

18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2016
10:30 a.m.

Chimes call us to worship Lucia Unrau, organist

Welcome, Announcements, Introductions Mark Suderman, worship leader

Prelude “Kingsfold” arr. Aaron David Miller

Call to Worship

***Invocation**

— **PRAISING** —

***Opening Hymn** “All hail the power of Jesus' name” HWB 285

***Responsive Reading** Psalm 79:1-9

L: O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

C: They have given the bodies of your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.

L: They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.

C: We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.

L: How long, O Lord? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?

C: Pour out your anger on the nations that do not know you, and on the kingdoms that do not call on your name.

L: For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.

C: Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.

All: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.

Special Music “I've Got Peace Like a River” Traditional
Cherub Choir

Time with Children

Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341

Conversation Kevin Cluts

Hymn “Jesus loves me” HWB 341

Pastoral Prayer George O'Reilly

***Hymn** “God of the Bible” STJ 27

— **PROCLAIMING** —

Scripture Luke 16:1-15 Melissa Friesen

Sermon “Who is that rich man?” Wanda Stopher

***Hymn** “I want to walk as a child of the light” STJ 95

— **RESPONDING** —

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” arr. Ken Medema

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

***Prayer of Dedication**

— **SENDING** —

***Hymn** “God be with you” HWB 430

***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 – Elaine Suderman, Melinda, Patrick and Rebecca Estell

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

NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS – Shelby Cluts, Monica Harnish, Lori Nester

Worship – Kevin and Alison King, Kevin Cluts

SOUND SYSTEM: Art Shelly

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

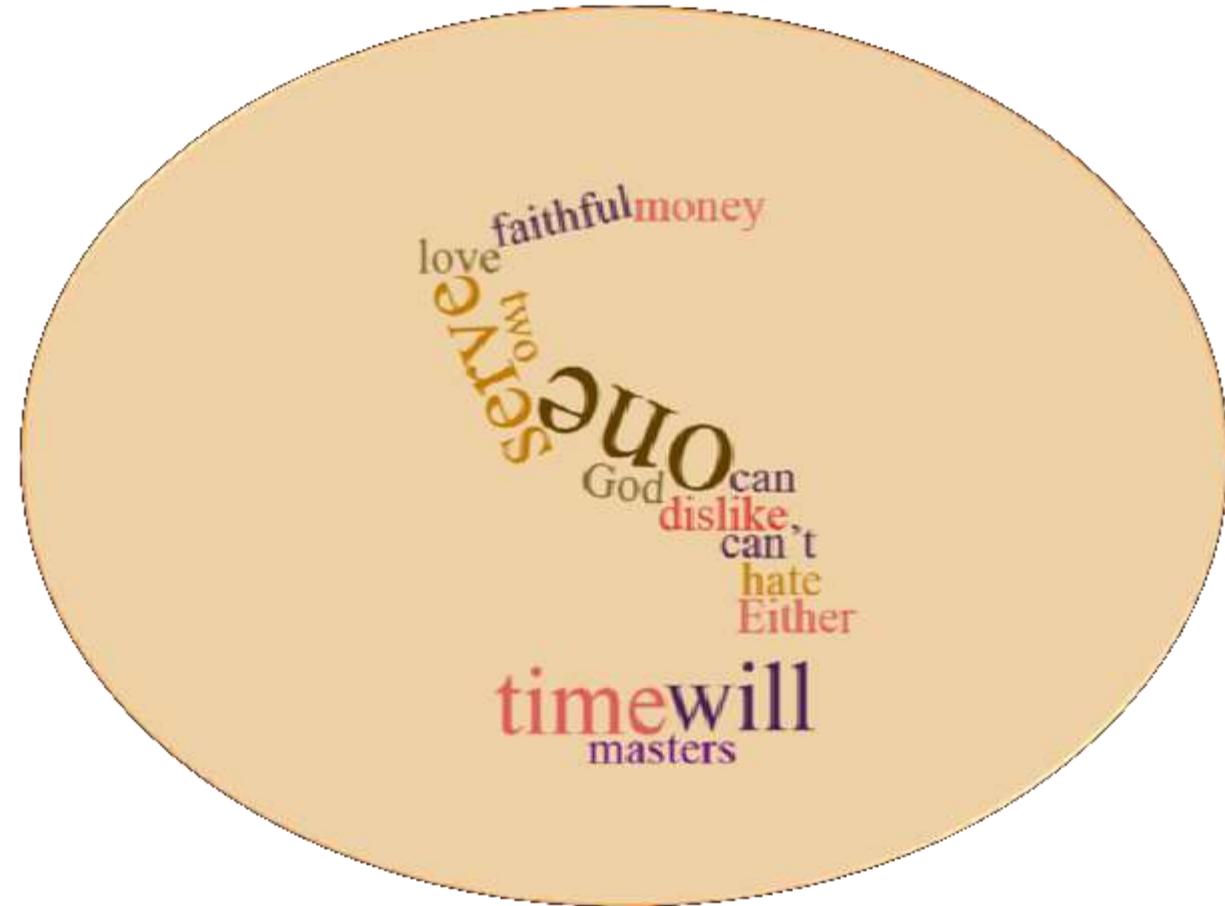
OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	224
Worship attendance at Maple Crest last Sunday	8
Sunday school attendance last Sunday	95
Spending plan giving September 11, 2016	\$10,172.00
2016 Proposed spending plan	\$418,276.00
The offering Sept. 11 totaled \$11,146.54, Money was received for these special funds: Grades K-5 - \$10.14, Sojourners - \$16, Young Adults - \$5, college scholarships - \$100, kitchen service - \$5.40, Deacons benevolent - \$20, The Mennonite subscriptions - \$518, Mennonite Women comforter project - \$300.	

