

**Bridges among us: Conversation about marriage**  
**September 3, 2017**  
**10:30 a.m.**

**–GATHERING –**

**Chimes call us to worship** Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, accompanist

**Welcome, Announcements, Introductions** Elizabeth Kelly, worship leader

**Prelude** Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

**Call to worship**

**\*Opening Hymn** “Where charity and love prevail” HWB 305

**\*Responsive Reading** Psalm 105:1-6, 45c

L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

**C: Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.**

L: Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**C: Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.**

L: Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered,

**C: O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

**All: Praise the Lord!**

**– PRAISING –**

**Conversation with Friends**

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

**Conversation** Louise Matthews

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

**Special Music** “Adagio” Ralph Vaughan Williams  
*Samuel Black, tuba*

**Pastoral Prayer** George O'Reilly

**Time of Blessing: Journey Program** JP Schumacher  
Gloria Hernandez Bucher

**– PROCLAIMING –**

**Scripture** Mark 10:1-10; Genesis 2:18-25 Mary Ina and Don Hooley

**Sermon** “The End of Marriage” Gerald Mast

**\*Hymn** “Heart with loving heart united” HWB 420

**– RESPONDING –**

**Presenting our Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory** “Ave Maria” Franz Schubert  
*Samuel Black, tuba*

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

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**– SENDING –**

**\*Hymn** “When love is found” (vs. 1-3) HWB 623

**\*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](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** – Greg and Laura Hartzler

**Worship** – Melissa Friesen, Wendy Chappell-Dick, Ana Neufeld Weaver

**NURSERY WORKERS NEXT WEEK: SS** – Marilyn Bishop, Judy Diller

**Worship** – Jen and Darby Benroth, Betty Sommer

**SOUND SYSTEM:** Melissa Friesen

**CHANCEL:** Alison King/Banner

*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-197, MC-7
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](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.*

# Bridges Among Us



Conversation  
about many bodies  
in one body

that, as well, and give your donation to Marilyn Bishop (or place it in her FMC mailbox) by September 23, if possible. Make checks out 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 on each day of the sale.

**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.)

**All are invited to attend the Brazo en Brazo Fiesta Familiar** on Sunday, Sept. 10, 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](http://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](http://mds.mennonite.net). -- *Lawrence Matthews*

**The annual Adriel benefit golf scramble** will be Monday, Sept. 11, at Eagle Stock Golf Club in Defiance. Additional information is on the bulletin board near the Jackson Street door. For more information, call 937-465-0010, ext. 113.

### GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

**Phyllis Friesen died August 27** at Willow Ridge. Private graveside services will be held at a future date. Memorial gifts may be made to First Mennonite Church, Bluffton. Our thoughts and prayers are with Phyllis' children, Janine, Jon and Julie, and their families.

**Anne Buller is now at the Mennonite Memorial Home** for rehabilitation following hip surgery. She appreciates your cards and prayers, but visitors are restricted. Cards may be sent to her at 815 Red Maple Court, Bluffton.

### 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 3, 2017

#### Fall quarter begins

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Gerald Mast preaching  
Noon Connections potluck

### THIS WEEK

Monday (9-4) Labor Day, OFFICE CLOSED  
Tuesday (9-5) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.  
Wednesday (9-6) Adult bells, cherub choir, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (9-7) Worship, 7 p.m., parlor  
Martyr choir, 8 p.m., adult choir room

### NEXT SUNDAY

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee hour  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Alex Sider preaching  
Noon College student 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.

**Today we will have a time of blessing** for JP Schumacher and Gloria Hernandez Bucher as JP begins the AMBS Journey Missional Leadership Development program. Journey is designed for leaders of congregations, church planters and pastors who have no college or seminary education, but are called to ministry, as well as for lay leaders preparing for a variety of ministries. Most of the coursework is completed as a distance program over a 2½- to 3-year period, with some on-campus visits to AMBS.

**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](http://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.

**Sharing a meal together** is one way our church family provides hospitality and fellowship. We are hosting a carry-in meal at noon in the fellowship hall following the worship service on Sunday, Sept. 10 to welcome Bluffton University students. Please plan to bring plenty of food to share and your own table service. Students will be our guests; food, drink and table service will be provided for them. Everyone is welcome.

**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](mailto: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.

**FMC members are needed** to walk elementary school students from the school to Weekday Christian Education, which takes place at First Mennonite. WCE is a program that aids the church and home in encouraging the spiritual growth and development of students who choose to attend (kindergarten to grade 8.) This program is supported by 19 area churches who take responsibility for walking children from school to the program. Walkers can cover one or more shifts (about 30 minutes) 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 at 419-303-6870.

**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 (3-year-olds-1st graders) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6 p.m. Laura Hartzler, director – children's choir room
- Jubilate (2nd-5<sup>th</sup> graders) begins on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:30 p.m.  
Laura Hartzler, director – children's choir room
- Youth Choir (7th grade and up) begins on Sunday, September 10 at 8:30 a.m.  
Laura Hartzler, director – children's choir room

*\*Parents of new choir members are welcome to stay as needed.*

**The service group of Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio** will hold their annual Fall Festival Bake Sale on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 22-23. All proceeds benefit the residents of MMH, Maple Crest and Willow Ridge. If you're willing to provide baked goods, please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Bring your items to the MMH lobby by 8:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 22. A Bakeless Bake Sale is also planned for those whose schedules or enthusiasm do not permit creating a baked item. Sign up for