

**Forgiveness
September 17, 2017
10:30 a.m.**

–GATHERING –

Chimes call us to worship LuAnn Stuckey, accompanist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Judy Steiner, worship leader

Prelude “Holy, Holy, Holy” J.Dykes/T. Shaw

Call to worship

Opening Hymn “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic” HWB 112

***Responsive Reading** Exodus 15:1-2,11

L: I will sing to the Lord, for an overflowing victory! Horse and rider he threw into the sea!

C: The Lord is my strength and my power; he has become my salvation.

L: This is my God, whom I will praise, the God of my ancestors, whom I will acclaim.

All: Who is like you among the gods, Lord? Who is like you, foremost in holiness, worthy of highest praise, doing awesome deeds?

Special Music “With A Voice of Singing” Martin Shaw
Chancel Choir

– PRAISING –

Conversation with Friends

Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341

Conversation Ashton Cluts

Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341

Pastoral Prayer

George O’Reilly

– PROCLAIMING –

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35

Bret Stopher

Sermon



Wanda Stopher

***Hymn**

“There’s a wideness in God’s mercy”

HWB 145

– RESPONDING –

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Christ Is Life”

J. Walther

***Hymn of Dedication**

“Lord of all good”

STJ 60

***Prayer of Dedication**

– SENDING –

***Hymn**

“Lead on, O cloud of Presence”

HWB 419

***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 – Judy Diller, Kathy Traucht

Worship – Kristen Niekamp, Amy Blount, Sunita Hooley

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Victoria Woods-Yee, Mary Pannabecker Steiner

Worship – Kevin Cluts, Kendra and Ellie Nickel

SOUND SYSTEM: Chris Moser

CHANCEL: Heidrun Awad

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-223, MC-5
Spending plan giving Sept. 10, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$8,578.00
Special fund giving Sept. 10, 2017: <i>Grades K-5-\$13.50; Faith and Life-\$11, Freudige-\$10, College scholarships-\$40, MDS-\$1,275, Habitat-\$20, Deacons-\$40, Kitchen-\$17.25, Equipment-\$737.76, R/P Friesen memorial,\$340, W. Sommer memorial-\$75</i>	
Total giving Sept. 10, 2017 ((includes e-giving)	\$11,157.51
Total spending plan receipts as of August 31, 2017	\$253,704.55
Spending plan expenses as of August 31, 2017	\$272,839.08
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.



Mennonite Disaster Service response after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma: Updates are on MDS' website and you can follow MDS on Facebook. Volunteers are currently assisting with early response at two locations in Texas. Assessments are ongoing in Texas, Florida, and US territories. Online donations can be made at mds.mennonite.net or mail checks to: Mennonite Disaster Service, 583 Airport Rd., Lititz, PA 17543 with Hurricane Harvey or Hurricane Irma or "where needed" in the memo line. -- Lawrence Matthews

The Bluffton University music faculty will perform in the first "Thursdays at Yoder" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21 in Yoder Recital Hall. The performance will feature both continuing and new visiting and adjunct faculty members. The concert will feature a wide-range of styles from international music to opera, solos, duos and instrumental arrangements and vocal performance.

Dr. Matthew Friesen, Bluffton assistant professor of sociology, will present "'Silver-tongued Bastards' and 'Used-Car Salesmen': Veteran Reflections on Military Recruitment" at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22 in Bluffton University Colloquium in Centennial Hall. The presentation is based on research Friesen conducted on recruitment practices in the United States military. Friesen will explore how veterans experience the enlistment process and how veterans viewed the honesty of their recruiters.

Calling all quilters! Gather with a community of other quilters at the MCC Quilting Retreat at Camp Friedenswald November 3-5. Come alone or with a group, with skills to share or interest in learning, with a project for an MCC auction or a project of your own. More information at mcc.org/get-involved/events/quilting-retreat.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Betty Sommer was diagnosed with metastatic kidney cancer last Friday. She is currently at Blanchard Valley Hospital in Findlay having further diagnostic testing. Prognosis and treatment have not been determined. The family requests no visitors at this time.

