

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 16, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Laurel Neufeld Weaver, worship leader

Prelude “Listen, God is Calling” arr. Anne Krentz-Organ

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn** “We sing to you, O God” STJ 1

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 119:97-104

L: Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

C: Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.

L: I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

C: I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

L: I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

C: I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

L: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

All: Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Special Music “If You Love Me” John Ness Beck
Chancel Choir

Time with Children

Hymn “All things bright and beautiful” (verse 3) HWB 156

Conversation JP Schumacher

Hymn “All things bright and beautiful” (verse 4) HWB 156

Pastoral Prayer George O’Reilly

Hymn “The Lord’s Prayer” James Bixel
Back of hymnal

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Luke 18:1-8 Allison Diller

Sermon “What the world needs now” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** “Vision: Healing and Hope” Patty Shelly
Inside back cover -- sing twice

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Old-Time Religion” arr. Mark Hayes

***Hymn of Dedication** “Praise God from whom” HWB 118

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “The Lord lift you up” STJ 73

***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: 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: Kay and Mark Weidner, Vicki Laird, Cheryl Slotter

HOST: Joyce Hostetler

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Greg and Laura Hartzler, Shelby Cluts

Worship – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Elizabeth and Annalise Nisly

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Elaine Suderman, Lori Nester, Pat Scheidler

Worship – Annette Heslep, Mary Ina Hooley, Jason Diller

SOUND SYSTEM: Walt Paquin

CHANCEL: Bev Simon

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	228
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	8
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	86
Spending plan giving Oct. 9, 2016	\$9,114.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00

The offering Oct. 9 totaled \$11,445.96. Money was received for these special funds: Grades K-5 - \$8.86, Grades 6-8 - \$2, Sojourners - \$34, Freudige - \$50, Faith and Life - \$29, College scholarships - \$700, Kitchen service - \$11.10, Deacons benevolent - \$487, Capital campaign - \$625, MDS - \$50, Mennonite Women - \$20, School kits - \$25, Gregg Luginbuhl memorial - \$50.

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 Steiner - 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.



Tickets are available for the Artist Series performance by the Vienna Piano Trio Thursday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Founded in 1988, the trio performs works by composers closely associated with Austria, such as Brahms, Schubert and Haydn. Reserved seats are \$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens and non-Bluffton students and \$10 for children ages 6-13. Children ages 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu> or at Marbeck Center information desk.

MCC comforter knotting will be held Thursday, Nov. 3 at 9 a.m. at Grace Mennonite Church, Pandora. We welcome you to join us and stay for lunch.

The campaign to Renew Friedenswald is well underway and we are preparing for construction to begin on the boys' cabins, guest house and chapel in November. Help us kick-off this exciting time by joining us October 21-22. Projects will include cabin demolition, removing beds/mattresses and preparing the site for new cabins. For more information and to indicate your availability, e-mail info@friedenswald.org or call 269-476-9744. Thanks for your support. -- Jenna Liechty Martin

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

As you identify concerns for prayer or expressions of gratitude for kindnesses, we list those here. Please let us know what we may share for you. – FMC staff

To our First Mennonite Church family, thank you so much for the meals, flowers, support at the visitation and memorial service, cards, words of encouragement and all of your thoughts and prayers concerning Gregg. Your kindness is very much appreciated! -- Karen Luginbuhl and family

We express our condolences to the family of Joan Bauman, who died October 12 in Indianapolis. A service will be held Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m. at First Mennonite.

Lowell Hostetler will have knee replacement surgery on Tuesday, Oct. 18, at Blanchard Valley Hospital. He and Marty appreciate your prayers.

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, Sunita Hooley will be having minor surgery on her eye to arrest the progression of her loss of vision. Please pray that she would be able to hold still for the 60 minutes required.

Adan Ortiz appreciates your prayers and support as he continues to face serious health issues. Those able to provide transportation should contact Adan at 419-358-0955.

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, OCT. 16, 2016

9:00 a.m.	Coffee Time
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Community class potluck
	SHYF, 6 p.m., SHYF classroom

THIS WEEK

Monday (10-17)	MPS, 7 p.m., parlor
Tuesday (10-18)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary
	Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
	Adriel, 9:30 a.m., library
	Dare to Dream, 7 p.m., FH
Wednesday (10-19)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m.
	Jubilate, 6:45 p.m.
	Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10-20)	MW cutting kits for comforter tops, 1 p.m., FH
	Congregational Discernment Team, 5 p.m., parlor
	Council, 7:30 p.m., AR

NEXT WEEK

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

Bulletin deadline: Items for the bulletin must be submitted to the church office by 5 p.m. Thursday. (This may be adjusted for holiday printing changes.)

