

**The Gospel: Suffering & Diligence Disregarded**  
**September 24, 2017**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**–GATHERING –**

<b>Chimes call us to worship</b>		LuAnn Stuckey
<b>Welcome, Announcements, Introductions</b>		Perry Bush
<b>Prelude</b>	“Song of Praise”	N. Raabe
<b>Call to worship</b>		
<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	“Christ is our cornerstone”	HWB 43
<b>*Responsive Reading</b>		Psalms 105:1-6
L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.		
<b>C: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.</b>		
L: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.		
<b>C: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.</b>		
L: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,		
<b>C: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.</b>		
<b>All: Praise the Lord!</b>		

<b>Special Music</b>	“Hallelujah, Amen” <i>Chancel Choir</i>	G. F. Handel
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**– PRAISING –**

<b>Conversation with Friends Hymn</b>	“Jesus loves me”	HWB 341
<b>Conversation Hymn</b>	“Jesus loves me”	Shelby Cluts HWB 341

<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>		Ray Person
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**– PROCLAIMING –**

<b>Scripture</b>	Matthew 20:1-16	Kyle Miller
<b>Sermon</b>	“Provocations of the Gospel”	George O’Reilly
<b>*Hymn</b>	“Holy Spirit, Storm of love” <i>(sing v.1 in unison and verses 3-5 in parts)</i>	HWB 132

**– RESPONDING –**

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

<b>Offertory</b>	“Walk with Jesus”	K. Koesche
<b>*Hymn of Dedication</b>	“Lord of all good”	STJ 60
<b>*Prayer of Dedication</b>		

**– SENDING –**

<b>*Hymn</b>	“All who love and serve your city” (vs. 1-3, 5)	HWB 417
<b>*Benediction</b>		
<b>*Postlude</b>	“Allegro in E ♭ ”	F. Peeters

*\*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](http://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** – Victoria Woods-Yee, Cheri Slotter

**Worship** – Kevin Cluts, Kendra and Ellie Nickel

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – N/A

**Worship** – N/A

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Art Shelly

**CHANCEL:** Amy Freeman

*The video of the most recent worship service may be viewed on the church's homepage, [www.fmcbluffton.org](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/fmc-videos)*

### OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-236, MC-9
Spending plan giving Sept. 17, 2017 (includes e-giving)	\$7,330.00
Special fund giving Sept. 17, 2017: <i>Grades K-5-\$8.98; Sojourners-\$38, Freudige-\$1,</i>	<u>\$2,161.80</u>
<i>Young adults-\$43.87, MW-\$219, College scholarships-\$86, MDS-\$1,200, Habitat-\$120,</i>	
<i>Deacons-\$20, Kitchen-\$9.95, P Friesen memorial,\$375, SHYF-\$40</i>	
Total giving Sept. 10, 2017 ((includes e-giving)	\$9,491.80
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](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)  
Pastoral Associate – George O'Reilly – 402-619-7099 (cell) – [fmc.george@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.george@bluffton.edu)  
Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau – [fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu)  
Director of Music – Mark Suderman  
Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner - [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto: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.*



praising God through singing. Youth of all denominations are encouraged to participate. For more information and to register, please visit: [www.mennoniteyouthchoir.com](http://www.mennoniteyouthchoir.com) or email [mychoirfest@gmail.com](mailto:mychoirfest@gmail.com). (Brochures are available in the revolving literature rack in the FMC fellowship hall.)

**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](http://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

**You are invited to attend a beef and noodle dinner** Friday, Oct. 6, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at St. John's United Church of Christ, 223 W. College Ave. The menu includes beef, noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, roll, assorted pies and beverages. Cost is \$8 for adults, \$5 for sixth grade through college age, \$4 for elementary age, and free for pre-kindergarten age children.

#### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Happy birthday** to Elfrieda Ramseyer, 83, September 21; Joanne Niswander, 88, September 24; Alice Ruth Ramseyer, 88, September 27.

**The family of Phyllis Friesen** wishes to thank you for your thoughts, prayers, kind words, cards and support at the time of her passing. We feel very fortunate to have such a loving and supportive church family!

**Betty Sommer** is undergoing chemo treatments and recuperating. Prayers are certainly welcome, but family requests no visitors at this time.

