

25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 6, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship LuAnn Stuckey, pianist/organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions JP Schumacher, worship leader

Prelude “Laudes Domini” arr. R. Hartsell

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn** “We would extol thee” HWB 74

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21

L: I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

L: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

C: One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

L: On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

C: The Lord is just in all his ways and kind in all his doings.

L: The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

C: He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.

L: The Lord watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

All: My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

Special Music “Be Not Afraid” Felix Mendelssohn
Chancel Choir

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

Conversation Kevin Cluts

Hymn “We plow the fields and scatter” (verse 2) HWB 96

Pastoral Prayer George O’Reilly and Wanda Stopher

Stewardship Moment Gene and Dottie Long

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Luke 19:1-10 Shannon Thiebeau

Sermon “Righteous rich man” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** “Will you come and follow me?” See insert

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Be Thou My Vision” arr. R. Hartsell

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn** “God, whose farm is all creation” (verse 1) HWB 391

Reception of New Members HWB 794

Sarah Phillips, Liana Gott

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “I sought the Lord” HWB 506

***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.
Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

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.-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: Steve and Monica, Rich and Gloria Bucher and Barb Stettler

HOST: Mary Anne Moser

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Gerald Mast, Mary Ina Hooley, Judy Buller

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Christopher Harnish

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS-Anita Lehman, Carmen Ordonez, Victoria Woods-Yee

Worship – Sabrina and Kurt Longworth, Anna Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Wendy Chappell-Dick

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	237
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	9
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	100
Spending plan giving Oct. 31, 2016	\$2,520.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Oct. 31 totaled \$3,151.80. Money was received for these special funds: Grades K-5 - \$13.80, Sojourners - \$7, Faith and Life - \$2, Freudige - \$10, Capital campaign - \$100, Black Swamp - \$20, MDS - \$4, Kitchen services - \$7, Deacon's Benevolent - \$468.	

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.



Jason Ropp, singer/songwriter from Goshen, Ind., 9 p.m., Marbeck Center; and Nov. 12: Spiritual retreat “How is Creation Calling You?”, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., BU nature preserve. Cost is \$25. To register, email intagliatas@bluffton.edu or call 419-358-3219.

An exhibit, “Witnessing Martyrdom: The Dramatic Art of Jan Luyken,” will be featured at Musselman Library, Bluffton University, through November 22. The focus of the exhibit is one of the newly discovered original copper plates used by Luyken to create the images for the 1685 edition of Martyrs Mirror. At a reception at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31, David Weaver-Zercher, author of Martyrs Mirror: A Social History will discuss the influence of Luyken’s engraving of Dirk Willems rescuing his persecutor. Weaver-Zercher will also speak in Forum at 11 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 1 in Yoder Recital Hall.

Phil Hart of Columbus Mennonite, will perform on the third floor of the Bluffton Town Hall on Thursday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Donations at this event will benefit the Dare to Dream scholarship at Bluffton University.

Bluffton University will hold a concert featuring its Jazz Ensemble and Gospel Choir at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, in Yoder Recital Hall. The Jazz Ensemble will perform jazz standards and a new work by Bluffton’s adjunct music professor, Paul Baransy. Several members of the ensemble will also be featured throughout the concert, and the theme from “Star Trek” will round out the program in celebration of its 50th anniversary. The Gospel Choir will perform songs based on hymns that have been remixed to be more contemporary gospel or spiritual. The group will be accompanied by Columbus-based professional musicians Terry Davis, keys; James Vines, base and Wesley Sellers, drums.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Maurice Kaufmann, 87, Nov. 11.

Happy anniversary to Esther and Keith Brauen, 69, Nov. 6.

Please remember the family of Anna Ruth Balmer, who died October 31 at Maple Crest. Her service was held November 3 at FMC. Her children include Brice, Ben and Brad Balmer and Beth Froning, Barb Watkins, Beverly Simon and Bretta Smith.

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.

Khloe Brenneman Hostetler is still in Newborn Intensive Care at Toledo Hospital. She is making some improvement. Thanks to the congregation for your concern and prayers.

