

**The Drama of Desire  
First Mennonite Church  
September 23, 2018**

Procession

Welcome and Announcements

Elizabeth Kelly

Special Music

“Walk Softly”  
*Chancel Choir*

Bob Chilcott

\*Invocation

L: The living God is with us!

**All: And with all creation!**

\*Hymn

“All hail the power of Jesus’ name”

HWB285

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, keyboard

Conversation with Friends

Shannon Thiebeau

HWB 570 “We walk by faith”

*(v. 1 for coming forward and v. 3 for returning)*

Conversation

Community Prayer

Theda Good

Scripture

Genesis 3:1-13

Chris Gott

*~Silence~*

\*Responsive Reading

Psalm 32 (NRSV)

**Downstairs: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit, there is no deceit.**

Upstairs: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

**D: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah**

U: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. Selah

**D: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.**

U: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

*~Silence~*

Scripture

Philippians 2:3-11

Perry Bush

Sermon

“Original anxiety”

Wanda Stopher

\*Hymn

“What wondrous love is this”

HWB 530

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

\*Hymn

“Praise God from whom” (*verse A*)

HWB 119

Commissioning Carrie Mast

*(See litany on opposite page)*

\*Hymn

“Forth in thy name”

HWB 415

Benediction

Postlude

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book; STJ – Sing the Journey; STS – Sing the Story  
Please ask an usher for assistance in locating large print hymnals.*

**First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817**  
**419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday**

**Church Staff**

- Pastor Wanda Stopher -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079 (cell); fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastor Theda Good -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); fmc.theda@bluffton.edu
- Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-10 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

**Host:** Jane Steinmetz | **Greeter:** Jenny Moser | **Sound:** Chris Moser

**Nursery today: SS** – Judy Diller

**Worship** – Kathy Dickson, Kendra and Ellie Nickel

**Nursery 9-23-18: SS** – Shelby and Kevin Cluts

**Worship** – Alison and Kevin King, Annalise Nisly

**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-178, MC-8
Spending plan giving Sept. 16, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$9,246.41
Special fund giving Sept. 16, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$3.45; Grades 9-12-\$3.63	
Sojourners-\$14; Freudige-\$1; Faith and Life-\$13; SHYF-\$1,204.51; Kitchen service-\$1	
Deacons Benevolent-\$100; MW-\$155; Habitat-\$120; College schol-\$250; Flooring-\$655	
ISAF-\$1,000; Brazo en Brazo-\$500; MDS-\$1,050	\$5,070.59
Total giving Sept.16, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$14,317.00
Total spending plan receipts as of August 31, 2018	\$238,446.66
Spending plan expenses as of August 31, 2018	\$260,271.15
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

*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.*

Have you joined  
a learning circle?



### **Commissioning service for Carrie Mast**

**Leader:** This is a day of celebration! Today we commission Carrie Mast as Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director. In doing so we recognize the good gifts she brings to her task and we release and empower her to engage those gifts as she does her work.

**People:** We know Carrie as a person of deep faith and passion for teaching and nurturing faith in others.

**Children:** Carrie has been our teacher!

**Youth:** She has served as youth sponsor in the past!

**People:** She has served as a leader in the life of our congregation in many and various roles.

**Leader:** Carrie, your creativity, energy, gifts of organization and administration, and love for the church suit you well for your work this year in a time of assessment and direction setting. We look forward to what God will do among us, in and through you in the coming year.

**All: We offer to you, Carrie, our encouragement and confidence, our support and prayers on your behalf. We trust that in this ministry together, the love of God, revealed in Jesus Christ will indeed increase among us. May God grant you strength, wisdom, and joy as you lead.**

**Enneagram Workshop:** Grace Mennonite Church will host a day-long “Know Your Number” workshop taught by David Stamile from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6. A light lunch and snacks will be included with registration. You may register at <https://www.gracepandora.org/> or by calling Grace at (419) 384-3038. Christians have used the Enneagram for centuries as a tool for personal spiritual growth. It teaches nine basic personality types and how these personality types are expressed within our own life and in our relationship to others. Stamile holds an M.Div from Truett Seminary and is certified to teach the Enneagram through Life in The Trinity Ministries. \*Child care available upon request. Please email [gmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:gmc@bluffton.edu) with “Enneagram child care” in subject line and include names and ages of children.

