

Thanksgiving for the Kingdom People
November 12, 2017
10:30 a.m.

–GATHERING –

Chimes call us to worship		Deb Niswander
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Lynn Miller
Prelude	“Come Thou Fount” <i>Adult Bell Choir</i>	arr. Kevin Stewart
Call to worship		
*Opening Hymn	“We sing to you, O God”	STJ 1
*Responsive Reading		Psalms 78:1-7

L: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

C: I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

L: things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.

C: We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

L: He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children;

C: that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up and tell them to their children,

All: so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

– PRAISING –

Conversation with Friends		
Hymn	“With happy voices singing” (vs. 1)	HWB 83
Conversation		JP Schumacher
Hymn	“With happy voices singing” (vs. 2)	HWB 83

Special Music	“O Come Ye Servants of the Lord” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Christopher Tye
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Pastoral Prayer		Wanda Stopher
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– PROCLAIMING –

Scripture	Luke 17:11-19	
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Sermon	“Along the Border Land”	George O’Reilly
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*Hymn	“I owe my Lord a morning song”	STJ 112
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Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Stewardship Testimony		Bob Suter
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Offertory	“Thankfulness”	arr. Carol Tornquist
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Hymn	“Praise God from whom” (vs. A)	HWB 119
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Receiving New Members		HWB 794
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– SENDING –

*Sending Hymn	“I want to walk as a child of the light”	STJ 95
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***Benediction**

*Postlude	“Now Thank We All Our God”	arr. Wilbur Held
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**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.)*

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey
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

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.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

GREETER: Joan Diller

HOST: Bev Simon

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Laura and Greg Hartzler

Worship – Mary Ina Hooley, Melissa Friesen, Grace Paquin

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Kathy Traucht, Monica Harnish

Worship – Amy Blount, Andrea Goings, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Lois and 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	FMC-220, MC-9
Spending plan giving Nov. 5, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$9,417.10
Special fund giving Nov. 5, 2017: <i>Grades K-5-\$10.05, Grades 6-8-\$1, Freudige-\$1</i>	<u>\$1,053.55</u>
<i>Faith and Life-\$6, Sojourners-\$26; Deacons-\$40, Menno subs-\$333, Cap Campaign-\$200, Kitchen-\$6.50, Pic directory-\$20, College schol-\$90</i>	
<i>SHYF-\$100, Habitat-\$140, Community class-\$10</i>	
Total giving Nov. 5, 2017 ((includes e-giving)	\$10,470.65
Total spending plan receipts as of October 31, 2017	\$312,066.111
Spending plan expenses as of September 30, 2017	\$306,251.16
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

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 – sudermanme@bluffton.edu
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.



SERVE student organization will serve the food, and music majors will entertain. Ceramic pieces made by art students will be available for an additional donation.

In late December, Lily Schumacher will leave for Vancouver, BC, where she will attend Vancouver Film School. If you have acquaintances in Vancouver with whom Lily might connect, please contact JP at 567-712-1891.

Bluffton University will host a Thursdays at Yoder concert featuring music faculty members Dr. Andrew Liebermann and Stephanie Titus at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16, in Yoder Recital Hall. The Liebermann-Titus Duo will introduce 20th and 21st century compositions for piano and saxophone.

Dr. Gerald Mast, professor of communication, will present “The Regulation of Internet Communication in Conservative Mennonite Conferences and Fellowships,” in Colloquium at 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, in Centennial Hall, Bluffton University

The Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, November 18, at Tedrow Mennonite Church in Wauseon. Possible responses to the November 5 storms in west-central and northwest Ohio will also be discussed. Larry Stoner, Regional Operations Coordinator (eastern US) will report on MDS's response to recent disasters including his ten-day assessment trip to Puerto Rico. A brunch will be served beginning at 9:30 AM and the meeting is from 10AM-Noon. If you wish to attend, RSVP by contacting Lawrence Matthews: cell 419.303.8056; email matthewsL@bluffton.edu.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Betty Sommer died November 7 at Betty House, Willow Ridge. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, Nov. 13, at FMC, with a meal to follow. Visitation will be Sunday, Nov. 12, from 2-5 p.m. at Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services, Bluffton. Memorial contributions may be made to First Mennonite Church or Bluffton University. Please continue to pray for Matthew and Emily, Jen, Darby, Bodey and Barrett.

Congratulations to Jacob and Stephanie Litwiller, whose son, Oliver Oswald Litwiller, was born November 6 at St. Rita's Medical Center. The Litwiller's address is 1536 Latham Ave., Lima, OH 45805.

Congratulations to Jackie and Elizabeth Wells, whose son, Greyden Jack Wells, was born November 9 in Toledo. The Wells' address is 1431 Harvard Blvd., Toledo, OH 43614.