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 6, 2016

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

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (11-8)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Flooring committee, 7 p.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., AR Everence, meeting for area reps, 7 p.m., 301
Wednesday (11-9)	1:45-3:30 p.m., CDC worship committee, parlor MMH residents meet with pastors, 2:30 p.m. No Cherubs or Jubilate Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Stewardship, 7 p.m., parlor
Thursday (11-10)	Senior Concerns, 2 p.m., AR Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor
Friday (11-11)	BUNA Harvest Dinner, 5-7 p.m., FH

NEXT WEEK

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

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 welcome two new members to First Mennonite. Please see the insert for statements of faith from Sarah Phillips and Liana Gott. After worship, please greet Sarah and Liana in the fellowship hall.

Pastor Wanda will be out of the office November 11-13. She and Bret will be attending their grandson's dedication. Wanda will return to the office on Monday, Nov. 14. Please see Pastor George for pastoral care needs.

Todd Wynward, author, educator, small-scale farmer, wilderness trip leader and Mennonite minister will be our guest preacher on Sunday, Nov. 13. His sermon title is "Watershed Discipleship and Standing Rock. Affiliated with Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Wynward has been engaged in education reform and social change movements for 20 years.

Several adults have expressed an interest in exploring the meaning of baptism and how it represents a person's desire to commit their life to following Jesus. If you're interested in joining us or if you have questions, please see Pastor George or Pastor Wanda.

November is project month for Mennonite Women, who will knot comforters in the fellowship hall Monday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-noon. On Monday night, the devotional focus will be "Wading in Water" led by Anita Lehman, and Ellie Unruh and Heidrun Awad will provide refreshments. Following knotting on Tuesday, all participants are invited to stay for lunch. Please bring a salad or dessert and table service. Soup, bread and beverages will be provided. Please consider helping with set-up on Sunday at 2 p.m. and on Monday afternoon, if necessary.

Get ready to shake and rattle your coins during our Noisy Offering, which supports the Sunshine Community and MCC Black Swamp Benefit. Collect your coins and let them roll into our noisy cans on Sunday, Nov. 20. **Teachable moment for parents and children:** How about a bank visit with Mom or Dad to see how many pennies make a roll of pennies or how paper money turns into a roll of coins? Check this out before the Noisy Offering, and then tell us about your bank visit. -- *Stewardship Commission*

Everence® has released the sixth resource of its ongoing educational series, *7 steps to integrating faith and finances*. Paper copies are available in the fellowship hall. This

month's topic, *Connect my faith with my estate plan*, provides a biblical perspective on last wishes, plus practical tools to help transition belongings and leave final instructions to loved ones. Please use this resource to look at your finances from a faith perspective.

Sponsors are needed for SHYF and JHYF. If you can commit 2-4 hours a month, please contact Shannon Thiebeau at fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu. **Adult volunteers are also needed** to accompany SHYF to a service weekend at Camp Friedenswald November 18-20. If interested, please contact Shannon Thiebeau at fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu.

Wendy and Andy Chappell-Dick expect one to five children to join their household in the coming months. They hope to create a team from FMC who can help with tasks like shopping, transportation, and play dates. If you want to learn more about what the community can expect from the new energy and experiences these children will bring, please meet with Wendy and Andy on Sunday, Nov. 20 at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Sunday school teachers, parents and youth workers are especially encouraged to attend.

All are invited to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal together at First Mennonite. 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. 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.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election Day communion will be held Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. All are invited to pray, sing and gather around the table. For more information, contact Pastor Emily at 419-222-2120 or Pastor Paula at 419-339-1505.

The Bluffton University Nutrition Association will hold its annual Harvest Dinner benefiting both the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation and the Lima-based Churches United Pantry, from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, at First Mennonite. This year's dinner will include homemade soup, bread and dessert. Nonperishable food items will be accepted, as will cash and checks made payable to BUNA. All proceeds will benefit the two food pantries. Bluffton University's ceramics class will also be donating bowls which attendees may keep for an additional donation.

Todd Wynward will present "Rewilding the Way: Break Free to Follow an Untamed God" at Bluffton University's Spiritual Life Week Forum at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, Yoder Recital Hall. Additional SLW events include Nov. 6: worship, 8:30 p.m., Yoder; Nov. 7: Lecture and discussion, "Can a Changed Life Really Change the World?", 6:30 p.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall; Nov. 10: Chapel, 11 a.m., Yoder; Nov. 11: Coffeehouse,