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.



Men & Boys Retreat is October 14-16 at Camp Friedenswald. Bring your family and friends for a weekend sitting around the fire, canoeing, hiking, playing games, worshiping and relaxing. Enjoy fun activities and meaningful input from Luke Gascho, Executive Director of Merry Lea Learning Center, focusing on communities of people within the community of creation. Adults: \$150; Ages 6-12: \$25; Ages 13-18: \$50; Ages 18-25: Free. Register and learn more at: friedenswald.org/retreats

The Honorable Glenn H. Derryberry, judge of the Allen County probate and juvenile courts, will discuss “Juveniles and the Law: The Puzzle” at 11 a.m. Tuesday Sept. 20, in Yoder Recital Hall. Judge Derryberry will discuss the constitutional issues that arise in juvenile court. The presentation is Bluffton’s Constitution Day Forum. All educational institutions that receive federal funds are required to offer an instructional program each year on or near Sept. 17, the day the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787.

Tickets are available for the Artist Series performance by Akropolis at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 22 in Yoder Recital Hall. Akropolis was founded in 2009 at the University of Michigan. Their concerts feature accessible contemporary works framed by arrangements of classical music spanning four centuries. Reserved seats are \$25 for adults, \$20 for senior citizens and non-Bluffton students and \$10 for children ages 6-13. Children ages 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu>, or in person at the Marbeck Center information desk.

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 Elfrieda Ramseyer, 82, Sept. 21; Willadene Keeney, 92, Sept. 24; Joanne Niswander, 87, Sept. 24.

Linda Miller is awaiting test results in preparation for surgery and some treatment program in the near future. She and Lynn covet your prayers.

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

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. 18 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	Church/college student potluck, FH
4:30-7 p.m.	Brazo en Brazo’s Fiesta Familiar, Lima Mennonite

THIS WEEK

Monday (9-19)	Et Cetera Board, 7-9 p.m., AR
Tuesday (9-20)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m., sanctuary Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Education, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (9-21)	Adriel Foster Care, 9:30-11:30 a.m., parlor Cherub Choir, Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:45 p.m. Youth Bells, Chancel Choir, 7 p.m.
Thursday (9-22)	Deacons, 7:30 p.m., Parlor
Friday (9-23)	M-L deadline

NEXT WEEK

8:30 a.m.	Youth Choir
9:15 a.m.	Christian education; coffee hour, FH
10:30 a.m.	Worship Service, Jenna Liechty preaching
7 p.m.	Camp Friedenswald facility update, FH

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

Today's potluck -- Everyone is welcome to stay for the carry-in meal today following the worship service in recognition of Bluffton University students. Sharing a meal together is one way our church family provides hospitality 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 during the Sunday school hour at 9 a.m., October 9, 16, 23, and 30. Contact Pastor Wanda or Pastor George if you are interested.

FIRST Night will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 27, with a few changes from past years. We will gather on the last Tuesday of the months September, October, January, February, and March. Meals begin at 6 p.m. and programs at 6:30. The price per meal remains \$4 per person or \$12 per family. Tickets for just the Sept. 27 dinner will be sold in Fellowship Hall today and next Sunday. The first menu will include meat and vegetarian lasagnas, tossed salad, frozen fruit w/yogurt and cookies or bars. **Please bring your own table service – including cups and silverware -- referring to the menu for items you may require.**

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 **TODAY**. 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 - So far, we have 136 bagged kits and supplies for about 30 more, bringing our church to a total of 166 kits. Our goal is 200 kits, so if you have not yet purchased supplies or are feeling extra generous, please consider this. We will be collecting kits and supplies through the end of September. Supply lists and bags are by the bulletin board in fellowship hall. We also have bag material and some precut bag kits for anyone interested in sewing bags. *A reminder – rulers must be flexible (bendable, to prevent breaking in

shipping.) We recently received a thank you note from MCC for the 73 health kits our church contributed last spring. Thanks for your generosity. -- *Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf*

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*

Brazo en Brazo's Fiesta Familiar will be held today from 4:30-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. A tree planting ceremony continues a practice that began at last year's Fiesta. This year we are planting two trees to celebrate the work of Paul and Ann Conrad, who have given their leadership gifts to the Brazo en Brazo ministry over the past twelve years. In addition, a Peace Pole with "May peace prevail on earth" in eight languages is to be dedicated and placed at Lima Mennonite Church. Everyone welcome! ¡Todos bienvenidos!
-- *Ivan Friesen, board chair of Brazo en Brazo*

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

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."