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, NOVEMBER 12, 2017

9:15 a.m.	Youth choir, TBA due to work camp
10:30 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
Noon	Worship, George O'Reilly preaching
	Syrian student fundraiser meal, FH
	Freudige/Sojourners potlucks
2 p.m.	Comforter set-up, FH
2-5 p.m.	Visitation for Betty Sommer, Chiles Funeral Home

THIS WEEK

Monday (11-13)	Memorial service for Betty Sommer, 11 a.m., meal to follow
	Mennonite Women project night, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (11-14)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
	Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
	Mennonite Women, knotting comforters, 9 a.m., FH
	Trustees, 7 p.m.
Wednesday (11-15)	Adult bells, Cherubs, 6 p.m.
	Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (11-16)	Council, 7 p.m., AR
	Thursdays at Yoder, 7:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall
Friday (11-17)	Colloquium, Gerald Mast, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

NEXT SUNDAY

8:15 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	SHYF fundraiser meal, FH

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

We are delighted to welcome Rita Dietrich, Tracey Harris, and Leah Schroeder into membership today. See the insert to learn more about these new members and welcome them in the fellowship hall following the service today.

Throughout November as part of worship we will hear Stewardship Testimonies from individuals in our congregation who give of themselves and their gifts in a whole variety of ways. We will end the month with Stewardship Sunday on November 26.

The Stewardship Commission is excited to announce the kick-off of Flooring to Flourishing! This yearlong capital campaign will fund a plan for updating and improving our sanctuary space. The project features new flooring, redesigned steps at the front of the church, new hymnal racks to hold all of our singing resources, and patching and paint throughout our worship space. Our goals are twofold: to raise \$56,000 and to achieve 100 percent participation. With your help, at just \$1 a day for the next 365 days, we can reach our goal. As you contemplate your financial contributions to FMC for the remainder of 2017 and for the upcoming 2018 year, consider giving to both the capital campaign and the spending plan. Intent cards for consideration of your giving to the 2018 Spending Plan are in mailboxes. *There is also now a fund specification of Capital Campaign on our Vanco online giving site, listed in the "Miscellaneous" section.*

Flooring to Flourishing is an extension of the work of a committee which began meeting over a year ago. Their work was communicated on several occasions including Mike Edmiston's presentation of design drawings by daughter Jessica at a FIRST Night gathering in January, and was processed in various ways through Trustees, Stewardship and Church Council. You will find a letter and pledge card in your church mailbox with more details. Feel free to ask any Stewardship Commission member if you have questions.

November is project month for Mennonite Women. Comforters for knotting will be set up in the fellowship hall Monday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m., and Tuesday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.-noon. The devotional focus on Monday will be "Do," shared by J.P. Schumacher. Barb Stettler and Ginger Theis will provide refreshments. On Tuesday, all participants are invited to stay for lunch. If you are able, bring a salad or dessert and your table service. Soup, bread and beverages will be provided. Please consider helping with frame set-up on Sunday, Nov.12, at 2 p.m.

The Mentor-Mentee activity scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 12, has been canceled and will be rescheduled. Additional information will be announced when plans are confirmed.

The SHYF will hold a pasta bar fundraiser meal for their summer service trip after worship on Sunday, November 19. We hope to see you there!

Evening Song and Prayer is a contemplative service of worship at the end of the day, when we sing our prayers and pray our songs. With song and in silence we will intercede for the world, the church, our community, our loved ones and ourselves. The service lasts about 45 minutes. Please join us for Evening Song and Prayer in the fellowship hall on November 29 at 8:15 p.m. See Pastor Wanda if you have questions.

To Styrofoam or not to Styrofoam? Because the EPA and the International Agency for Research on Cancer consider styrene* a possible human carcinogen, we are trying to eliminate all Styrofoam from the church kitchens. Can you help? Please don't donate any Styrofoam cups or plates to any church activities or leave any extra Styrofoam-ware in the kitchens for others to use. In the meantime, we still have a few Styrofoam items left in the kitchens from earlier times that we are slowly trying to use up. Thank you for your help with this.

The Kitchen Trio
(*Styrofoam is foamed polystyrene. Source: Wikipedia entry "Styrofoam.")

All are welcome to join with FMC family for a Thanksgiving meal. We will eat at noon on Thursday, Nov. 23 in the fellowship hall at FMC. Please contact Lori Nester to reserve a spot and sign up to bring something (nesterl@bluffton.edu or 419-358-9650.) Donations will be received to cover additional costs of the meal (turkey and misc.) with surplus funds being donated to the Deacons Benevolent Fund at FMC.

The Service Group of the Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will host its annual Thanksgiving bake sale on Friday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. A variety of home-baked goods including cinnamon rolls, cakes, pies, breads, and noodles will be available in the MMH lobby. A sign-up sheet for donation of baked goods is available in fellowship hall. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please see the sign-up sheet for details.

The Bluffton University Nutrition Association will hold its annual Harvest Dinner from 5-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the Bluffton Middle School cafeteria. This year's dinner includes chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls and dessert. Many of the ingredients will be sourced locally through donations from area farms and businesses. Monetary donations will be appreciated and all proceeds will benefit the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation and the Churches United Pantry in Lima. Bluffton University food and nutrition students will prepare the food, the