

27th Sunday after Pentecost
November 20, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship LuAnn Stuckey, pianist/organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Melissa Friesen, worship leader

Prelude “Now Thank We All Our God” arr. D. E. Wagner

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn** “Holy Spirit, come with power” HWB 26

***Responsive Reading** Luke 1:68-79

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

C: He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

L: Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

C: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

All: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Special Music “The Wiseman Built his House Upon the Rock” Traditional
Cherub Choir; Laura Hartzler, director

Time with Children

Hymn “We plow the fields and scatter” (verse 1) HWB 96

Conversation Rhonda Winstead

Hymn “We plow the fields and scatter” (verse 3) HWB 96

Noisy Offering

Pastoral Prayer

Wanda Stopher

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Let All Things Now Living” arr. D. E. Wagner

***Prayer of Dedication**

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Romans 12:1-8

Sermon

“Steward!” George O’Reilly

***Hymn**

“There are many gifts” HWB 304

— COMMUNION —

The Invitation

Prayer of Confession (See insert)

Sharing the Bread

Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

— SENDING —

***Hymn**

“Come, come ye saints” HWB 425

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)*
HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey
Large-print hymnals and bulletins are available on the cabinet next to the parlor.

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: fmclubluffton.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.-3 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

GREETERS: Ruth Naylor, Rich and Gloria Bucher

HOST: Mary Anne Moser

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Amy Freeman, Mary Pannabecker, AR Ramseyer

Worship – Amy Blount, Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Annalise Nisly

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Marilyn Bishop, Kevin Cluts, Jen Benroth

Worship – Andrea Goings, Tyson Goings, Seth Andreas

SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

CHANCEL: Wendy Chappell-Dick

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, www.fmclubluffton.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	197
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	11
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	103
Spending plan giving Nov. 13, 2016	\$5,666.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Nov. 13 totaled \$7,207.52. Money was received for these special funds: Grades K-5 - \$11.42, Sojourners - \$4, Faith and Life - \$12, Capital campaign - \$600, Kitchen services - \$16, Habitat - \$20, Anna Balmer memorial - \$185, SHYF - \$100, Rejoice - \$8, MPS - \$500.	

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 Organist Coordinator – Lucia Unrau
Custodian – Mick Hardy
Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker - fmc@bluffton.edu

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.



The final public event associated with the “Witnessing Martyrdom” exhibit at Bluffton University – a performance of “I Have Not Forsaken the Word of God: Jacques d’Auchy’s Confessional Struggle” -- will take place today at 7 p.m. in Ramseyer Auditorium. The art will be open in Musselman Library following the performance and closes on November 22.

Bluffton University will present Handel’s “Messiah” at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in Founders Hall. Jonathan Wey will conduct. The orchestra includes professional players, as well as Bluffton faculty and staff. Soloists are Leah Crane, soprano; Mitzi Westra, mezzo-soprano; Joseph Purifoy, tenor; and Mark Gilgallon, baritone.

Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services will hold a Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service on Sunday, Dec. 4 at the Centre, 601 N. Main Street. Families will receive a personalized glass ornament. Families may begin arriving at 1 p.m., followed by a brief memorial service at 2 p.m. All families are welcome regardless of which funeral home provided the services. Light refreshments will be provided. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are requested. To make a reservation or for more information, call 419-358-2051 or email chilesbl@wcoil.com.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Paul Klassen, 92, Nov. 22; Lois Jean Andreas, 91, Nov. 22; and Harvey Bauman, 96, Nov. 27.

Treva Suter continues in Bluffton Hospital. Her family appreciates your prayers. Cards may be sent to the hospital. At this time, visits must be limited to family.
-- Thank you, the Dillman family

Adan Ortiz continues to face health issues and is in need of transportation to appointments. If you are available as a driver, please call Adan at 419.358-0955.

The Annie Balmer family would like to thank you for all the cards, visits (especially from Carolyn Rich, Ruth Naylor and George O'Reilly) and prayers during Mom's passing. Thank you also to those who helped with the funeral. She was an active member earlier in life. We felt very blessed and appreciate your extra efforts. Again, thank you so much, Brice, Beth, Barb, Bev, Bretta, Ben and Brad Balmer.

