

25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship	Laura Hartzler
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions	Linda Headings
Call to Worship	
Prelude	“Minuet 1” <i>Ellie Hartzler, violin</i> J.S Bach
*Invocation	
	— PRAISING —
*Opening Hymn	“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” HWB 37
*Responsive Reading	Psalm 16
L: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.	
C: I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”	
L: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.	
C: Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.	
L: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.	
C: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.	
L: I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.	
C: I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.	
L: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.	
C: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.	
All: You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.	
Special Music	“How Can I Keep From Singing?” <i>Adult Bells</i> Arr. Arnold Sherman

Time with Children Hymn	“We plow the fields and scatter” <i>(Sing v. 1)</i>	HWB 96
Conversation Hymn	“We plow the fields and scatter” <i>(Sing v. 2)</i>	Kevin Cluts HWB 96
Welcoming New Members Congregational Response	Peter DeMeo, Sally Roth, Shannon Thiebeau	HWB 794
Pastoral Prayer		Steven Yoder
Special Music	“Savior, Guide Us” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Nancy M. Rene
	— PROCLAIMING —	
Scripture		Mark 12:38-44
Sermon	“Look, and look again”	Wanda Stopher
*Hymn	“God of the fertile fields”	HWB 390
	— RESPONDING —	
Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory	“Blessed Assurance”	Arr. Lori Line
Stewardship Testimony		Mary Pannabecker Steiner
*Hymn of Dedication	“We give thee but thine own” <i>(Sing vs. 1)</i>	HWB 384
*Prayer of Dedication		
	— SENDING —	
*Hymn	“Blest are they”	STJ 94
*Benediction		
*Postlude	“Dream” <i>Laura and Benjamin Hartzler, duet</i>	Faber and Faber

**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

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

GREETERS: Gloria and Rich Bucher, Gayle Trollinger, Betty and Willis Sommer

HOST: Jo Clemens

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Hannah Combs, Lu Derstine

Worship – Amy Blount, Sabrina and Kurt Longworth, Ana Neufeld-Weaver

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Pat Sheidler, Judy Diller

Worship – Darby and Jen Benroth, Betty Sommer, Annalise Nisly

SOUND SYSTEM: Walt Paquin

CHANCEL: Carolyn Rich

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 224

Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD) 8

Sunday school attendance last Sunday 90

Spending plan giving November 1, 2015 \$14,169.36

2015 Proposed spending plan \$419,469.00

The offering Nov. 8 totaled \$8663.77. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$332.70, Capital Campaign - \$495, SHYF - \$993, Habitat - \$120, MPS - \$20, Trustees - \$500, The Mennonite subscriptions - \$105, Kitchen service - \$95.10, Timbrel subscriptions - \$13, Camp Friedenswald - \$300, Bluffton Community Assistance- \$100, Genevieve Fast memorial - \$50.

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



Bluffton University will host a discussion of the Syrian refugee crisis at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17 in Stutzman Lecture Hall in Centennial Hall. The program, featuring speaker Corine Dehabey of US Together in Toledo, is free and open to the public.

The Bluffton University Music Department will hold a holiday instrumental concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22, in Yoder Recital Hall. The performance will feature the Concert Band, conducted by Dr. Roy Couch, and chamber ensembles led by Couch and Dr. Adam Schattschneider. Admission is free.

Do you know someone living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia? Do you wish you had caring support or more information about the disease? Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio provides a monthly support group for caregivers. The group meets on the third Monday of each month, except December, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The group meets in the library at Mennonite Memorial Home, 410 W. Elm St., Bluffton. Co-led by Tricia Herrmann, RN and Emily Koogler, LSW, the focus is on mutual support, education and community resourcing. Call 419-358-1015 for more information and questions.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Paul Klassen, 91, Nov. 22, and Lois Jean Andreas, 90, Nov. 22.

Congratulations to Natalie and Ken Shenk, whose granddaughter, Emma Rose, was born November 7 at Bluffton Hospital. Emma's parents are Allen and Anita Shenk of Findlay.

