

World Communion Sunday
October 2, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship		LuAnn Stuckey, organist
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions		Darryl Nester, worship leader
Prelude	“Bread of Life”	Toolan/arr. Carter
Call to Worship		
*Invocation		
	— PRAISING —	
*Opening Hymn	“What is this place”	HWB 1
*Responsive Reading		Psalm 37:1-9
L: Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,		
C: for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.		
L: Trust in the Lord, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.		
C: Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.		
L: Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.		
C: He will make your vindication shine like the light, and the justice of your cause like the noonday.		
L: Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices.		
C: Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil.		
All: For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.		
Time with Children		
Hymn	“All things bright and beautiful” (verse 1)	HWB 156
Conversation		Chris Moser
Hymn	“All things bright and beautiful” (verse 2)	HWB 156

Pastoral Prayer		Wanda Stopher
	— RESPONDING —	
Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory	“Gift of Finest Wheat”	Kreutz/arr. Carter
*Prayer of Dedication		
	— PROCLAIMING —	
Scripture		John 17: 18-23
Sermon	“Far away thoughts -- Feelings close at hand”	George O’Reilly
*Hymn	“Here in this place”	HWB 6
	— COMMUNION —	
The Invitation		
Prayer of Confession (read in unison)		
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.		
		<i>-- John D. Rempel, New York City From Words for Worship; used by permission of Herald Press</i>
Sharing the Bread		
Sharing the Cup		
Prayer of Thanksgiving		
	— SENDING —	
*Hymn	“Sent forth by God's blessing”	HWB 478
*Benediction		
*Postlude		
	<i>*Please stand (remain seated if that is more comfortable for you)</i>	
	<i>HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book STJ – Sing the Journey</i>	
	<i>Large-print hymnals and bulletins are available on the cabinet next to the parlor. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.</i>	

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, Ruth Naylor, Tig Intagliata

HOST: Vicki Laird

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Hannah Combs, Lu Derstine, Tig Intagliata

Worship – Darby and Jen Benroth, Betty Sommer

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Ryan and Kristen Niekamp, Marilyn Bishop

Worship – John and Julie Mackey, Carmen Ordonez

SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

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	236
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	8
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	93
Spending plan giving September 25, 2016	\$6,187.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Sept. 25 totaled \$7,023. Money was received for these special funds: Grades K-5 - \$7.50, Sojourners - \$10, Grades 6-8 - \$2, Grades 9-12 - \$2, MDS - \$100, kitchen service - \$5.50, Deacons benevolent - \$20, The Mennonite subscriptions - \$111, Mennonite Women - \$30, capital campaign, Elizabeth McDowell 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 - 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.



The annual meeting of the Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale is Sunday, Oct. 23 at 6:40 p.m. at Kidron Mennonite Church, 3987 Kidron Road, Kidron. Refreshments will be served.

“Silent Treatment,” an exhibition of work by Bluffton University art faculty: Andreas Baumgartner, Jim Fultz, T.R. Steiner and Philip Sugden, will open Oct. 3 in Bluffton University’s Grace Albrecht Gallery, located in the Sauder Visual Arts Center. The exhibit will continue through Oct 16. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. A reception for the artists will be held during Homecoming weekend from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 15.

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

Happy birthday to Mary Yoder, 93, Oct. 4, and Joan Bauman, 84, Oct. 8.

Please continue to offer prayers of support for the family of Gregg Luginbuhl, who died Sept. 26 at St. Rita’s Inpatient Hospice Center. He is survived by his wife, Karen, their children, Alison (Kevin) King, Ben (Alex Roth) Luginbuhl, Ashley, Kristen and Kat Luginbuhl; his mother, Evelyn Luginbuhl; his brother, Bill Luginbuhl; and granddaughters, Milena and Madelyn King. A memorial service was held Oct. 1 at FMC.

Please remember Ron and Phyllis Friesen in your prayers as Ron has been diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

Adan Ortiz appreciates your prayers and support as he continues to face serious health issues. He is in need of transportation to Columbus on Monday, Oct. 10, as well as for other appointments. Those able to provide transportation should contact Adan at 419-358-0955.

