

Christian Education Sunday
September 11, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Don Pannabecker, worship leader

Prelude “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” arr. Adolphus Hailstork

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— PRAISING —

***Opening Hymn** “Lord of our growing years” HWB 479

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 14:1-7

L: Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.

C: The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

L: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

C: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the Lord?

L: There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

C: You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

All: O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

Special Music “Loving Kindness” arr. Alice Parker
Chancel Choir

Time with Children
Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341

Conversation Judy Steiner

Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341

Bible Presentation to third graders Megan Coffman

Pastoral Prayer Wanda Stopher

— PROCLAIMING —

Scripture John 1:1-5; 14; Hebrews 4:12-13

Sermon “The Perpetual Novice” George O’Reilly

***Hymn** “Teach me, O Lord” HWB 487

— RESPONDING —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “How Great Thou Art” arr. Robert A. Hobby

***Hymn of Dedication** “Praise God from whom” (verse A)” HWB 119

***Prayer of Dedication**

— SENDING —

***Hymn** “I was there to hear your morning cry” STJ 89

***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: Gayle Trollinger, Carlin and Sharon Carpenter, Walt Paquin

HOST: Joan Diller

NURSERY WORKERS TODAY: SS – Greg and Laura Hartzler, Pat Sheidler

Worship – Bruce Steingass, Amy Freeman, Christopher Harnish

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Elaine Suderman, Melinda, Patrick and Rebecca

Estell

Worship – Kyle and Tara Miller, Mary Ina and Sunita Hooley

SOUND SYSTEM: Melissa Friesen

CHANCEL: Gary Wetherill

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 (Community Worship Service)	183
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	6
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	71
Spending plan giving September 4, 2016	\$9,246.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00

The offering Sept. 4 totaled \$12,804.51, Money was received for these special funds: Grades 1-2, \$2.66, capital campaign - \$230, Habitat - \$20, SHYF fundraiser breakfast - \$843, Rejoice - \$8.30, college scholarship - \$83, kitchen service - \$1.55, Deacons benevolent - \$932, school kits - \$50, The Mennonite subscriptions - \$740, Kenya school - \$25, Steve Yoder memorial - \$50, Clarence Kooker memorial - \$25, Syrian student - \$520.

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.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mennonite Disaster Service: (1) 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, 419.303.8056. (2) MDS is responding with cleanup work in Louisiana where more than 125,000 residents have registered with FEMA for assistance. MDS has partnered with a church camp near Baton Rouge where large numbers of MDS volunteers can stay in dorm-style housing with up to four persons to a room (bunk beds). Each room has its own bathroom and shower, and meals are provided. Transportation will be coordinated with volunteers. If interested and can commit to at least a week, contact Lawrence. "We are hopeful our Anabaptist brother and sisters will step up and offer some time to help the folks in Louisiana," Kevin King, executive director of MDS said. "It is a long way from home for many of us, but MDS has lodging, food and showers and all the equipment needed for the job. MDS will be there for the long haul. But we could use more volunteers now and in the coming weeks."

Calling all visual artists! Mennonite Church USA is looking for freelance visual artists to contribute to a paid upcoming project. E-mail Alyssa Bennett Smith at alyssabs@mennoniteusa.org if you're interested or know someone who is!

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

As people of FMC 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 Betty Engle, 96, September 13.

We offer condolences to JP and Tim Schumacher and their children, Hannah, Isaac and Trusty, Joseph, Lily and Levi, as well as Ernie Porzelius and Joan LoBianco. JP's mother, Marilyn Porzelius, died Sept. 4 at Meadows Retirement Center, Chenoa, IL. Services were held September 10 at Prairie View Mennonite Church, rural Gridley. Marilyn was also a sister-in-law of Ernie Porzelius and an aunt of Joan LoBianco.

Adan Ortiz is facing ongoing health concerns and testing and appreciates your prayers. Individuals willing to transport him should contact Adan.

Joan Dailey has returned to her home and will continue with physical therapy on an outpatient basis. She appreciates your prayers, visits and cards.

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, Sept. 11 2016

9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, George O'Reilly preaching
Noon	Freudige/Sojourners potlucks, FH
4:30-7 p.m.	Brazo en Brazo Fiesta Familiar, Lima Mennonite
6-8 p.m.	SHYF/JHYF kickoff, SHYF room

THIS WEEK

Monday (9-12)	Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH
Tuesday (9-13)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (9-14)	Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Stewardship, 7 p.m., 301
Thursday (9-15)	Council, 7:30 p.m., AR

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	College student/all-church potluck

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 beginning at 9 a.m., October 9, 16, 23, and 30. Contact Pastor Wanda or Pastor George if you are interested.