Congratulations to Kathy Dickson and Alex Sider on the birth of their son, John Douglas Sider, born September 12. He weighed 9 lbs 9 oz and is 22" long. Kathy and JD are doing well.

Anne Buller continues in rehab at MMH. Because of her need for time to rejuvenate between rehab sessions, they prefer no visitors.

Larry Burkhalter is returning to his room at Maple Crest after a time of rehab and evaluation at MMH.

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 17, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Community potluck

THIS WEEK

Monday (9-18)	Worship, 7 p.m., parlor Et Cetera board, 7 p.m., AR
Tuesday (9-19)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. So What? 7 p.m., FH (Discussion of summer Bridges series) Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (9-20)	Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (9-21)	Council, 7 p.m., parlor Martyr's Mirror choir rehearsal, 8 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, George O'Reilly preaching

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

Pastor Wanda will be on vacation and visiting family September 11- 29. For pastoral care needs, contact Pastor George.

Thank you to all who led in any way during our summer worship series, “Bridges Among Us!” The Spirit moved, as the Spirit will, in some unpredictable and even disturbing ways. So what? Now what? You are invited to continue the conversations begun in this series, on Tuesday, Sept. 19, from 7-8:39 p.m. We will begin our conversation asking, “So what?” Where we go from there will be determined as we listen and talk together. Questions? See Pastor Wanda.

Instrumentalists: Mark Suderman, Director of Music, is making a list of instrumentalists in our church. Please send him your name, phone number, email address, and your instrument(s). Please include yourself and your children, including children who may be away at college. College students attending First Mennonite Church should also feel free to be included in this list. Send your information to sudermanme@bluffton.edu. Your help is greatly appreciated.

All women with September birthdays are invited to share brunch at Lulu’s on Saturday, Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. If you are interested in attending, contact Elfrieda Ramseyer or Alice Ruth Ramseyer. Each woman should plan to pay for her own breakfast.

Mark Suderman has been hired to work for the Lima Chapter of Habitat for Humanity as the Volunteer Coordinator. This is a new position at the Lima affiliate in which Mark is excited to be involved. He will continue in his role as Director of Music here at First Mennonite Church. Please keep him in your prayers during this transition time.

Picture perfect! Have you signed up for your photo session for our new photo directory? If not, please do so now! Sittings will be held September 26-30 in the assembly room. This smaller photo book will help us better know each other so we would like to include all of those persons who attend FMC. Membership is NOT required. Your photo is very important! Sign up for your photo session in the fellowship hall following Sunday worship in September, on the FMC web site at fmc@bluffton.org. If you need assistance

with online scheduling, call Gloria Hernandez Bucher at 419-358-0505 or Pastor George in the FMC office. Individuals, couples and families who sit for a photo will receive one directory and an 8X10 portrait of your choosing.

The Service Group of Mennonite Memorial Home will host their annual Fall Festival Bake Sale on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22 -23. All proceeds benefit the elders of MMH, Maple Crest, and Willow Ridge. Please sign up today in the fellowship hall. Bring your item(s) to the MMH lobby by 8:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 22. A Bakeless Bake Sale gives those whose schedules or enthusiasm does not permit creating a baked item. Give to or put your donation in Marilyn Bishop’s church mailbox by September 23. Make checks payable to MMH Service Group. Baked goods will be available for purchase in the MMH lobby from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. or while items last each day. Come early for your favorite homemade baked treats and support Mennonite Home Communities!

Volunteers are needed to walk elementary school students to and from the school and FMC for the Weekday Christian Education program. WCE aids the church and home by encouraging the spiritual growth and development of students in kindergarten to grade 8. Walkers may cover one or more 30 minute shifts or all day. Thank you to those who have helped! If you are interested in helping or have questions, please contact Andrea Goings via email at ajgoings@mercy.com or phone/text 419-303-6870.

Music ensemble rehearsals: Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship for our congregation and encourage others to join. We gladly welcome new additions to and 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.*