

Christ the King Sunday
November 26, 2017
10:30 a.m.

–GATHERING –

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| Chimes call us to worship | | Jackie Wyse Rhodes |
| Welcome, Announcements, Introductions | | Carrie Mast |
| Prelude | “Loyal Friends” <i>Wendy Chappell-Dick</i> | Karel van Mander |
| Call to worship | | |
| *Opening Hymn | “Take my life and let it be” | HWB 389 |
| *Responsive Reading | | Psalms 65 |

L: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,

C: O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

L: Those who live at earth’s farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

C: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

L: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

C: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

All: The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy.

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| Special Music | “Thank You” <i>Cherub Choir</i> | Franz Schubert |
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– PRAISING –

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| Conversation with Friends | | |
| Hymn | “With happy voices singing” (vs. 1) | HWB 83 |
| Conversation | | Andrea Goings |
| Hymn | “With happy voices singing” (vs. 3) | HWB 83 |

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

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| Offertory | “Turn Turn Turn” <i>Wendy Chappell-Dick and Jackie Wyse Rhodes</i> | The Byrds |
| Pastoral Prayer | | George O’Reilly |
| Scripture | II Corinthians 9:6-15 | Darby Benroth |
| Sermon | “Seeds of Generosity” | Wanda Stopher |
| *Hymn | “The church of Christ in every age” | HWB 403 |

— COMMUNION —

The Invitation

Congregational Prayer

Lord Jesus, take from us all obstacles that take room from you in our hearts. Forgive our sins, heal our diseases. Restore to us the joy of our salvation. Give those we have sinned against, grace to forgive us and give us grace to forgive those who have sinned against us. Make this holy Supper a foretaste of eternal life with you. Amen. (John D. Rempel, New York City, from Words for Worship; used by permission of Herald Press.)

Sharing the Bread

Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

– SENDING –

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| *Sending Hymn | “Great is thy faithfulness” | HWB 327 |
| *Benediction | | |
| *Postlude | “Friend, wise and handsome” | Karel van Mander |

**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: Marilyn Bishop

HOST: Mary Amstutz

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Anita and George Lehman

Worship – Kristen Niekamp, Sarah Phillips, JC Schultz

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Melissa Friesen, Tig Intagliata, Alice Ruth Ramseyer

Worship – Sue and Tom Schaaf, Anna Neufeld Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Anita Lehman

