

**World Communion Day
October 1, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

—GATHERING—

Chimes call us to worship		Deb Niswander
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Ashton Cluts
Prelude	“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”	setting, Timothy Shaw
Call to worship		
*Opening Hymn	“What is this place”	HWB 1
*Responsive Reading		Psalm 78:1-4
L: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.		
C: I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,		
L: things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us.		
All: We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.		
— PRAISING —		
Conversation with Friends		
Hymn	“We plow the fields and scatter” (vs. 1)	HWB 96
Conversation		Jeff Gundy
Hymn	“We plow the fields and scatter” (vs. 2)	HWB 96
--- RESPONDING ---		
Presenting our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory	“Let Us Break Bread Together”	arr. Mark Hayes

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture	Philippians 2:1-13	
Sermon	“Taking Cuts - The True Communion of the Saints”	George O’Reilly
*Hymn	“The word of God is solid ground”	HWB 314

— 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	“Come and Feast” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Lee Dengler
Sharing the Cup		
Prayer of Thanksgiving		
--- SENDING ---		
*Hymn	“God be with you”	HWB 430
*Benediction		
*Postlude	“Trumpet Finale”	T. Albinoni

**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

GREETERS: Margie Closson

HOST: Alice Ruth Ramseyer

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – John and Julie Mackey

Worship – Carrie Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Mary Pannabecker Steiner

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Pat Sheidler, Shelby Cluts

Worship – Kyle and Tara Miller, Ana Neufeld Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

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

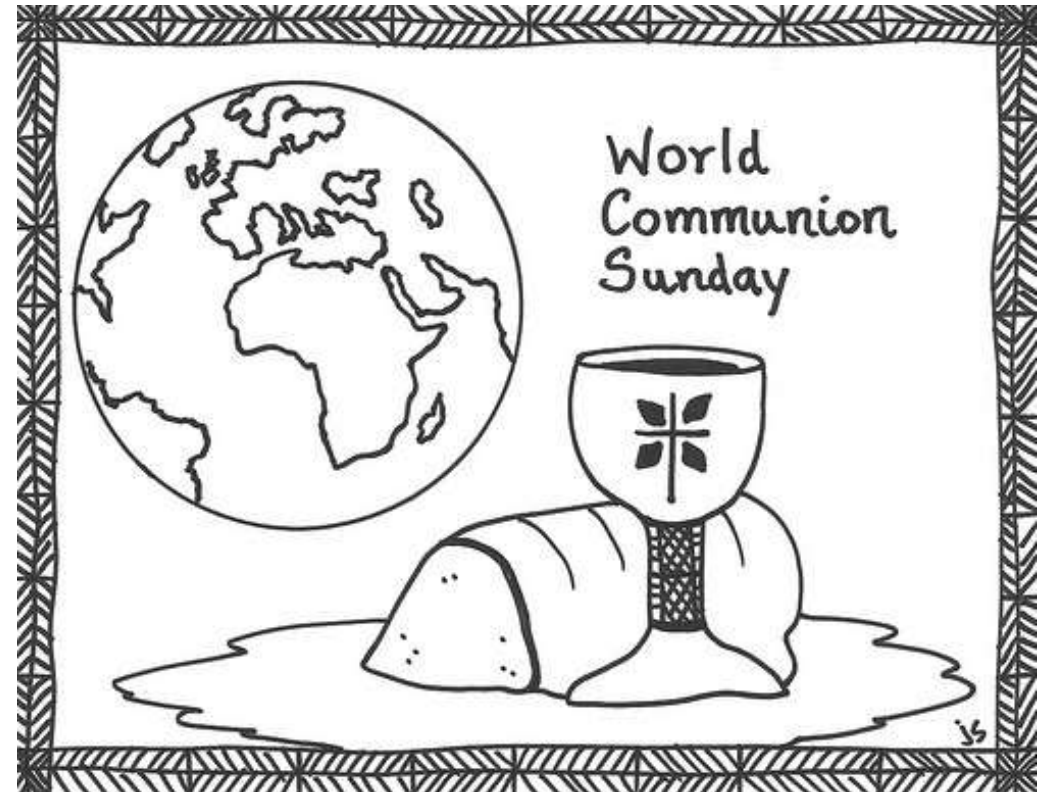
OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-195, MC-9
Spending plan giving Sept. 24, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$3,633.00
Special fund giving Sept. 24, 2017: Grades K-5-\$14.68; Sojourners-\$23, Freudige-\$20, Young adults-\$1, MW-\$10, College scholarships-\$750, MDS-\$320, Habitat-\$10, MCC-\$400, School kits-\$100, Syrian student-\$250	<u>\$1,898.68</u>
Total giving Sept. 24, 2017 ((includes e-giving)	\$5,531.68
Total spending plan receipts as of August 31, 2017	\$253,704.55
Spending plan expenses as of August 31, 2017	\$272,839.08
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
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.