Wanda Pannabecker has moved to Room 11 in Dogwood Hall at the Mennonite Memorial Home. She welcomes your visits!

Thank you for your contribution of \$750 to the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. Our corporation is a non-profit volunteer organization providing supplemental food and assistance to qualifying community member. We help many people with utilities, rent, a voucher system, monetary assistance, and a Christmas Adopt-A-Family. This effort is supported by the generous donations of food and monetary contributions from people like you. -- *Bluffton Community Assistance Corp.*

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, Nov. 15, 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
Noon	Community class potluck, AR
Noon-7 p.m.	Boy Scout Thanksgiving dinner, FH
3:30 p.m.	Venture Club, children's choir room
7 p.m.	SHYF, senior high room

THIS WEEK

Monday (11/16)	Et Cetera Board, 6:30 p.m., FH
Tuesday (11/17)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (11/18)	Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (11/19)	Visit with pastors, Maple Crest, 3 p.m. Council, 7 p.m., parlor

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, Steven Yoder preaching Communion

Scripture: 2 Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37

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

Today we receive three individuals into membership during worship. Please welcome Peter DeMeo, Sally Roth, and Shannon Thiebeau as they take this step.

Spending Plan update: Our spending plan offerings will need to average \$10,337 for the remaining seven Sundays of 2015 to cover our anticipated Spending Plan expenses.
-- Stewardship Commission

SHYF fruit sale: Senior High Youth Fellowship is selling fruit again for the holiday season as a fundraiser for the SWAP trip this summer. All are invited to stop by their table in the fellowship hall after worship today. **Orders must be placed by Thursday, Nov. 19. The approximate delivery date is Saturday, Dec. 12.**

Venture Club meets today from 3:30-5 p.m. Led by Laura and Greg Hartzler, Venture Club is following a series this year called the "Kids Can Club." It is a three book series and we are tentatively considering using it for the next three years. The theme for this year is "Kids Can Make Peace."

A year ago last April, Joanne Niswander began the discipline of writing a short essay each day, reflecting on the myriad "little" things that make daily life worth living. She has now compiled those 365 short reflections into a book titled "Reflections from Maple Crest Pond." Joanne will be in the fellowship hall after church next Sunday, November 22, to sign this newest book. The price is \$14.95. She will also bring a few copies of her previous book, "An Alzheimer's Primer," published in 2012, for anyone wishing a copy.

By now, you should have found intent forms, a letter from the Stewardship commission and a draft of the 2016 Spending Plan. Please prayerfully consider your response and return the card to the church office by Sunday, **Nov. 22, 2015.**

The Service Group of the Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will hold its annual Thanksgiving bake sale on Friday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Mennonite Look, and look again Memorial Home lobby. The bake sale will feature a variety of home-baked goods such as cinnamon rolls, cakes, pies, noodles and breads. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall on which to indicate what you will contribute.

Thank you to everyone who enjoyed fellowship and helped knot comforters November 9 and 10. Ten comforters were tied. Anyone willing to hem these comforters will find them on an eye-level shelf in the quilt room. Kits for sewing additional comforter tops are available on the table nearby. Thank you in advance for your work on these tasks!

All are invited to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal together at First Mennonite. As has been tradition, the meal will begin at noon on Thursday, November 26 and will be an organized potluck. Please contact Lori Nester (419-358-9650, nesterl@bluffton.edu) to RSVP so that we can plan appropriately for numbers and sign up to bring a dish. We will make sure there are plenty of traditional Thanksgiving menu items, but also welcome nontraditional foods as well. Donations will be taken at the meal to cover general expenses, such as turkey, with surplus funds to be donated to the Deacons Benevolence Fund.
-- Lori Nester

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Thursday, Dec. 3, from noon-6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to redcrossblood.org, sponsor code "fmennbl" to schedule your blood donation appointment. On the day of the blood drive, be prepared to show a donor card, driver's license, or other form(s) of ID. *Sign-up sheets for various volunteer jobs throughout the day are on a table in the fellowship hall.

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 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.

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.