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

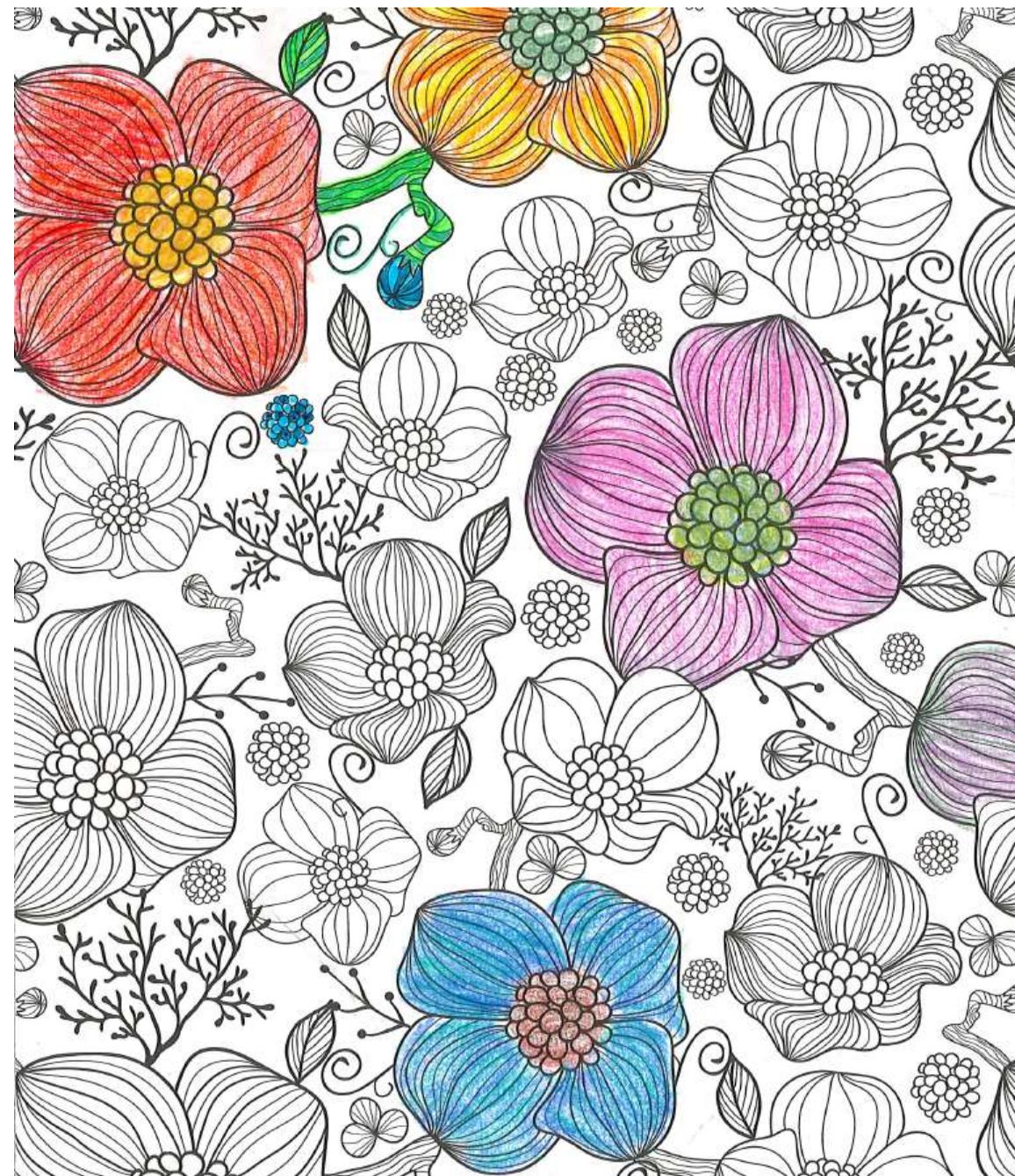
OUR STEWARDSHIP

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| Worship attendance last Sunday | FMC-221, MC-8 |
| Spending plan giving Nov. 19, 2017 (includes e-giving) | \$9,980.50 |
| Special fund giving Nov. 19, 2017 (includes e-giving): <i>Grades K-5-\$6.08, Freudige-\$10</i> | <u>\$8,101.08</u> |
| <i>Faith and Life-\$10, Sojourners-\$9; Young Adults-\$7; SHYF-\$100; Deacons-\$20, Cap Camp Flooring-\$5,240, Kitchen-\$7; Betty Sommer memorial-\$275; Menno subs-\$37</i> | |
| <i>Habitat-\$126; Syrian student-\$2,129; facility use-\$100; pictorial directory-\$10</i> | |
| Total giving Nov. 19, 2017 (includes e-giving) | \$18,081.58 |
| Total spending plan receipts as of October 31, 2017 | \$312,066.11 |
| Spending plan expenses as of October 31, 2017 | \$335,390.00 |
| 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.



All youth, families, and friends are invited to sing Christmas carols at Mennonite Memorial Home on December 3 at 6 p.m., with snacks in the fellowship hall afterwards. We would like to extend a special invitation to mentors for this joint youth group-mentoring activity. Help us spread Christmas cheer!

-- Lisa and Amber Shelly, Shannon Thiebeau

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. 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. Thank you for your help with this. -- *The Kitchen Trio* (*Styrofoam is foamed polystyrene. Source: Wikipedia entry "Styrofoam.")

There are two current needs at the Lima Habitat for Humanity ReStore:

1. Once a month continuing commitment for 2-4 hours: This would involve 3-5 people organizing and tidying up the showroom floor.
2. One time commitment for 2-4 hours: This would involve any number of people or even a Sunday school class to organize and clean the back storage room. (The ReStore is preparing to refurbish its showroom floor in February and space is needed to store numerous items.)

