

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Nov. 8, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— **GATHERING** —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Ray Person

Call to Worship

Prelude “Fanfare on “Marion” arr. Gilbert M. Martin

***Invocation**

— **PRAISING** —

***Opening Hymn** “Praise with joy the world's Creator” STJ 16

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 127

L: Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

C: It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

L: Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

C: Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.

All: Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Special Music “”
Cherub Choir

Time with Children

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

Conversation Hymn “We plow the fields and scatter” Lynn Miller HWB 96
(Sing v. 2)

Pastoral Prayer Wanda Stopher

Special Music “O God Beyond All Praising” Chancel Choir
Gustav Holst/arr. Hal H. Hopson

— **PROCLAIMING** —

Scripture Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Sermon “Rags to Riches and Funny Mothers-in-law” Shannon Thiebeau

***Hymn** “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah” HWB 582

— **RESPONDING** —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “For the Fruit of All Creation” arr. Frank Stoldt

Stewardship Testimony Cassidy Bush

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

— **SENDING** —

***Hymn** “Heart with loving heart united” HWB 420

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

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

for pastors and leaders in the faith community. Log on to mcc.org/wwso to complete the survey by the end of December. -- Jennifer Steiner, MCC Great Lakes

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 Maurice Kaufmann, 86, Nov. 11, and Clarence Kooker, 87, Nov. 14.

Please continue to remember Stan and Ruth Naylor in your prayers.

We will receive three people into membership on November 15, 2015 during worship. Please pray for Peter DeMeo, Sally Roth, and Shannon Thiebeau as they prepare to take this step.

Dear FMC church family: For those of you who knew our parents, Norman and Mary Lou, we want to thank you for being a blessing to them these many years. Our parents appreciated and love you dearly. With love from all of us, Barry and Marty Dyck, Seth and Carol Bixel, Jared and Lisa Diller and our families.

Pray for the Bluffton University students who are on their cross cultural semester-long experiences in Washington D.C. and Guatemala this fall. -- *Mennonite Education Agency*

Pray for Luz Varela, Erin Bradley and Neal Brubaker -- participants in the San Antonio Mennonite Voluntary Service unit -- who are learning to live in a diverse intentional community with other volunteers and to serve through community organizations. -- *Mennonite Mission Network*

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. 8, 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, Shannon Thiebeau preaching
Noon	Sojourners/Freudige potlucks
2:30 p.m.	JHYF
3 p.m.	MW setting up quilt frames, FH

THIS WEEK

Monday (11/9)	MW quilt frame set-up, all day, FH MW project night, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (11/10)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor MW quilting, 8 a.m. Education, 6 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (11/11)	Pastor/peer meeting, 9:30 a.m., parlor Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m. Stewardship, 8 p.m., 301
Thursday (11/12)	Senior Concerns, 2 p.m., AR Nurture, 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, Wanda Stopher preaching, Receiving new members during worship

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10: 11-14(15-18) 19-25, Mark 13:1-8

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: JHYF will meet today from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Intent forms, a letter from the Stewardship commission and a draft of the 2016 Spending Plan are in your mailboxes today. Please prayerfully consider your response and return the card to the church office by **November 22, 2015**.

Mennonite Women will have their project night 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. Provide a salad or dessert; soup, bread and beverages will be provided.

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 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 for

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

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

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 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.

Tickets remain 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.

Fred Suter's October update on the Congo Water Project will be held at 7 p.m. today 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.

Does sexualized violence concern you? If so, Mennonite Central Committee U.S. invites you to participate in an online survey about this issue. Your answers to the open-ended questions will be used to guide MCC U.S. in its creation of trainings and resources