

21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2015
10:30 a.m.

— GATHERING —

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Gerald Mast
Prelude “Lord of All Life” Edward Broughton

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn** “Earth and all stars” HWB 47

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

L: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty,

C: wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

L: You set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

C: you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers. You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

L: You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.

C: At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

L: They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them.

C: You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.

L: O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

All: Praise the Lord!

Special Music “Sing for Joy, Sing Together” Mark Patterson
Jubilate

Time with Children
Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341
(Sing through once)

Conversation Lisa Weaver

Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341
(Sing through once)

Pastoral Prayer Wanda Stopher

— PROCLAIMING —

Special Music “Let All the Rivers Clap Their Hands” Mark Schweizer
Chancel Choir

Scripture Ezekiel 47:1-12

Sermon “Leaves of the tree healing the nations” Sara Wenger Shenk

***Hymn** “For the healing of the nations” HWB 367

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Children of the Heavenly Father” arr. J. Wayne Kerr

***Hymn of Dedication** “What gift can we bring” HWB 385
(Sing vs. 1)

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “God of the Bible” STJ 27

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

**Please stand, or remain seated if that is more comfortable for you.*

HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book

STJ – Sing the Journey

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

101 S. Jackson Street

Bluffton, Ohio 45817

Phone: 419-358-5766

Website: fmclubffton.org

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Pastor – Wanda – Monday-Thursday, 9-5, off Friday

Associate Pastor – Steve – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday

Director of Youth Ministries – Shannon -- Tuesday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

GREETERS: Jon Diller, Ella Bazy, Mary Pannabecker Steiner

HOST: Mary Anne Moser

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Monica Harnish, Carmen Ordonez

Worship – Bruce Steingass and Amy Freeman, Christopher Harnish

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK:

Worship –

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Gregg Luginbuhl

The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, www.fmclubffton.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	238
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday (FMC DVD)	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	82
Spending plan giving Oct. 4, 2015	\$7,278.00
2015 Proposed spending plan	\$419,469.00
Spending Plan receipts as of Sept. 30, 2015	\$261,315.00
Spending Plan disbursements as of Sept. 30, 2015	\$283,985.00
The offering Oct. 11 totaled \$8,870. Money was received for these special funds: SS - \$11.01, Kitchen Service - \$6, Facility Use - \$75, Capital Campaign - \$338, Habitat for Humanity - \$240, MCC - \$100, College Scholarships - \$50, The Mennonite subscriptions - \$525, Mennonite Women - \$20, Phil Kingsley Memorial - \$125.	

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Wanda Stopher – 419-551-1079 -- fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu

Associate Pastor – Steven Yoder – 419-369-4753 (h) - fmc.steve@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 Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu



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. Donations will be accepted for breakfast and profits will benefit Pastor Max Villatoro. An Iowa Mennonite pastor, Villatoro was deported to his native Honduras in March, despite efforts by clergy members and immigrant advocates to keep him in the U.S. with his wife and four children.

The annual meeting of the Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service will be held on Saturday, November 21, at the Bentwood Solutions plant, Millersburg. The plant is Amish owned and operated. A tour will begin at 12:30 p.m. A joint meeting with the Eastern Ohio Unit will begin at 2 p.m. with registration and refreshments at 1:30. There will be updates from Kevin King and Larry Stoner (binational office), from Region 2, from Detroit, and from the WOU. Brief separate business meetings will be held by both units. The WOU meeting will include election of new officers, a financial report, and a report on current and upcoming projects. The annual meeting is open to everyone, whether active in MDS or not. Please RSVP to Lawrence Matthews at matthewsL@bluffton.edu or 419.303.8056 by Monday, November 16.

The Mennonite Youth Choir Festival will be held March 5-6 at Goshen College. Brent Hyman, director of music and worship coordinator at First Mennonite Church, Berne, IN, is conductor. Children in grades three through nine may register for the festival. Participants prepare for the festival by listening to and learning music sent to them. Practice will be held on Saturday, March 5, and the concert will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 6. Register online at <http://mennoniteyouthchoir.com>.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Please keep Mary Lou Vercler in your thoughts and prayers as she faces serious health concerns. Cards are encouraged and appreciated – her family suggests sending cards that measure 4x6 inches because they fit perfectly into an album they've begun for Mary Lou.

We offer prayers of comfort and support to Alice and Ron Lora. Alice's brother and only sibling, Ronald E. Chumbley, died October 13 in Paris, Kentucky. A funeral was held Saturday.

Congratulations to Lauren LoBianco and Kevin Brenneman, who were married October 10 at Salem Mennonite Church, Elida. Lauren is the daughter of Joan and Jerry LoBianco and granddaughter of Ernie Porzelius, and Kevin is the son of Sue and Byron Brenneman.

