

First Mennonite Church
October 22, 2017
10:30 a.m.

–GATHERING –

Chimes call us to worship		Deb Niswander
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Ken Shenk
Prelude	“Noah” <i>Jubilate</i>	Benjamin Harlan
Call to worship		
*Opening Hymn	“Lord Jesus Christ, be present now”	HWB 22
*Responsive Reading		Psalms 99
L: The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!		
C: The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.		
L: Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!		
C: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.		
L: Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!		
C: Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.		
L: He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.		
C: O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.		
All: Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.		
Special Music	“How Shall I Sing To God” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	Lloyd Larson

– PRAISING –

Conversation with Friends		
Hymn	“We plow the fields and scatter” (vs. 1)	HWB 96
Conversation		Greg Ring
Hymn	“We plow the fields and scatter” (vs. 2)	HWB 96
Pastoral Prayer		Mark Weidner
*Hymn	“Sing hallelujah, praise the Lord”	HWB 67

– PROCLAIMING –

Scripture	Matthew 22:15-22	Mary Ann Suter
Sermon	“Whose image?”	Wanda Stopher
*Hymn	“O young and fearless prophet”	HWB 374

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”	Thomas Tallis/Burkhardt
*Hymn of Dedication	“Lord, thou dost love” (vs. 1)	HWB 387
*Prayer of Dedication		

– SENDING –

*Hymn	“Christ, we do all adore thee”	HWB 105
*Benediction		
*Postlude	“How Can I Keep from Singing”	Robert Lowry

**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.

- hymnal from MennoMedia, will lead participants in hymns that explore the musical heritage of local Swiss immigrant churches: from songs of the Anabaptist martyrs, to favorite American hymns, to new songs proposed for the hymnal.
- Dr. C. Arnold Snyder, professor emeritus of history at Conrad Grebel University, will present “Hiding in Plain Sight: Swiss Anabaptism in the Later 16th Century” at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 23 in Bluffton University’s Kreider Room of Marbeck Center and “Toleration in the Reformation: Historical Reflections for Today,” at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24 in Yoder Recital Hall.

Bluffton University will host a fall choral concert today featuring the University Chorale and Camerata Singers at 2:30 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Natalie Mallis, visiting assistant professor of music, will conduct the concert, which will include music by Palestrina, Handel, Debussy and Duruflé. Accompanists are Ana Yoder Coulter and Benjamin Crook. A free-will offering will be taken for music scholarships.

Threads of Grace, the women's sewing ministry at Grace Mennonite in Pandora, will be having a Comforter Blitz Thursday and Friday, Nov. 2-3 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. All are invited to knot comforters during any of the two-day period. Please RSVP to Cindy Luginbill at lugc@watchtv.net by Monday, Oct. 30 (for meal planning purposes.)

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Betty Sommer continues treatment for stage 4 renal cell carcinoma. She is receiving weekly chemotherapy infusions in Findlay. Short visits may be planned in advance by texting or emailing Betty or calling her sister, Doris, at 410-430-0849. Thank you for the prayers, food, flowers, and cards. Our family has definitely felt the love and support of this congregation over the last months. -- Jen Benroth

Anne Buller moved to Maple Crest independent living October 23 and is enjoying her new home. Her new address is 700 Maple Crest Court, Apt 123, Bluffton. Her phone and e-mail address remain the same: 419-369-4449, awbuller@embarqmail.com.

Bob Flick has moved to the Mennonite Memorial Home, Room 211.

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 22, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
2:30 p.m.	Choral concert, BU Chorale and Camerata, Yoder Recital Hall
4 p.m.	“Great Day of Singing,” Yoder Recital Hall

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (10-24)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (10-25)	Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10-26)	Pastor visit with Maple Crest residents, 2:30 p.m. Deacons, 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, Isaac Villegas preaching
Noon	Potluck for young adults, FH

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

Text for the Chancel Choir anthem:

How shall I sing to God when life is filled with gladness, loving and birth, wonder and worth?

I'll sing from the heart, thankfully receiving, joyful in believing.