**Anne Buller** is recuperating and continuing therapy at MMH. Visitors are welcome now.

**Congratulations to Jesse and Sarah Harder** on the birth of their daughter, Sadie Joy, born Sept. 14 at Lima Memorial Hospital. Sadie is the granddaughter of Mick and Tami Hardy, great-granddaughter of Luther and Geneva Shetler, and great-niece of Gene and Dottie Long.

**The red roses on the chancel** are in honor of our two newest babies: Sadi Joy Harder (see above) and John Douglas (JD) Sider, son of Kathy Dickson and Alex Sider, born September 12.

#### 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 24, 2017

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	Worship, George O'Reilly preaching
Noon	Youth potluck, then cleaning the nursery

#### THIS WEEK

Monday (9-25)	Our Daily Bread volunteers leave, 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday (9-26)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Adriel meeting, 9:30 a.m., FH Photo directory sessions, 2-9 p.m.
Wednesday (9-20)	Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m. Jubilate, 6:30 p.m. Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m. Photo directory sessions, 2-9 p.m.
Thursday (9-28)	Anabaptist Singers, 8 p.m., adult choir room Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor Photo directory sessions, 2-9 p.m.
Friday (9-29)	Photo directory sessions, 2-9 p.m.
Saturday (9-30)	Photo directory sessions, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

#### NEXT SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.	Youth choir
9:15 a.m.	Sunday school, coffee hour
10:30 a.m.	World Communion Day, 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 is on vacation** and visiting family September 22-29. For pastoral care please call Pastor George.

**By popular request**, Worship Commission has decided to extend our “Conversation With Friends” format for the children’s time in worship through the end of November. This takes us up to the beginning of Advent and will provide time for the commission to request and consider feedback. The “Conversation With Friends” format continues our traditional focus on brief conversations with one point and that engage our children. As we’ve done in our summer worship series, the invitation will continue through November to be extended to persons of all ages to gather with the younger children.

**Communion October 1:** Next Sunday, we will observe communion in our worship service. Preparing for communion is to take time to examine one’s life and relationships with God and with our sisters and brothers, the body of Christ. It is an opportunity to tend our relationships with others. Unity within the body of Christ is one of the themes of communion. Another theme is the giving of alms. This is done at FMC by giving to the Deacons Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. There will be baskets at each of the doors next week.

**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 8, 15, 22 and 29. Contact either Pastor Wanda or Pastor George if you are interested.

**Have you been wondering where that pie plate got to?** Or maybe it’s the cake pan that is missing. We know where it is! Check the “Lost and Found” cupboard in the kitchen and you just may find your long lost items! We will be as happy as you are when you and your treasures are reunited. Check soon because all unclaimed items will be taken to the Et Cetera Shop.  
*The Kitchen Trio*

**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 you and your children, including children who may be away at college. College students attending First Mennonite Church are encouraged to participate. Send your information to [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu). Your help is greatly appreciated.

**All women with birthdays in September:** Let's celebrate together. We'll meet at Lulu's on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 10 a.m. For further information, call or email Elfrieda Ramseyer or Alice Ruth Ramseyer (see church directory). It's Dutch treat.

**Picture directory sessions** begin Tuesday. If you’ve not yet signed up for your photo session, do so today. Sittings will be held September 26-30. 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. Sign up for your photo session in the fellowship hall following worship or on the FMC web site at [fmc@bluffton.org](mailto:fmc@bluffton.org). Individuals, couples and families who sit for a photo will receive one directory and an 8x10 portrait of your choosing. Volunteers to serve as hosts are needed for Saturday, Sept. 30. Please talk to Pastor George if you can help.

**Need your yard raked?** Each youth group will be participating in a “Rake ‘n’ Run” in October. The youth will come rake your yard but they don't expect any payment or reward! To see dates and to sign up, please see the sign-up sheet located in the fellowship hall or contact Shannon Thiebeau at 419-773-9446 or [fmc.shannon@bluffton](mailto:fmc.shannon@bluffton).

**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](mailto:ajgoings@mercy.com) or phone/text 419-303-6870.

**School kit collection is continuing until October 15.** We are getting close to 200 kits so far. We also really need people to sew kit bags to begin rebuilding our supply for hygiene kits this spring. Some packages of material and cording are cut and ready to go, or use your own fabric. Thanks for supporting this project.

**Mennonite Youth Choir Festival** invites children in grades 3-9 to join in a weekend of singing, March 10-11, 2018, in Goshen, IN. The church has a long and deep tradition of