Church facility reminders: When using a space in the church, please remember to leave it in the same order in which you found it. Replace tables and chairs, turn off lights and equipment and close doors.

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

The SHYF will make care packages today from 6-7 p.m. in the SHYF room. Making care packages for last year's graduates is a tradition for our youth. Each youth should donate an item -- homemade or at a cost of approximately \$5. Sample items include Ramen, popcorn, candy/gum, school supplies, Easy Mac, tissues, toys and bandages.

Spending Plan Update: Through September 2016, Spending Plan receipts totaled \$265,545, while expenses/distributions have totaled \$291,404. By comparison, 2015 receipt and expenses/distributions were \$261,313 and \$238,984 respectively. Spending Plan giving was very good in the last quarter last year. Can we do it again?

-- Stewardship Commission

You are invited to help cut and assemble kits of fabric for comforter tops Thursday, Oct. 20, at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall. People are also needed for ironing fabric and arranging squares into rows ready to sew. In addition, a machine will be set up if anyone wishes to sew. Some cutting equipment is available, but please bring rotary cutters, rulers, and mats if you have them. See you Thursday! -- MW Project Committee

Members and friends of FMC who are concerned with assisting immigrants who have been denied financial aid because of their financial status are invited to a Dare to Dream event Tuesday, Oct. 18, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will hear from Luz Varela, the Dare to Dream Scholarship recipient for four years who graduated in 2015. The current scholarship recipient will also speak about her experience.

“Do You Remember When ... ?” If you are 80 or older, mark Sunday, Oct. 23 on your calendar for a FMC Senior Celebration at 2 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Enjoy an afternoon of memories with others in your elite age group. Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will provide transportation.

Thanks to those who have responded to the need for more volunteers in the nursery. Jen Benroth says that she's been able to fill in the empty spaces for the rest of this year. But we still need more volunteers – especially during the Sunday school hours! Individuals willing to read books, play games, build towers, cuddle – even just once per quarter -- are encouraged to contact Jen at jesommer2000@yahoo.com or 419-230-3945.

FIRST Night will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 25. The meal will begin at 6 p.m. and a program at 6:30 p.m. The menu will include barbecued pulled pork sandwiches or veggie burgers, potato salad, veggie platter and dip, fruit salad, cookies/brownies. The evening's program will feature Lawrence Matthews speaking about Mennonite Disaster Service. Tickets for just the October 25 dinner will be sold in the fellowship hall today and next Sunday. The price per meal remains \$4 per person or \$12 per family. **Please bring your own table service, including cups and silverware.**

Congregation: The Capital Campaign officially ended earlier this year, but contributions to meet our goal are still possible. Presently the Campaign is \$9,800 short of meeting expenses. In consideration of this shortfall, the Stewardship Commission is asking that people who still wish to support this effort may make donations before the end of October. This campaign has been a success and your giving has been appreciated. The very hard working Trustees have done well. -- The Stewardship Commission

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bluffton University's fall concert featuring Camerata Singers, University Chorale and Concert Band will be held today at 2:30 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. Among the music Camerata performs will be two pieces accompanied by solo instrumentalists. Camerata is directed by Dr. Mark J. Suderman. The University Chorale, conducted by Jonathan Wey, will sing traditional American folk tunes and hymns. Concert Band, conducted by Dr. Roy Couch, will perform an arrangement of choral preludes by William P. Latham and Scenes from “The Louvre” by Norman Dello Joio.

Luz Varela will speak on “ProtectRefugees: The Criminalization of Immigrants in the United States” at Bluffton University's Forum at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18 in Yoder Recital Hall. Luz graduated from Bluffton in 2015 and since then has worked with families of refugees who have been in detention in San Antonio, Texas.

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. 23 from 2-5 p.m. Et Cetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages and Book ReViews will offer substantial savings to shoppers. Et Cetera Shop will offer 50 percent off on everything in the store, Ten Thousand Villages, 25 percent off regular priced items and Book ReViews, 40 percent off all theology and religion and 30 percent off all other books. Each store will have an enter-to-win and provide refreshments.