Contact Mark Suderman, Volunteer Coordinator at mark@habitatlima.org or 419-230-5368.

Bluffton University will hold a Holiday Collage Concert at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3 in Yoder Recital Hall. Enjoy the sounds of the season as all of Bluffton's music ensembles perform. A free-will offering for scholarships will be collected. Additionally, Bluffton's music ensembles will perform during the annual Christmas Festival Forum at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 5, in Yoder Recital Hall.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Following a procedure to repair a fractured hip, LaVonne Klassen is now at the Mennonite Memorial Home for rehab. Please pray for continued healing and strength.

Thank you all for the love and support during this extremely difficult time. We had two amazing parents and it will take a while to process losing them both so quickly and unexpectedly. Your prayers and words of encouragement have been a source of comfort to us.

-- Jen, Darby, Bodey, & Barrett Benroth and Matt Sommer & Emily Palmquist

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 26, 2017

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| 8:15 a.m. | Youth choir |
| 9:15 a.m. | Sunday school, coffee hour |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Communion, Wanda Stopher preaching |

THIS WEEK

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| Tuesday (11-28) | Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. |
| Wednesday (11-29) | Adult bells, Cherubs, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m. Evening Song and Prayer, 8:15 p.m., FH |
| Thursday (11-30) | Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor |
| Friday (12-1) | Candidate visit with council, 7 p.m. |
| Saturday (12-2) | Congregational Meet and Greet with Candidate, 4 p.m., FH |

NEXT SUNDAY

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|------------|---|
| 8:15 a.m. | Youth choir |
| 9:15 a.m. | Sunday school, coffee hour |
| 9:30 a.m. | Theda Good meets with staff/staff relations, parlor |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship, Theda Good preaching |
| 4 p.m. | Meet and Greet at Mennonite Memorial Home |
| 5 p.m. | Meet and Greet at Maple Crest |

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

Thank you to Kayleigh Coffman, who shared with us her partly colored page for today's front cover. Says Kayleigh, "As you can see, this drawing is unfinished. Much like us, lots of people are not born yet. But in time more spaces will be filled. More people will be born, and the world will fill with joy. Please think of this carefully, and consider it as something special, like every person ever created."

Thank you to Ryan Blount, who created the special candle used in worship today.

Today we will receive Communion. As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC observe the giving of alms 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 of the bread today is gluten free.**

Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer! Come to the table humbly, not because you have earned a place here, but because you know your need of mercy and help.

Come because you love God and want to love God more. Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us. Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Come, by the mystery of God's grace, One Spirit-filled people of God, the body of Christ present here and now. (Compiled and adapted from various sources)

The SHYF would like to thank the congregation for their generosity on Sunday for our pasta bar fundraiser. With your help, we were able to raise \$954 to put towards the summer service trip and the 2019 MCUSA Youth Convention. Thank you!

Needed: A person to serve as Everence Stewardship Advocate

Role Overview: Stewardship Advocates strengthen the stewardship ministry of the church by helping to integrate faith and stewardship principles with the needs of your congregation

Time Commitment: Volunteer one or two hours per month

Term: Be willing to serve two or three years

Gifts: Organization, passion for helping people meet stewardship needs, desire to learn and share about Everence resources

More information is available on a full ministry role description in the literature rack in the fellowship hall. See Art Shelly to express your interest.

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.

Sunday, Dec. 10 - Potluck and time of thanks for Pastor George O'Reilly: Pastor George is nearing the end of his term with us as pastoral associate. He arrived in June of 2016 and concludes December 31, 2017. Let's celebrate his FMC pastoral work with a potluck and time of sharing. Please bring a food item and dinnerware. There will be an open mic time after the potluck. Feel free to do a skit, poem or reflection as a group or individual. Please inform Chris Moser of your plans for the event at moserbus@gmail.com. -- Nurture Commission

Revised Common Lectionary Readings for 2017-18 – We will follow Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary in 2017-18. The Revised Common Lectionary is a lectionary of readings from the Bible for use in Christian worship, making provision for the liturgical year with its pattern of observances of festivals and seasons. You will find it at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=B&season=Advent>. *The church office will provide print copies upon request.*

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.