

21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 9, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Steve Harnish, worship leader

Prelude “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” arr. J. Bert Carlson

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn** “I’ll praise my Maker” HWB 166

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 66: 1-12

L: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

C: sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise.

L: Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

C: All the earth worships you; they sing praises to your name.”

L: Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

C: He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There we rejoiced in him,

L: who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations -- let the rebellious not exalt themselves.

C: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard,

L: who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

C: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

L: You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

All: you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

Special Music “Jubilate Deo” WA Mozart
Chancel Choir Translation: Psalm 66:1

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

Conversation Tara Miller

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

Portrait Dedication

Pastoral Prayer George O’Reilly

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture Luke 17:11-19

Sermon “Border Walk” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** “O Christ the Healer” HWB 379

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “All Things Bright and Beautiful” arr. Keith Kolander

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “Jesus Shall Reign” HWB 319

***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, Ruth Naylor, Tig Intagliata

HOST: Vicki Laird

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

Worship – John and Julie Mackey, Carmen Ordonez

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

Worship – Tom and Sue Schaaf, Elizabeth and Annalise Nisly

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

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	NA
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	7
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	74
Spending plan giving Oct. 2, 2016	\$8,766.30
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Oct. 2 totaled \$9,382.83. Money was received for these special funds: Grades K-5 - \$3.13, Sojourners - \$4, Freudige - \$10, Young Adult - \$5.68, Faithbuilders - \$51, Community - \$1, College scholarships - \$31, Penny Power - \$2.92, Kitchen service - \$7.80, Deacons benevolent - \$95, Capital campaign - \$245, Gregg Luginbuhl memorial - \$100.	

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.



will perform an arrangement of chorale preludes by William P. Latham and Scenes from "The Louvre" by Norman Dello Joio.

Ray Person will present "Finding Deuteronomy in the Dirt: How Farming Informs My Biblical Scholarship" at Methodist Theological School in Ohio: at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11 at MTSO, Delaware. Professor of religion at Ohio Northern University, Ray and his wife, Elizabeth Kelly, live on a historic Swiss Mennonite homestead near Bluffton, run by a cooperative of 17 families to produce meat, eggs and vegetables. Person will reflect on the influence farming has had on his insights into the biblical text.

Mennonite Central Committee welcomes donations of money for its disaster response in Haiti, where people are suffering the effects of Hurricane Matthew, which crossed the country October 4. Matthew's high winds and extensive flooding caused significant damage and increased already heightened cholera concerns in the Artibonite Valley, where MCC's long-term reforestation program operates. To donate, visit mcc.org/hurricane-matthew; call 1-888-563-4676 or send a check to MCC, 21 S. 12th St., PO Box 500, Akron PA 17501.

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. But, before we can begin, we need your help! **Help us kick-off this exciting time in Camp's history by joining us October 21-22.** Projects will include cabin demolition, removing beds/mattresses, preparing the site for new cabins, among other projects. For more information and to indicate your availability for this and other volunteer opportunities, e-mail info@friedenswald.org or call 269-476-9744. Thanks for your support as we prepare to Renew Friedenswald. We hope to see you in the peaceful woods in a few weeks!

-- 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

Happy birthday to Elizabeth Shelly, 83, Oct. 10.

Thank you for your prayers. I have had good reports. – Linda Miller

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. 9, 2016

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
2:30 p.m.	JHYF, classroom

THIS WEEK

Monday (10-10)	Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (10-11)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor Education, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (10-12)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Stewardship, 7 p.m., parlor
Thursday (10-13)	Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

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	Community class potluck, FH

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

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

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

JHYF will discuss Challenging Racism, today from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in the classroom. This year we will be using a Fast Lane bible study to learn about racism, and how we can counteract it. We will incorporate it into an ongoing art project and hope to display it for the congregation when we are finished.

“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, Linda Suter the devotional leader, and Carolyn Rich and Ella Bazy will provide refreshments. 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.

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.

“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.

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

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 the current and past Dare to Dream scholarship recipients; please attend to learn more about the Dare to Dream Scholarship Fund.

Everence has released the fifth resource of its new series, 7 steps to integrating faith and finances. We will distribute this via e-mail to those for whom we have addresses. There are also hard copies in the fellowship hall. This month's topic, Connect my faith with my savings plan, provides some biblical perspective on the topic of savings, plus practical tools to help us prepare for the future. We encourage you to take a little time with this resource as a way of looking at your finances from a faith perspective.

You will find prayer cards for the Mennonite Mission Network's Service Adventure group of Anchorage, Alaska, in the literary rack in the fellowship hall. Cassidy Bush, a member of First Mennonite and 2016 graduate of Bluffton High School, is serving with the Anchorage group.

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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 then began working with MVS with the families of refugees who have been in detention in San Antonio, Texas. Upon the completion of her MVS term she opted to continue with the same organization.

Bluffton University will hold a concert featuring Camerata Singers, University Chorale and Concert Band at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16, in Yoder Recital Hall. Dr. Mark Suderman directs Camerata, whose performance will include two pieces accompanied by solo instrumentalists. Selections by the University Chorale, conducted by Jonathan Wey, will include traditional American folk tunes, hymns and arrangements. Pianist Ana Yoder Coulter will accompany both choirs. The Concert Band, conducted by Dr. Roy Couch,