This is my song, I'll sing it, sing it with love.

How shall I sing to God when life is filled with bleakness, empty and chill, breaking my will?

I'll sing through my pain, angrily or aching, crying or complaining.

This is my song, I'll sing it, sing it with love.

How shall I sing and tell my Savior's story: passover bread, life from the dead?

I'll sing with my life, witnessing and giving, risking and forgiving.

How shall I sing to God when life is filled with gladness, loving and birth, wonder and worth?

I'll sing from the heart, thankfully receiving, joyful in believing.

This is my song, I'll sing it, sing it with love.

-- Brian Wren

Chancel Contemplation: The James Baldwin quote, "The purpose of art is to lay bare the questions that have been hidden by the answers" is helpful as I try to look at visual dilemmas in a new way. This month we've heard scripture passages from Matthew that tell familiar parables /stories. How can we "lay bare the questions" for our lives today? Visuals in the sanctuary have included artworks that have helped us consider alternate ways of seeing.

-- Anita Lehman

Next Sunday, Oct. 29, we will welcome Isaac Villegas as our preacher. Villegas, pastor of Chapel Hill (N.C.) Mennonite Fellowship, is a member of the governing board of the North Carolina Council of Churches and has served on the denominational board of Mennonite Church USA, as well as non-profit organizations. He is a graduate of Westmont College and has an M.Div. from Duke Divinity School.

Young Adult Potluck: If you identify as a young adult, we invite you to a potluck today following worship in the fellowship hall. This potluck is not associated with the Young Adult Sunday school class. If you have questions, contact Shannon Thiebeau.

Final notice for FMC address/phone directory: Remember to notify Mary Steiner in the church office if you have any changes – additions, revisions, updates – to your contact information for the address/phone directory. **Please note that this is a different directory than the pictorial directory that Pastor George is coordinating.**

Thanks to Mona Reichenbach for sharing her collection of Noah's Ark items in the assembly room display case. The first lesson of the Adult Bible Study Guide is based on Genesis 9:8-17 and Genesis 8:20-22. Mona, who has collected these items for 30-40 years, explains, "A collection of Noah's descendants and the covenant God made with him and all living creatures. Build an ark; send a flood to destroy evil and a rainbow to appear that never again would the earth be flooded again. (It was) his promise to Noah."

It is time to renew our group subscription to *The Mennonite* magazine. Renewal notes have been distributed to those currently subscribing. If you are interested in joining our group plan as a new subscriber, please contact the church office at fmc@bluffton.edu or 419.358.5766. New subscribers can receive a one-year subscription for the discounted rate of \$30. Renewal rates for 2018 are \$37.

MCC school kit collection for this year was completed last week. We filled a total of 210 kits. Thank you for your generosity for this cause. Our present supply of kit bags is very low, so we will need to rebuild the supply before hygiene kit collection begins in 2018. This fall, we had to request 50 kit bags from MCC in Goshen. Hopefully, we can stay ahead of the need for the next collection. We will keep the tubs out for material collection, cut "ready to sew" bags, and for completed bags. If you have questions or difficulty with any stage of making the bags, please let us know. Thanks!

-- Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf

The "Mirror of the Martyrs" traveling exhibit continues in the Albrecht Gallery of Sauder Visual Arts Center at Bluffton University. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, 1-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-6 p.m.

- "The Ephrata 'Martyrs Mirror: A History Dramatic and Useful,'" curated by Carrie Phillips, archives and special collections librarian at Bluffton University, is now open. The Musselman Library's Mennonite Historical Collection contains many copies of the 1748 "Martyrs Mirror." This exhibit explores the craft of early colonial printing as displayed in the Ephrata Cloister's publication of the "Martyrs Mirror" and other German devotional materials. The library's exhibit will be open through November 5 from 2-5 p.m., M, W, F and 3-6 p.m., Sunday.
- The Swiss Community Historical Society sponsors the Great Day of Singing at 4 p.m. today in Yoder Recital Hall. Bradley Kauffman, project director of the new