy fellowship and refreshments. You may also donate directly to MDS online or mail checks to MDS, 583 Airport Road, Lititz, PA 17543. **Please designate Detroit in the memo line.**

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

We express our condolences to Alice Ruth Ramseyer on the death of her husband, Robert, who died April 30 at Mennonite Memorial Home. A funeral was held May 6 at FMC. Their children include Mark (Norma Wyse) Ramseyer, Joy (John) Betts, Sue Ramseyer and Jeannie (Tom) Stenson.

We express our sympathy to Mary Ann and Greg Ring and their family. Mary's brother, Mark Moyer, died May 3 in McDonald, PA. Services were held May 7 in McDonald.

We offer our condolences to Chris and Liana Gott and their family. Chris' father, Dave Russell, died April 18 in Rocklin, CA.

One of the roses in the chancel area is in honor of Hazel Amina Dyez, born April 21 in New York City to Kelsey and Alejandra Dyez. Rodney and Marie Yoder-Dyck are Hazel's grandparents and Paul Dyck is her great-grandfather.

The second rose is in honor of Lucia Fisher, born April 27 to Erika and Mateo Fisher in New York. Lucia's grandparents are Jean and Wendell Miller.

Everyone has been wonderful and very supportive, both in person and via Facebook. We've felt loved and supported and are grateful for the wonderful community at First Mennonite.
-- Thank you, Chris, Liana, Sophia and Kendra Gott

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 8, 2016

9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian education
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Sojourners/Freudige potlucks
2 p.m.	Bluffton University commencement

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (5-10)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m. parlor
Wednesday (5-11)	Adult bells, 6 p.m. Youth bells, 7 p.m. Stewardship, Parlor
Thursday (5-12)	MPS, 6:30 p.m.

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:00 a.m.	Coffee time, FH
9:15 a.m.	Christian Education; Adult Fellowship, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Youth Sunday, Communion

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34; Romans 8:14-17; John 14:8-17

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

Address to remember: Steve Yoder, J52, c/o Cleveland Clinic, 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44195.

Many have asked about Pastor Steve and Janet's financial support situation as Steve continues awaiting a heart transplant. The Staff Relations Committee and Willis Sommer have been working collaboratively with Steve and Janet, Everence and Cleveland Clinic to develop a plan for Steve's financial support. We anticipate that disability coverage will begin later this summer. Generous giving by FMC members and others is assisting Steve and Janet in this transitional time moving to disability coverage. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for Steve and Janet. *Ken Shenk, Staff Relations Committee*

Next Sunday, we will observe communion in our worship service. Preparing for communion is to take time to examine one's life and relationships with God and with our sisters and brothers, the body of Christ. It is an opportunity to tend our relationships with others. Unity within the body of Christ is one of the themes of communion. 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.

All parents of children in the nursery, preschool and primary age groups are invited to attend a parents' meeting with the Christian Education Commission on Sunday, May 22, at 9:15 a.m. in the chancel choir room. Carol Welty and other CE members will facilitate the meeting.

First Mennonite Church is in need of a substitute office worker to be trained to perform church office duties when the Administrative Assistant is absent. If interested, please visit the church office to see a job description and to pick up an application form. Applications must be submitted to the church office by May 22. -- *Ken Shenk, Staff Relations*

The People of God are a story-formed people. As a community of faith, we know who we are in part as we reflect on the story of God's relationship to the world. We find our way as God's people here and now as we allow God's story to shape us and guide us

today. Beginning today, and throughout this summer in worship we will reflect on some of the stories of the early church in Acts. We will open ourselves to the questions the stories invite us to consider. Please consider reading through the book of Acts in preparation, perhaps even keeping a list of your own observations and questions as you read.

Summer music: Pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types: there are opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer. Opportunities include the following:

- 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 419.358.1284 or sudermanme@bluffton.edu. If you have specific dates in mind, please let Mark know.

Camp Friedenswald – Summer camps and camperships

Get ready for summer at Camp Friedenswald! This summer's theme is "Who is Wise?" and focuses on 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Listed below is the camp schedule for the summer:

High School (Grade 9-12): June 13-18

Jr. High Camp (Grade 7-8): June 20-25

Primary Camp (Grade 1-2): June 20-22

Pre-Junior Camp (Grade 3-4): June 27-July 2

Junior Camp (Grade 5-6): July 4-9

Family Camp 1: July 11-15

Family Camp 2: July 18-22

Camperships are available from FMC to offset the cost of camp fees for children and youth; camperships for summer 2016 are \$145 for full week camps, \$90 for half-week camps. Please contact Mary Ina Hooley (hooleymi@bluffton.edu) with questions. For more information and to register, visit <https://friedenswald.org/summer-camps/> or call 269-476-9744.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio is seeking a part-time Volunteer Coordinator. This individual will coordinate the volunteer program on all four campuses; the position includes recruiting, orienting, managing and celebrating volunteers. Submit a resume and application online at mhcoliving.org/why-us/careers, by mail to Doug Luginbill, MHCO, 410 W. Elm St., Bluffton, Ohio 45817, or by email to dluginbill@mhcoliving.org. Deadline: May 15, 2016.