

23rd Sunday after Pentecost
October 23, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau, organist
Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Kevin Cluts, worship leader
Prelude “Praise Him! Praise Him!” arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn** “I sing with exultation” HWB 438

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 65

L: Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; and to you shall vows be performed,

C: O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.

L: When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions.

C: Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your holy temple.

L: By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.

C: By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.

L: You silence the roaring of seas, the roaring of waves, the tumult of the peoples.

C: Those who live at earth’s farthest bounds are awed by your signs; you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

L: You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

C: You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges and blessing its growth.

L: You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

C: The pastures of the wilderness overflow; the hills gird themselves with joy,

All: the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

Time with Children

Hymn “All things bright and beautiful” (verse 1) HWB 156

Conversation Carrie Mast

Hymn “All things bright and beautiful” (verse 2) HWB 156

Pastoral Prayer Prayer of Confession Wanda Stopher
(See insert -- read responsively)

Dedication of School Kits Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf

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

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture II Kings 22, Hebrews 4:12-13 Amy Freeman

Sermon “The Word of God is Solid Ground” Gerald Mast

***Hymn** “The word of God is solid ground” HWB 314

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “The Gift to be Simple” arr. Dale Wood

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “We are people of God's peace” HWB 407

***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: 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.-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: Mary Anne Moser

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Elaine Suderman, Lori Nester, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Annette Heslep, Mary Ina Hooley, Jason Diller

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Melinda, Patrick & Rebecca Estell, Monica Harnish

Worship – Kyle and Tara Miller, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Walt Paquin

CHANCEL: Bev Simon

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	222
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	97
Spending plan giving Oct. 16, 2016	\$7,400.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Oct. 16 totaled \$7,400. Money was received for these special funds: Grades K-5 - \$16.60, Grades 9-12 - \$2, Sojourners - \$4, Faith and Life - \$9, Community - \$3, Connection - \$10, Young Adults - \$10, Kitchen service - \$7.40, Capital campaign - \$1,025, MCC Haiti - \$1,000, Mennonite Women - \$258, Gregg Luginbuhl memorial - \$50, Dare to Dream - \$20, FIRST Night - \$24, Habitat - \$240.	

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.



from the binational office, Region 2, and western Ohio. A continental breakfast and cafeteria lunch are included. The meeting is open to anyone interested in MDS past, present, and future. Contact Lawrence Matthews if you would like to attend or for more information.

Tickets are available for the Artist Series performance by the Vienna Piano Trio Thursday, Oct. 27, at 7 p.m. in Yoder Recital Hall. 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.

All are invited to participate in Bluffton English Lutheran Church's study of stereotypes and misconceptions about Islam and Muslims, examining the basics of Islam and its history and how those beliefs and history shape Muslims in their daily lives. As a resource, they'll use Nabeel Qureshi's "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Jesus." The study will meet October 23, 30, November 6 and 13 at 7 p.m. at the ELC. For more information, contact Pastor Kevin Mohr at 419-604-9339 or at elchurch@wcoil.com.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy birthday to Doris Hamman, 94, October 27.

Happy anniversary to Dick and Corrinne Boehr, who celebrate their 65th on October 28.

Ron's mom, Estella Headings, died peacefully in her sleep October 16 in Lincoln, NE. She had been in hospice care for two weeks. Our family will travel to Kansas for her memorial service on November 5. This has been a long, hard goodbye for Ron, and all of us, as his mom has battled dementia for several years. We are grateful that her mind and body are at peace. We so appreciate your prayers and support.

-- Ron, Linda, Jake and Luke Headings

Thank you so very much for your prayers for Sunita's eye procedure Wednesday. We certainly felt them. Sunita did a fabulous job of holding still, so the procedure went as planned. The second eye will be done after her first eye has had a chance to heal -- at least one month.

-- Sunita, Mary Ina and Don Hooley

Adan Ortiz continues to face health issues and is in need of transportation to appointments. If you are available as a driver, please call Adan at 419.358-0955. He appreciates your prayers of support.

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. 23, 2016

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Gerald Mast preaching
2 p.m.	Senior Celebration, FH
2:30 p.m.	JHYF, SS classroom

THIS WEEK

Tuesday (10-25)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor FIRST Night, 6 p.m., FH
Wednesday (10-26)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Flooring committee, 8 p.m., parlor
Thursday (10-27)	Deacons, 7:30 p.m., parlor
Friday (10-28)	Menno-Life deadline

NEXT WEEK

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

Bulletin deadline: Items for the bulletin must be submitted to the church office by **9 a.m. Thursday**. (This will 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

See your church mailbox for a report from the Congregational Discernment Team. Questions are welcome! Call any of the team members: Rich Bucher, Laura Hartzler, Chris Moser, Rhonda Winstead, George O'Reilly, and Wanda Stopher.

“Do You Remember When ... ?” Those of you who are 80 or older are invited to a senior celebration in Fellowship Hall today at 2 p.m. Come and enjoy sharing memories. Bus transportation will leave from Mennonite Memorial Home at 1:30, Maple Crest at 1:40, Willow Ridge at 1:45. The bus will return by 3:30 p.m.

Thank you to Ethan Blount for volunteering to insert copies of the Patty Shelly hymn, “Vision: Healing and Hope,” in the back cover of all of the hymnals in the sanctuary. With the help of his mom, Amy, he completed this job for the October 16 worship service and our first singing of this hymn.

November Menno-Life deadline: Items for the November Menno-Life must be submitted by 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 28.

All Saints Day is one of the oldest feast days of the Christian Church Year. This festival day reminds us, not only of the “cloud of witnesses” named in Hebrews 11, but also of all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the body of Christ. Next Sunday, at the end of our worship service, we will offer an invitation for those who have lost loved ones since November 1, 2015 to light a candle to remember them and give thanks for their lives.

Sponsors needed: We are still looking for committed sponsors for both SHYF and JHYF. If you can commit 2-4 hours a month, are interested in learning, teaching, and having a TON of fun, and going on trips, please contact Shannon Thiebeau at fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu.

Adult volunteers are needed to go with the SHYF for a service weekend at Camp Friedenswald November 18-20. If interested please contact Shannon Thiebeau at fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu.

FIRST Night will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 25. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., with a program at 6:30 p.m. The menu is barbecued pulled pork sandwiches or veggie burgers, potato

salad, veggie platter and dip, fruit salad, cookies/brownies. Lawrence Matthews will speak about Mennonite Disaster Service. Tickets for will be sold in the fellowship hall today. The price per meal is \$4 per person or \$12 per family. **Please bring your own table service, including cups and silverware.**

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

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

If you would like to send a card, note or letter to Ashton Cluts as she is serving in South Africa her address is: Ashton Cluts, c/o Nigel Stainbank, PO Box 71, Eston 3740, South Africa.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 with substantial savings on Sunday, Oct. 23 from 2-5 p.m. 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.

St. John's United Church of Christ, 223 W College Ave., will hold a beef and noodle dinner Friday, Oct. 28, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mennonite Disaster Service: The work in Detroit from the August 2014 flood continues this fall. Volunteers from First and Grace Mennonite churches are asked to serve in Detroit the week of November 13-18. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, contact Lawrence Matthews at 419.303.8056.

The annual meeting of the MDS Western Ohio Unit will be held Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Rosedale Bible Institute (Plain City area.) Reports will be given