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 20, 2016

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O’Reilly preaching
Noon	Community class potluck
4 p.m.	Chappell-Dick information meeting, FH

THIS WEEK

Monday (11-21)	Et Cetera Board, 7 p.m., AR
Tuesday (11-22)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (11-23)	NO CHOIR REHEARSALS
Thursday (11-24)	THANKSGIVING, Office Closed
Friday (11-25)	Menno-Life deadline

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching

STAFF NOTES

Staff schedules this week: **Wanda Stopher** will be out of the office on Monday, Nov. 21, but will be in on Friday, Nov. 25. **George O’Reilly** will work Monday, but be off on Friday. **Mary Pannabecker Steiner** will be out of the office Nov. 23-25. In her absence, the office will be staffed by Gloria Hernandez Bucher (Wednesday) and Carmen Ordonez Moser (Friday.) **Shannon Thiebeau** will also be out of the office on Friday.

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 downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today we will receive communion together, an act of faith and love. The service we anticipate is a communion of the reality that in Christ we are made one body, and together we make him present in the world. Another aspect often overlooked is the giving of alms. This is done at FMC 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.

Deadlines to remember

Due to holiday schedules, the November 27 bulletin will be printed on Tuesday afternoon. Items for the bulletin must be submitted by noon Tuesday, Nov. 22.

The deadline for the December Menno-Life is Friday, Nov. 25. Please submit all items to the church office by 5 p.m. Friday.

Thanks to all for making a joyful noise today. Mission Peace and Service Commission has indicated that this Noisy Offering will go to MCC for water and food projects. This is a clarification of our note last week. *Stewardship Commission*

Due to a scheduling error at the Fort Wayne office of the Red Cross, the First Mennonite December blood drive is being rescheduled. As of the time of printing, they had not yet notified us of the new date, but it will likely be in mid-December. We will notify you by e-mail as soon as we receive a confirmed date. Additionally, we hope to have a confirmed date in time for next week's bulletin. Keep in mind that we will need volunteers for this event.

Today you will find a Gifts Discernment survey in your mailboxes. Extras are available on the table next to the office door. Please complete and return as instructed in the survey.

The Congregational Discernment Team asks for your help in ongoing efforts to identify the pastoral leadership needs of our congregation. To understand the identity of First Mennonite Church and to know our shared story, we must share our stories with each other. As part of developing an understanding of our collective past experience, the CDT asks that you each respond to the two questions they posed in the November 13 bulletin. Extra copies

of the insert are available on the table in front of the Blessings Board in the fellowship hall. Please respond to the questions and pin your response paper to the Blessings Board.

During November, we have heard stewardship testimonies and have been challenged in worship to think about stewardship in a variety of ways. Please see the "Here and now" bulletin board for Kyle Miller's testimony on reconciling oil pipeline work and stewardship.

Thank you to all those who helped knot 11 comforters for MCC during the Mennonite Women's recent project days. You are now encouraged to take a comforter to hem. Comforters, some trimmed, others not, are in the quilt room and instructions for hemming are in the bin labeled "kits." Also, comforter kits are available in the bin for making tops. Pieced tops will be used on the next project days, April 10-11, 2017. *Project Committee*

Greeters are needed for the month of December. Please contact Mary Amstutz at 419.358. if you are able to serve as a greeter.

Wendy and Andy Chappell-Dick expect several children to join their household in the coming months, so hope to create a team to help with tasks like shopping, transportation, and play dates. They invite you to meet with them today at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The FMC Thanksgiving dinner begins at noon on Thursday, Nov. 24. Please contact Lori Nester (419-358-9650 or nesterl@bluffton.edu to RSVP and to sign up to bring a dish. Donations will be taken to cover general expenses, with surplus funds to be donated to the Deacons Benevolence Fund.

Several weeks ago we received word that Nancy Frey, one of our mission partners in Burkina Faso, was hospitalized for Dengue fever. Her health has since improved and we received this message from her husband, Bruce Yoder. "Nancy has started back to school (teaching) but is taking it slow and getting lots of rest. We had her blood platelet count tested again and it's up to low normal. So that's good. We expect her to continue to gain strength, but she will need to get lots of rest in the next weeks. Thanks for your prayers!"

Three regional gatherings for CDC members are set for early 2017: February 25 at Southside Fellowship (Lambright Center, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Elkhart, IN); March 4, First Mennonite Church, Urbana, IL; and March 11, First Mennonite Church, Wadsworth. Regional gatherings allow us to hear developments and work in progress and to meet others in the conference. They are intended for all in the conference -- not only leaders in congregations or the conference.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bluffton University will hold a Holiday Concert featuring the concert band and several instrumental ensembles at 2:30 p.m. today in Yoder Recital Hall.