Congratulations to Miev and Kan Chan on the birth of their granddaughter, Julie Meredith Rossi, born September 29. Julie is the daughter of Tracy and Phillip Rossi, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Congratulations to Lawrence and Louise Matthews on the birth of their granddaughter, Aviana Matthews Stoltzfus, born September 22. Aviana is the daughter of Rochelle and Doug Matthews Stoltzfus, Gordonville, Pa.

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. 2, 2016

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O’Reilly preaching
Noon	Connections potluck, FH
6 p.m.	SHYF, classroom

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (10-4)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (10-5)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (10-6)	Worship, 7 p.m., Parlor
Saturday (10-7)	Advent planning, 8:30-noon, parlor CDC annual conference planning mtg., 10:30 a.m.-3 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, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Freudige/Sojourners potlucks, FH/AR

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 observe communion during worship. Unity within the body of Christ is one of the themes of communion. Another aspect often overlooked is the giving of alms. This is done at FMC by giving to the Deacons Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community.

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 during the Sunday school hour at 9 a.m., October 9, 16, 23, and 30. Contact Pastor Wanda or Pastor George **TODAY** if you are interested.

Needed: More volunteers to be entertained by our youngest congregants. On the up side, we've had a wonderful influx of babies over the past few years, which has resulted in a much busier nursery on Sunday morning. Sadly, unless more volunteers sign up to spend time with the youngest children in the church, there will be no nursery coverage during the Sunday school hour from November 13 through December, according to Jen Benroth, nursery coordinator, and Judy Steiner, CE commission member. **Who's willing to help out?** Individuals willing to read books, play games, build towers, cuddle babies during the Sunday school hour – even just once per quarter -- are encouraged to contact Jen at jesommer2000@yahoo.com or 419-230-3945.

“Paths not chosen” will be the focus for Mennonite Women, Monday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Elizabeth Kelly will be the presenter and Linda Suter the devotional leader. Refreshments will be provided by Trella Kauffman and Carolyn Rich. In case you missed the first meeting in September, be sure to check out the Mennonite Women pillar by the kitchen for a written summary and photos.

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*

NEEDED: Individuals and/or couples to serve as greeters during November. There is sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Please direct all questions to Mary Amstutz.

The Interplay workshop that was scheduled Oct. 22 for mentors and mentees has been cancelled. -- *Carol Welty*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rehearsals for Bluffton's 121st performance of Handel's "Messiah" will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 4, in the Gilliom Room, Mosiman Hall. Anyone interested in singing, from high school students to adults, is invited to join the chorus. Rehearsals will meet each Tuesday except Nov. 22, with the performance at 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 in Founders Hall. Jonathan Wey, visiting conductor, will conduct. For more information, contact Jonathan Wey at weyj@bluffton.edu or the music department office 419-358-3347.

Pleasant View Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind., is hosting the 2nd annual Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes Comforter Bash on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. We are all invited -- women, men, youth groups, friends and family. On both days, lunch will be provided for a donation. The comforters will be distributed by MCC around the world as an expression of warmth and a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. -- *Sarah Basinger*

FMC member Raymond F. Person Jr., professor of religion at Ohio Northern University, lives on a historic Swiss Mennonite homestead near Bluffton, run by a cooperative of 17 families to produce meat, eggs and vegetables. He'll discuss the value of one pursuit to the other in a lecture at Methodist Theological School in Ohio: "Finding Deuteronomy in the Dirt: How Farming Informs My Biblical Scholarship" at 7 p.m. Oct. 11 at MTSO, Delaware. The author of eight books, Person will review his written commentary and reflect on the influence farming has had on his insights into the biblical text. He holds a bachelor's degree from Phillips University, a master's from the Graduate Seminary at Phillips University and a doctorate from Duke University.

All are invited to Adriel's 2016 benefit auction on Saturday, Oct. 15. Doors open at 8 a.m. for breakfast and a preview; the auction begins at 10 a.m. A community fellowship will be held from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 14, with refreshments and music.