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, October 18, 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, Sara Wenger Shenk preaching
Noon	Community Class potluck
3:00 p.m.	Venture Club, Suter's Corn Maze

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (10/20)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (10/21)	ILR Pies and Pastries, 1:30 p.m., FH kitchen Cherub choir and Adult bells, 6 p.m.; Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.; Chancel choir and Youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10/22)	Deacons, 7 p.m.

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, Steven Yoder preaching Scripture: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52

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

We welcome Dr. Sara Wenger Shenk to the pulpit today. She is president of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, a position she began in fall 2010. Prior to that, she was a member of the faculty and administration of Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, Va., for 15 years. She and her husband, Gerald, served as students and teachers in the former Yugoslavia from 1977 to 1983. Among her many publications are the following: *Anabaptist Ways of Knowing: A Conversation About Tradition-based Critical Education* (Cascadia, 2003) and *Meditations for New Parents* (Herald, 1996).

Let's get acquainted! Seriously! My overarching goal for my first year as pastor of First Mennonite Church is for us to learn to know one another. I look forward to learning to know you as individuals, as families, as a faith community and as part of the larger Bluffton community. One of the best ways I know to start is to meet and swap some stories over coffee or a meal, or just in my office. Give me a call to make sure I'll be free. If you'd like Bret to join us, we'll schedule it when he's available, too. Hope to see you soon!
-- Wanda (419) 551-1079

NEW WEBSITE: FMC now has a new website. The address remains the same: www.fmcbluffton.edu. Bluffton University senior Josh Burkholder has been working very diligently with Mary Steiner to create the new site. Please be patient as we work through some links that are not working and some photos that do not load. Also, note that the shared items page requires a password. Please request that password from Mary Pannabecker Steiner at 419.358.5766 or fmc@bluffton.edu.

Venture Club will visit Suter's Corn Maze this afternoon. They will meet in the church parking lot at 3 p.m. Children should bring \$4.50 for admission. Drivers and chaperones are needed. Please contact Laura at gregphartzler@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

SHYF will host a spaghetti lunch following the worship service on Sunday, Oct. 25 to raise funds for their summer service trip. The location of our trip will be announced at the lunch. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

Are you interested in transferring your membership to First Mennonite Church? A new member class will be held on October 25 during the Sunday school hour beginning at

9:15 a.m. We will work with the class to schedule two more sessions. Contact Pastors Wanda or Steve if you are interested.

Dwight Kauffman has been nominated to serve as Region 2 Director of MDS for the next year commencing with the Region 2 annual meeting in Michigan on October 23-24. This is a very important role and much conversation and prayer has gone into this process. Region 2 covers states from WI/MI in the north to the gulf coast. Please keep Dwight and Trella in your thoughts and prayers.
-- Lawrence Matthews

"TIMBREL" MAGAZINE is published quarterly by Mennonite Women USA. Renew your subscription at a group rate of \$13 at the MW monthly meeting or with a designated check in the offering plate by November 9. (Nice gift for someone, too.) Sample copies are in the church library.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brazo en Brazo: Kristen Rohdes will review her recent service with Mennonite Central Committee in Bolivia at 5:30 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church, 1318 N. Main Street, Lima. Her experience in Bolivia encouraged her to have a continued relationship with the Spanish speaking population. She began participating in the Brazo en Brazo worship service in August. We are looking forward to this opportunity to become more acquainted with the ministry of MCC "en el nombre de Cristo" (in the name of Christ). All are welcome.
-- Paul and Ann Conrad

Annual Open House: As a token of our appreciation to all sponsoring churches, the Et Cetera Shop Inc. stores will host a three-hour open house on Sunday, Oct. 18. From 2-5 p.m., Et Cetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages and Book ReViews- will offer substantial savings to shoppers. Et Cetera Shop - save 50% off on everything in the store. Ten Thousand Villages - save 25% off regular priced items and Book ReViews - save 50% off all books. Each store will have an enter-to-win and provide refreshments.

Dr. Lucia Unrau, a pianist and professor of music at Bluffton University, will present a faculty recital with Sandra Jackson, clarinet, from Eastern Michigan University and David Jackson, trombone, from the University of Michigan on Sunday, Oct. 25, in Yoder Recital Hall. The recital begins at 2:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora, will hold its annual book sale, bake sale and breakfast November 20-21. Congregations of area Mennonite churches are invited to attend. If you wish to order materials or books in advance, contact Jilaine Graber at Faith and Life Bookstore at info@faithandlifebooks.com or 260-589-2135. She will deliver pre-ordered items to the sale. The book sale and bake sale will be held from 6:30-8:30