following Mondays are still open for volunteers: October 16, November 20 and December 17. If you are willing to provide a snack, donate money to purchase a snack or want additional information, contact Louise Matthews at 419.303.8057 or matthewsA@bluffton.edu.

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry distributed food and other essential supplies to approximately 50 area families over the summer. The pantry's supplies are running low and need to be refilled, according to Ed Yeager, board president of the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. A list of items needed is posted on the Here and Now pillar in the fellowship hall. Items may be delivered to St. John's United Church of Christ.

Bluffton University will hold a concert featuring its concert band at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8, in Yoder Recital Hall. Dr. Roy Couch, assistant professor of music, conducts the concert band. The concert will feature "Symphonic Suite for Band" by Clifton Williams, a composer, conductor and teacher who taught at the Eastman School of Music. Other selections include "Southern Hymn" by Samuel Hazo, "A Golden Celebration" by Brant Karrick, and "Brighton Beach" by William Latham.

St. John's United Church of Christ, 223 W. College Ave., will hold a beef and noodle dinner Friday, Oct. 6, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. The menu is beef, noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, roll, assorted pies and beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for sixth grade through college age, \$4 for elementary age, and free for pre-kindergarten age children.

Mennonite Youth Choir Festival invites children in grades 3-9 to join in a weekend of singing, March 10-11, 2018, in Goshen, IN. The church has a long and deep tradition of praising God through singing. Youth of all denominations are encouraged to participate. For more information and to register, please visit: www.mennoniteyouthchoir.com or email mychoirfest@gmail.com. (Brochures are available in the revolving literature rack in the FMC fellowship hall.)

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Mary Yoder, October 4, and Joan Diller, October 8.

Betty Sommer is being cared for at home. If you would like to take her and her caregivers a meal, go to <http://www.takethemameal.com/> and sign up for either a Tuesday or Friday at 6 p.m. Under "Find" enter: Sommer. The password is 4651. If you have questions, contact Carolyn Rich at 419-358-5405 or Matt Sommer at 419-230-9854.

Anne Buller is recuperating and continuing therapy at MMH. Visitors are welcome.

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, OCTOBER 1, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, George O'Reilly preaching Communion
1 p.m.	"Mirror of the" Martyrs exhibit opens, Sauder Visual Arts Center
4 p.m.	Readers theatre, "I Have Not Forsaken the Word of God: Jacques d'Auchy's Confessional Struggle," Ramseyer Auditorium

THIS WEEK

Monday (10-2)	MPS, 7 p.m., parlor
Tuesday (10-3)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Wednesday (10-4)	Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10-5)	Anabaptist Singers, 8 p.m., adult choir room Worship, 7 p.m., parlor

NEXT SUNDAY

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

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

Are you new to First Mennonite Church? Do you want to know more about the church? Are you interested in exploring or refreshing your memory regarding what it means to be a member of this congregation? If so, you're invited to attend a membership class that will be held from 9-10 a.m. October 8, 15, 22 and 29. Contact either Pastor Wanda or Pastor George if you are interested.

