

All Saints' Observance
November 5, 2017
10:30 a.m.

–GATHERING –

Chimes call us to worship	Shirley Sprunger King
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions	Kevin Nickel
Prelude	“All Glory be to God on High” (HWB 122) J. S. Bach
Call to worship	
*Opening Hymn	“For all the saints” (vs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8) HWB 636
*Responsive Reading	Psalm 34:1-10
L: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.	
C: My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.	
L: O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.	
C: I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.	
L: Look to him, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.	
C: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, and was saved from every trouble.	
L: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.	
C: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.	
L: O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.	
All: The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.	
– PRAISING –	
Conversation with Friends	
Hymn	“With happy voices singing” (vs. 1) HWB 83
Conversation	Jeff Gundy
Hymn	“With happy voices singing” (vs. 2) HWB 83

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“Meditation on HAPPY LAND”	Dale Wood
Pastoral Prayer		Rich Bucher
Special Music	“Come To the Water” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	John Foley, SJ
– PROCLAIMING –		
Scripture	Matthew 5:1-12	Esther Strahan
Sermon	“Blessed and Blessing”	Wanda Stopher
*Hymn	“Blest are they”	STJ 94
All Saints' Observance		
– SENDING –		
*Hymn	“We shall walk through the valley”	HWB 412
*Benediction		
*Postlude	“Postlude on SINE NOMINE”	Denis Bédard

**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: Kathy Traucht

HOST: Tim Schumacher

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Gerald Mast, Marilyn Bishop

Worship – Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Wendy Chappell Dick

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Laura and Greg Hartzler

Worship – Mary Ina Hooley, Melissa Friesen, Grace Paquin

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Gott

CHANCEL: Amy Freeman

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-232, MC-9
Spending plan giving Oct. 29, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$3,675.00
Special fund giving Oct. 29, 2017: Grades K-5-\$8.8, Grades 6-8-\$2, Young Adults-\$14	\$1,440.47
<i>Faith and Life-\$7, Sojourners-\$18; Freudige-\$1; Deacons-\$28.62, Menno subs-\$400, Cap Campaign-\$365, MDS-\$20, Bldg fund-\$100; Kitchen-\$207, Pic directory-\$10, Friesen memorial-\$130, SHYF-\$100, Habitat-\$10, MW-\$10</i>	
Total giving Oct. 29, 2017 ((includes e-giving)	\$5,115.47
Total spending plan receipts as of September 30, 2017	\$279,490.31
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.



Kay and Mark Weidner have moved to Lancaster, PA to be near four of their children and eight grandchildren. Their new address is: 1949 Rachael Dr, Lancaster, PA 17601. Cell numbers are unchanged.

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

Today is the final day to view the “Mirror of the Martyrs” traveling exhibit in the Albrecht Gallery of Sauder Visual Arts Center at Bluffton University. Gallery hours are 1-6 p.m.

- The final presentation of “The Crucible” by Arthur Miller is today at 2:30 p.m. in Ramseyer Auditorium, College Hall. The drama depicts events related to the 1692 witch trials in the Puritan village of Salem, MA. Melissa Friesen is the director.
- “Music of the Martyrs: A Choral Tapestry” will be performed at 6:30 p.m. today in Yoder Recital Hall. Directed by Dr. Mark Suderman, the event will feature organist Dr. Shirley Sprunger King performing “Singing at the Fire,” a three movement composition by Brent Weaver featuring stories from the “Martyrs Mirror.” The concert includes choral arrangements of hymns that reflect the Christian commitment to faithful and costly witness, including Anabaptist martyr songs.

Bluffton University’s Jazz Ensemble and Gospel Choir perform at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, in Yoder Recital Hall. The Jazz Ensemble is directed by Dr. Andrew Liebermann and the Gospel Choir is directed by Dr. Crystal Sellers.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy 70th anniversary to Esther and Keith Brauen, November 6.

Betty Sommer has been transferred to Willow Ridge, with hope that the change of scenery will allow her more rest and energy. Betty remains medically “stable” though very tired and fatigued. Those wishing to make a short visit may call Matt (419-230-9854) or Jenny (419-230-3945) to arrange. A CaringBridge site has been created to provide updates at

Mustaq Ahmed, whose brother, Iqbal Ahmed, died recently in Bangladesh, is visiting his brother’s daughter and son in Mississauga, ONT, Canada, this weekend. Pray for his brother’s family, for Mustaq and Becky, and for safe travels for the family during this time.

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 5, 2017

9:15 a.m.	NO youth choir
10:30 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
Noon	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
2-3 p.m.	Connections potluck, FH
6:30 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF Tea Time, Maple Crest “Music of the Martyrs: A Choral Tapestry,” Yoder Recital Hall

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (11-7)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (11-8)	Pastor visit with MMH residents, 2:30 p.m. Stewardship, 6:30 p.m. NO Jubilate or Cherubs Adult bells, 6 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (11-9)	Senior Concerns, 2:30 p.m., AR Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (11-10)	SHYF/JHYF leave for work camp

NEXT SUNDAY

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 fundraising dinner, 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 welcome Shirley Sprunger King to our service this morning. She will also play at the Martyrs Mirror Concert at 6:30 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Shirley received her musical training at Bluffton University, the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and the University of Kansas, where she earned the degree Doctor of Musical Arts in organ performance. Prior to her retirement in 2013, she was Dean of Academic Advising and College Organist at Dickinson College (Carlisle, PA) and organist at First Presbyterian Church in Carlisle. In Kansas she was Professor of Music at Bethel College, organist at Bethel College Mennonite Church (North Newton, KS), and organist-harpsichordist for the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. She is currently organist at Eighth Street Mennonite Church in Goshen, IN. Throughout her career she has been active as a recitalist, presenter for church music workshops and an organ consultant.

Today we will observe an All Saints service at the end of worship. This is an opportunity for us to reflect corporately and as individuals on the losses we have experienced over the past year. We will honor the lives of sisters and brothers and family members who have gone before us, and offer ourselves to God's healing grace.

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% 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 will be in mailboxes next week."

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.

Pastor George will be gone through Tuesday, Nov. 7 to attend memorial services in Flagstaff, AZ, for his grandnephew, Ronin O'Reilly, who was shot and killed about two weeks ago. Please pray for the family. For pastoral assistance, please call Pastor Wanda.

The youth groups need a few more sponsors to drive and attend a weekend of service at Camp Friedenswald with them November 10-12. Without sponsors, experiences like these would not be possible. If you are interested, please contact Shannon Thiebeau.

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.

A Middle Eastern meal will be served on Sunday, Nov. 12, following the worship service to support Lorca Ali, a Bluffton University student from Syria. Donations will be applied to Lorca's university expenses, and Lorca will be present to speak about his background and experience. All are welcome to enjoy this meal and to meet Lorca.

All mentor/mentee pairs are invited to a baking event at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12 in the assembly room kitchen. If you have questions, please contact Lisa or Amber Shelly.

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

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.

It is time to renew our group subscription to *The Mennonite* magazine. If you are interested in joining our group plan as a new subscriber, please contact the church office at fmc@bluffton.edu or 419.358.5766. New subscribers can receive a one-year subscription for the discounted rate of \$30. Renewal rates for 2018 are \$37. **To renew your subscription or become a new subscriber, you must notify the church office by Friday, Nov. 10.**

The banner for our summer worship series, "Bridges Among Us" served us well as we explored our theme in worship. The banner, now displayed outside next to the peace pole, challenges us to expand our thinking and invites others to consider the invitation to join us, building bridges among us as a community.