

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**

**Nov. 1, 2015**

**10:30 a.m.**

— **GATHERING** —

**Chimes call us to worship** Lucia Unrau

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Lynn Miller

**Call to Worship**

**Prelude** “For All the Saints” arr.. Arthur Hutchings

**\*Invocation**

— **PRAISING** —

**\*Opening Hymn** “Brethren, we have met to worship” HWB 8

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 24

L: The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

**C: for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.**

L: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

**C: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.**

L: They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**C: Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

L: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

**C: Who is the King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.**

L: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

**All: Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.**

**Special Music** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love” Chris Johnston  
*Jubilate, Brianna Keith, flute*

**Time with Children**

**Hymn** “We plow the fields and scatter” HWB 96  
*(Sing v. 1)*

**Conversation Hymn** “We plow the fields and scatter” Pat Sheidler  
HWB 96  
*(Sing v. 3)*

**Pastoral Prayer** Wanda Stopher

— **PROCLAIMING** —

**Special Music** “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” arr. Evelyn R. Larter  
*Chancel Choir; Jan Wiebe, flute*

**Scripture** Isaiah 25:1-9

**Sermon** “Only the Best for the Least” Wanda Stopher

**\*Hymn** “Who are these” HWB 270  
*(Sing twice)*

— **RESPONDING** —

**Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Hamba Nathi” arr. Anders Nyberg  
*Youth Choir, Grace Paquin, soloist*

**\*Hymn of Dedication** “We give thee but thine own” HWB 384  
*(Sing vs. 1)*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Blessing for Pannabecker family**

**Candlelighting on All Saint’s Day**

— **SENDING** —

**\*Hymn** “For all the saints” HWB 636  
*(Sing vs. 1, 6, 8)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

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

## 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, 9-5, off Friday

Associate Pastor – Steve – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Custodian's schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

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**GREETERS:** Gloria and Rich Bucher, Julie and John Mackey

**HOST:** Margie Closson

**NURSERY WORKERS TODAY:** SS – Melinda Estell, Shelby Cluts

*Worship* – Kevin Cluts, Mary Ina Hooley, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:** Gerald Mast, Elaine Suderman

*Worship* – John Mackey, Julie Mackey, Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Chris Moser

**CHANCEL:** Vercler family

*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 284

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD) 9

Sunday school attendance last Sunday 123

Spending plan giving Oct. 25, 2015 \$6,052.00

2015 Proposed spending plan \$419,469.00

Spending Plan receipts as of Sept. 30, 2015 \$261,315.00

Spending Plan disbursements as of Sept. 30, 2015 \$283,985.00

The offering Oct. 25 totaled \$20,074.58. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$22.13, Capital Campaign - \$120, Deacons' Benevolent - \$100, SHYF - \$20, The Mennonite subscriptions - \$75, Kitchen service - \$15, Timbrel subscriptions - \$39, Genevieve Fast estate - \$13,494.45.

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - [fmc.steve@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.steve@bluffton.edu)

Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)

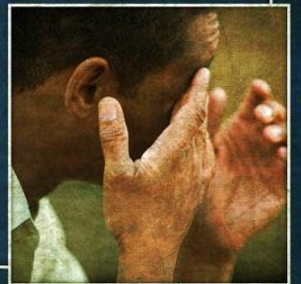
Director of Music – Mark Suderman

Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau

Custodian – Mick Hardy

Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)

HE WILL  
WIPE AWAY  
*every tear*



**Fred Suter's October update** on the Congo Water Project was cancelled because he was in a minor traffic accident. Fred was uninjured and has rescheduled his visit for Sunday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. at Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora. His presentation will include pictures from his most recent trip to Congo. All are invited to attend. An offering will be taken to support Fred's work through Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission.

**The annual meeting** of the Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service will be held Saturday, November 21, at the Bentwood Solutions plant, Millersburg. A joint meeting with the Eastern Ohio Unit will begin at 2 p.m. with registration and refreshments at 1:30. The annual meeting is open all. Please RSVP to Lawrence Matthews at [matthewsL@bluffton.edu](mailto:matthewsL@bluffton.edu) or 419.303.8056 by Monday, November 16.

**PrimeTimers Fellowship** will hold its monthly lunch at noon Tuesday, Nov. 3, at St. John Mennonite Church, 15988 Road 2, Pandora. This free luncheon is for all adults 55 and over. The menu includes butternut squash soup, chicken salad croissant, cranberry salad, buttered carrots, spice cake with maple buttercream and coffee. PrimeTimers is a ministry of St. John Mennonite and Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio.

**All are invited to the** Election Day lunch and dinner at Bluffton First United Methodist Church, 116 Church St., on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and dinner from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

## GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday to** Royce Engle, 97, November 2.

**Happy anniversary to** Esther and Keith Brauen, 68, November 6.

**We extend our sympathy** to Judy and Glenn Buller, and their family. Judy's father, Wilford Steiner, died October 16 in Kidron. A memorial service was held October 23 at Kidron Mennonite Church.

**We offer our sympathy** to the family of Mary Lou Vercler, who died October 27 at Mennonite Memorial Home. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. today in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend a time of sharing and refreshments in the fellowship hall immediately following the service. A private burial will be held Monday, Nov. 2.