Worship Commission has extended the "Conversation With Friends" format for the children's time in worship through the end of November. This takes us to Advent and will provide time for the commission to consider feedback. "Conversation With Friends" continues our traditional focus on brief conversations with one point and that engage our children. The invitation will continue through November to be extended to persons of all ages to gather with the younger children.

SHYF will attend the readers theatre, "I Have Not Forsaken the Word of God: Jacques d'Auchy's Confessional Struggle" today at Ramseyer Auditorium, Bluffton University. Please meet at 3:30 p.m. at Ramseyer in College Hall. The performance begins at 4 p.m.

Mennonite Women will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12 (*note date change*) in the fellowship hall. The speaker will be Anita Hooley Yoder, author of the book, "Circles of Sisterhood," the historical writing celebrating the 100-year anniversary of Mennonite Women. Autographed copies of the book will be available at the cost of \$25. Betty Shelly will lead devotions from the chapter, "Give" in the devotional, "Live Your Call." Judy Buller, Judy Diller and Jane Weaver will provide refreshments. If you missed the first MW meeting in September, see the MW pillar by the kitchen for a written summary.

Have you lost a pie plate or cake pan? We might know where it is! Check the "Lost and Found" cupboard in the kitchen -- you may find your long lost items! Check soon as all unclaimed items will be taken to the Et Cetera Shop. -- *The Kitchen Trio*

Need your yard raked? Each youth group will be participating in a "Rake 'n' Run" in October. The youth will come rake your yard but they don't expect any payment or reward! To see dates and to sign up, please see the sign-up sheet located in the fellowship hall or contact Shannon Thiebeau at 419-773-9446 or fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu.

The "Mirror of the Martyrs" traveling exhibit opens today in the Albrecht Gallery of Sauder Visual Arts Center at Bluffton University. The exhibit tells the story of religious conflict and violence in the Reformation era from the perspective of Anabaptist martyrs and offers one way to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 1-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-6 p.m. A readers theatre, "I Have Not Forsaken the Word of God: Jacques d'Auchy's Confessional Struggle," directed by Dr. Melissa Friesen, BU professor of theatre and communication, Bluffton University, will be held at 4 p.m. today at Ramseyer Auditorium, College Hall. This dramatic performance displays key spiritual and theological dialogues recorded in the "Martyr's Mirror" between Anabaptist martyr Jacques d'Auchy and religious officials who interrogated him prior to his execution in 1559. The script for this readers theatre was written by Carrie and Gerald Mast to celebrate the recent discovery of the original 1685 copper etching plate created by Jan Luyken to illustrate the story of Jacques d'Auchy. More information about the exhibit and presentations can also be found at <http://www.bluffton.edu/arts/mirror/>

We need smiling and happy faces to be greeters or hosts for the months of October and November. You just need to be at the church by 10 a.m. Sunday. Sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall, so sign up for one Sunday or several. Thank you for helping to make FMC a welcoming church. If you have questions, ask Mary Amstutz.

School kit collection continues until October 15. We are close to 200 kits so far. We also need people to sew bags to rebuild our supply for our next collection. Some fabric and cording is cut and ready to sew or use your own fabric. Thanks for your support!

Mark Suderman, Director of Music, is making a list of instrumentalists in our church. Please send your name, phone number, email address, and your instrument(s) to Mark at sudermanme@bluffton.edu. Please include you and your children, including children who may be away at college. College students attending First Mennonite Church are encouraged to participate. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are needed to walk elementary school students to and from the school and FMC for the Weekday Christian Education program. WCE aids the church and home by encouraging the spiritual growth and development of students in kindergarten to grade 8. Walkers may cover one or more 30 minute shifts or all day. Thank you to those who have helped! If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Andrea Goings via email at ajgoings@mercy.com or phone/text 419-303-6870.

Rally Point is a youth ministry in Lima supported in various ways by area Mennonite churches. First Mennonite is providing afterschool snacks for 42 youth and staff. The