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

Free/lost and found: Over the summer, the staff and commissions have been diligently cleaning out drawers, cupboards, files, and nooks and crannies in the building. Now it's your turn to help. You'll find tables in the fellowship hall filled with items we no longer need and/or of which we have multiples. We've also included items that have been in our lost and found container. Please take time to look through these items and take what you want. All items not removed by Monday, Sept. 12 will be donated or recycled.

Youth kickoff tonight: The SHYF and JHYF will meet today from 6-8 p.m. to play some games, eat popcorn, and hang out to ring in the new school year. Special appearance by Pastor George!

Sharing a meal together is one way our church family provides hospitality and fellowship. We are hosting a carry-in meal at noon in Fellowship Hall following the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 18 to welcome Bluffton University students. Please bring plenty of food to share and your own table service. Students will be our honored guests: food, drink and table service will be provided for them. **Everyone is welcome.**

Consider beginning your year with Mennonite Women tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. In the devotional, *Faith Travels: Trusting God in Life's Transitions*, Marlene Kropf uses stories and prayers from the Celtic Christian tradition that connect with or illuminate the biblical story. Additionally, LuAnn Stuckey will share her Celtic pilgrimage experience. Devotions will be led by Lori Nester. Barb Stettler and Ginger Theis will provide refreshments. The devotional book is available for purchase before and at our first meeting for \$10. If you would a own copy, there is an order sheet in the fellowship hall. A devotional book will be in the church library for use during the year.

Mission, Peace and Service Commission asks that you stand with the people of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and with hundreds of other indigenous nations and allies in protest of construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Learn more about this protest, the response of MCC and other religious organizations, and consider concrete ways to stand with those in North Dakota and Iowa. MPS will have a **table in the Fellowship hall today** with information about DAP and the protests, and details about signing petitions, writing letters, making phone calls and providing financial support.

FIRST Night returns Tuesday, Sept. 27 with a few changes, while hopefully maintaining the spirit of the original gatherings. We will meet five Tuesdays during the 2016-17 church year: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, and March 28. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m., with a 15-minute or so program to follow at 6:30. **Note: Participants should bring their own table service, which will decrease waste, eliminate the need for table setters and shorten clean-up time.** There have been many ideas offered to simplify our meals and the efforts of volunteers. We may ask if Sunday school classes or other groups might bring desserts for a given meal. There may be a soup night, where people would sign up to bring soup, salad, bread, cheese and fruit, with no cooking in the kitchen. Other options are to purchase some pre-cooked food, such as lasagna and sandwiches we hope to continue some previous favorites like the ham loaf and baked potato meals. Questions and suggestions should be directed to Susie Gratz, chair.

Deadline for *The Mennonite* subscriptions: Those who subscribe to *The Mennonite* through the church subscription plan must complete the renewal form and return with payment of \$37 to the church office by **Sunday, Sept. 18**. If we do not receive your form and payment by the deadline, we will assume you do not plan to renew. **New subscribers are welcome but must also pay the \$37 fee and complete a form in the office.**

School kits and supplies are coming in. Supply lists and bags are by the bulletin board in fellowship hall. Those willing to sew bags will find some pre-cut kits and some fabric in the FH. **A reminder – rulers need to be flexible (bendable, without breaking in shipping.)*
-- Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf

Brazo en Brazo's Fiesta Familiar will be held Sunday, Sept. 18 from 4:30-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. Lima Mennonite Church will install a peace pole as a visible sign of their desire that all people of all nations live together in peace. Members of the five area Mennonite churches and the Hispanic community are invited to participate in the short dedication and a reading of all eight languages on the pole between 4 and 5 p.m. prior to the Fiesta meal. In addition, there will be recognition of Paul and Ann Conrad, who are retiring from ministry with Brazo en Brazo. **We are still in need of FMC volunteers to provide cookies. Please sign up on the sheet near the office door.**

Have you heard about the exciting plans for renewing Camp Friedenswald's oldest facilities, including the boys' cabins, chapel and guest house? You're invited to join camp staff on Sunday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall to see the latest pictures, videos and plans. Hope to see you there!
-- Jenna Liechty Martin