**Thank you for the thoughts, prayers** and cards we received after the unexpected loss of Judy's father, Wilford Steiner, on October 16, 2015. A memorial service was held on October 23 at Kidron Mennonite Church, Kidron, Ohio. Your continued thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated by our family as we journey on. – Glenn and Judy Buller and family

*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.*

## TODAY, October 25, 2015

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, Wanda Stopher preaching
2:00 p.m.	Funeral service for Mary Lou Vercler, sanctuary; refreshments following service, FH
3:30 p.m.	Venture Club, choir room
7 p.m.	SHYF

## THIS WEEK

Tuesday (11/3)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (11/4)	Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (11/5)	MPS, 6:30 p.m., AR Worship, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (11/6)	BU Nutrition Association soup/bread fundraiser, 5-7 p.m., FH Et Cetera Board retreat, 5:30-9 p.m., AR
Saturday (11/7)	Et Cetera Board retreat, 8 a.m.-noon, AR

## 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, Shannon Thiebeau preaching

**Scripture: Ruth 3:1-5; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9:24-28, Mark 12:38-44**

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 available downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Youth groups: Venture Club** (2nd-5th grade) will meet today from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the children's choir room. **SHYF** will meet today from 7-8 p.m.

**Intent forms and a draft** for the 2016 Spending Plan will be placed in mailboxes by Sunday, Nov. 8.

**A new member class** continues today, November 8 and 15 during the Sunday school hour beginning at 9:15 a.m. in Room 113 downstairs. Contact Pastors Wanda or Steve for more information.

**If you have** not yet paid your renewal fee for The Mennonite, you must submit your payment of \$35 to the church office by **Wednesday, Nov. 4.**

**November is project month** for Mennonite Women. On Monday, Nov. 9, at 7 p.m., comforters will be set up in the fellowship hall for knotting. Linda Suter's devotional will focus on the theme, "There is Nothing More Truly Artistic than to Love People." Refreshments that evening will be prepared by Elysia Bush and Jan Wiebe. On Tuesday, Nov. 10, from 8 a.m.-noon, knotting of comforters will continue, followed by lunch together at noon. Please bring a salad or dessert. Soup, bread and beverages will be provided.

**Let your FMC family** learn to know you better by sharing your interests, collections and hobbies in the glass case in the Assembly Room. Contact Carolyn Rich to make arrangements. John Rich currently has some of his work on display. -- *Carolyn Rich*

**Let's get acquainted!** Seriously! My overarching goal for my first year as pastor of First Mennonite Church is for us to learn to know one another. I look forward to learning to know you as individuals, as families, as a faith community and as part of the larger Bluffton community. One of the best ways I know to start is to meet and swap some stories over coffee or a meal, or just in my office. Give me a call to make sure I'll be free. If you'd like Bret to join us, we'll schedule it when he's available, too. Hope to see you soon!  
-- *Wanda (419) 551-1079*

**Renew your subscription** for "Timbrel" magazine at a group rate of \$13. Payment must be submitted by Monday, Nov. 9. Sample copies are in the church library.

## COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Manager for Ten Thousand Villages:** The Etcetera Board, Inc. is seeking qualified applicants for the vacancy of store manager of the Ten Thousand Villages Store in Bluffton. This person will oversee daily operation of the store, including supervising the volunteers, handling ordering of products and overall finances. Candidates must understand and embrace the mission of Ten Thousand Villages to support artisans in developing countries. Business and retail background is a plus. The job is about 30 hours per week. Interested applicants should send cover letter and resume to Linda Suter at [suterlr@bluffton.edu](mailto:suterlr@bluffton.edu) or 122 Grove St., Bluffton. Applications will be received until January 1, after which interviewing will begin immediately and a recommendation will be made to the board and the filled position announced.

**If you would like to** speak or listen to persons speaking Swiss, come to the family room at Maple Crest on Tuesday, Nov. 3, at 3 p.m. The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month. For more info, contact Rich Bucher at 419-358-0505.

**The Bluffton University Nutrition Association** will hold its annual fall dinner benefiting both the Bluffton Community Assistance Corp. and the Lima-based Churches United Pantry, from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6 in the fellowship hall. Dinner will include homemade soup, bread and dessert. Nonperishable food items will be accepted, as will cash and checks made payable to BUNA. All proceeds will benefit the two food pantries.

**The Bluffton University Music Department** will host a concert at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 in Yoder Recital Hall. The concert will feature the Jazz Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Roy Couch, and the Gospel Choir, conducted by Dr. Crystal Sellers Battle. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be taken for music scholarships.

**Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora,** will hold its annual book sale, bake sale and breakfast November 20-21. The book sale and bake sale will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Nov. 20 and 8:30-11 a.m. Nov. 21. The pancake and sausage breakfast will be held from 8-10 a.m. Nov. 21.

**Tickets are available** for the Bluffton University Artist Series concert by Heinavanker, an Estonian vocal ensemble, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in Yoder Recital Hall. Reserved seats are \$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens and non-Bluffton students and \$10 for children ages 6-13. Children ages 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu>, or in person at the Marbeck Center information desk.