

Bridges among us: Conversation celebrating our diversity
September 10, 2017
10:30 a.m.

–GATHERING –

Chimes call us to worship Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, accompanist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions , worship leader

Prelude Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

Call to worship

Opening Hymn “Here in this place” HWB 6

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 149:1-5

L: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful.

C: Let Israel celebrate its maker; let Zion’s children rejoice in their king!

L: Let them praise God’s name with dance; let them sing God’s praise with the drum and lyre!

C: Because the Lord is pleased with his people, God will beautify the poor with saving help.

All: Let the faithful celebrate with glory; let them shout for joy on their beds.

– PRAISING –

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “God’s Family” (vs. 1) See insert

Conversation Louise Matthews

Hymn “God’s Family” (vs. 2) See insert

Pastoral Prayer

Wanda Stopher

– PROCLAIMING –

Scripture Acts 10

Sermon “ ” Alex Sider

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

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn of Dedication** “Lord of all good” STJ 60

– SENDING –

***Hymn** “Move in our midst” HWB 418

***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 are available. Please ask an usher for assistance in locating one.

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.-4 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Custodian’s schedule: 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; weekends as needed

GREETERS: Mary Amstutz, Jean Miller

HOST: Alice Ruth Ramseyer

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Marilyn Bishop, Judy Diller

Worship – Jen and Darby Benroth, Betty Sommer

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Pat Sheidler, Kathy Traucht

Worship – Kristen Niekamp, Amy Blount, Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Kevin Cluts

CHANCEL: Alison King/Banner

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	FMC-173, MC-6
Spending plan giving Aug. 27, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$5,317.00
Special fund giving Aug. 27, 2017: Grades K-5-\$6.50; Deac Bene-\$150; Kitchen-\$17.50	\$4,246.32
<i>SHYF-\$1,277.32; Freudige-\$10; MW-\$10; Syrian student-\$1,000; VS-\$500; Bldg improve-\$100; School kits-\$25; Habitat-\$130; MDS-\$1,020</i>	
Total giving Aug. 27, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$9,563.32
Total spending plan receipts as of July 31, 2017	\$224,479.89
Spending plan expenses as of July 31, 2017	\$236,660.94
2017 spending plan	\$421,146.00

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
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy

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.

Bridges Among Us



Conversation
celebrating our
diversity

All are invited to attend the Brazo en Brazo Fiesta Familiar today from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church, 1318 N. Main St. This event includes games, food and music for all ages. Donations will be accepted.

Mennonite Disaster Service response after Hurricane Harvey: The following announcement was posted on MDS' website: *Please continue to pray for those in the path of Hurricane Harvey. An MDS assessment team will be in Texas this week to determine its early response. MDS is accepting financial donations. We are unable to accept material aid.* Online donations can be made at mds.mennonite.net or to give by check, mail your donation to: Mennonite Disaster Service, 583 Airport Rd., Lititz, PA 17543, with Hurricane Harvey in the memo line. Individuals who wish to volunteer may place her/his name on a wait list at mds.mennonite.net. -- *Lawrence Matthews*

Please pray for those impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the severe flooding on the Texas gulf coast. MDS is closely monitoring the situation and is preparing for a response. They planned to have an assessment team in the area this week to determine short and long term responses. MDS is accepting financial donations for its Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts, which can be made at <https://mds.mennonite.net/donate/hurricane-harvey-donate-form/> or by check and made payable to: Mennonite Disaster Service, 583 Airport Rd, Lititz, PA 17543. Designate "Hurricane Harvey" on the memo line. If you're interested in volunteering for service in Texas, please fill out the online volunteer registration form. -- *Kevin King, MDS*

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

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, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Alex Sider preaching
Noon	All-church/college student potluck
4-7 p.m.	Brazo en Brazo Fiesta Familiar, Lima Mennonite
6-8 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF kick-off, Diller's, 11575 Bentley Rd.

THIS WEEK

Monday (9-11)	Mennonite Women, FH
Tuesday (9-12)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff retreat, all day, OFFICE CLOSED Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (9-13)	Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m. Stewardship, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday (9-14)	Senior concerns, 2 p.m., AR Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor Martyr's Mirror choir rehearsal, 8 p.m.
Saturday (9-16)	Keeney family open house, 1-4 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Community class potluck

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 watched over while you worship, our staff will care for them in the nursery downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome Samuel Black to our service this morning. Sam is a senior music education major at Bluffton University. He will be giving his senior recital in Yoder Recital Hall Sunday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. We have enjoyed hearing Sam practice in our building this summer as he prepared for the recital.

Photo directory underway: Photo sessions will be Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2-9 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2-9 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 28, 2-9 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. You may schedule your photo appointment time online at our website: fmcbluffton.org. The link is located in the banner just beneath the photo slide show on the home page. If you need help with online sign up, Gloria Hernandez Bucher is available to assist. Beginning Sunday, Sept. 3, you may sign up in the fellowship hall after worship. Large families or families wishing to take multi-generation photographs will need to schedule two back-to-back sessions.

Everyone is invited to the carry-in meal today following the worship service. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy food and fellowship together and to welcome new friends.

SHYF and JHYF will kick off fall activities with a hot dog roast today from 6-8 p.m. at Larry and Judy Diller's house, 11575 Bentley Rd. Come out for some games and food to start off the new school year!

Begin the year with Mennonite Women on Monday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. In the devotional book, *Live Your Call: Embracing God's Mission*, author Anna Liechty Sawatzky helps her readers clarify and participate in God's mission for their lives. Sawatzky draws on personal stories from her nine years of experience as a missionary with her husband, Joe, in South Africa. Sawatzky will present the program that evening via Skype, providing an overview of the devotional book. If you'd like to purchase a book, there is an order sheet as well as a copy of the book in the fellowship hall or you may reserve a copy by contacting Joyce Hostetler at 419-369-4488 or joyhost@wcoil.com. The evening's refreshments will be provided by Ellie Unruh and Joan Diller. A program guide of the monthly meetings has been placed in mailboxes.

Music ensemble rehearsals to begin: note the dates, times, locations and ages for the church's music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship for our congregation and encourage others to join. We would gladly welcome new additions to the ensembles and will greatly enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 7 p.m. (Mark Suderman, director) – Adult Choir Room
- Adult (adults of all ages) and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively (Ray Raeburn, director) – assembly room
- Cherub Choir (3yr. olds-1st graders) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- Jubilate (2nd-5th graders) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m. - (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
- Youth Choir (7th grade and up) will meet on Sunday, September 10 at 8:30 a.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room.
 - *Parents with new choir members are welcome to stay as needed.*

The service group of Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will hold a silent auction during the annual fall festival on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Mennonite Memorial Home. The service group is seeking donations for the fundraiser. Donated items in the past have included wooden items, quilted items, pottery, canned goods, antiques, unique crafts and specialty baskets. If you would like to donate an item, please sign the sheet in the fellowship hall or contact Benji Bergstrand, MHCO volunteer coordinator, at 419.358.1015, ext 248, by Wednesday, Aug. 30. Bidding will begin on Monday, Sept. 18, and will close at noon on Saturday, Sept. 23. Thank you for your continued support.

FMC phone/address directory: Please remember to provide updates of phone numbers/addresses for yourself and/or family members. We're in the process of updating the phone and address directory (this is separate from the photo directory.)

Bicyclists: Please place your bikes in the rack at the rear of the church. Leaning and pushing your bikes into the landscaping is damaging it. – *Thank you, Trustees*