### ***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.*

### **CALENDAR**

#### **Today, September 23, 2018**

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, Carrie Mast commissioning  
Noon SHYF lunch with parents  
5:30 p.m. Learning Circle, supper provided, FH

#### **September 24-29, 2018**

Monday (9-24) Our Daily Bread, 9:45 p.m.  
Tuesday (9-25) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.  
MPS, 7 p.m., parlor  
Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR  
Wednesday (9-19) Worship planning circle, 5 p.m., parlor  
Adult bells and cherub choir, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel choir and youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (9-27) PAX group, Lion and Lamb, 1-3 p.m.  
Pastor visit with Maple Crest residents, 2:30 p.m.  
Potluck with PAX guests, FMC, 6 p.m.  
PAX monodrama, FMC, 7 p.m.

#### **Next Sunday, September 30, 2018**

8:30 a.m. Youth choir  
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching  
Noon All-church potluck with university students, 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 cared for while you worship, our nursery is downstairs in the church. Worship activity bags for children are available.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today we are delighted to commission Carrie Mast** in her new role as interim children and youth ministry director.

**Learning Circles have begun!** See the calendar for dates and locations. For additional information, take one of the bright orange-colored half sheets in the literature rack on the wall of the fellowship hall.

**Reminder: Extra copies of the year-long schedule** for our study of “We Make the Road by Walking” are available on the literature racks on the wall near the door to the fellowship hall. Electronic copies are available from Mary Pannabecker Steiner at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu). You may also order a book through the church office. If you wish to read the electronic version of the book, you’ll need to order it from your own device and submit your bill to the church office for reimbursement.

**Church address directory:** In anticipation of reprinting the address directory (*not the pictorial*), **please notify the church office of any changes to your contact information (i.e. address, phone number(s), e-mail addresses) by Sunday, Oct. 7.** Please submit via e-mail to [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu). If you don’t use e-mail, submit in writing to the office or place in Mary Pannabecker Steiner’s mailbox.

**Sharing a meal together** is one way FMC provides hospitality and fellowship. We will have a potluck at noon in the fellowship hall following worship on Sunday, Sept. 30 to welcome Bluffton University students. Please bring food to share and your own table service. Students will be our guests. All are welcome!

**In our world we are constantly bombarded with words.** Come away once a week to a quiet place. You are invited to Tuesday morning prayers, a quiet place to listen to the texts for the coming Sunday worship, a time to listen for the still small voice of the Spirit, and an opportunity to offer your own silent prayers of petition, praise, confession, and thanksgiving. Prayers are from 7-7:30 a.m. and are followed by a light breakfast and fellowship.

**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 from 9-10 a.m. October 14, 21, 28, and November 4. Please contact either Pastor Wanda or Pastor Theda if you have questions or to express interest.

**Geneva Shetler was hospitalized** on Sept. 19. She is recovering well and appreciates continued prayers.

**Sam Diller will be having surgery** on his 4th and 5th vertebrae on Friday, Sept. 28. Together, let us pray for Sam and Joan during this time of hope for better mobility.

**School kits will be collected** through September. You may also donate health or relief kits at any time, but there will be a drive for them in spring 2019.

**Mission, Peace and Service and Bluffton University** will host the 2018 PAX Team’s visit to Bluffton on Thursday, Sept. 27. The delegation of four Japanese adults sponsored by the World Friendship Center will present several programs at Bluffton University and First Mennonite. All are welcome to attend these events:

1-3 p.m. “Peace Stories from Japan” presentations at followed by discussion and refreshments, Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center

6 p.m. Potluck with guests from Japan at First Mennonite Church

7 p.m. “Living with Father” monodrama presentation by Mr. Amano at FMC

**Annual open house:** The Et Cetera Shop Inc. stores will hold an open house on Sunday, Oct. 18, from 1-3 p.m. Et Cetera Shop, Ten Thousand Villages and Book ReViews will offer substantial savings to shoppers. Et Cetera Shop - save 50% off on everything in the store; Ten Thousand Villages – save 25% off everything in the store and Book ReViews, save 25% on all regular priced books. Each store will have an enter-to-win and provide refreshments. Come for great deals and a head start on Christmas shopping.

### **Bluffton University:**

**Sept. 25:** University student Forum, spring 2018 cross-cultural experiences, **11 a.m. and 7 p.m.**, Yoder Recital Hall