

**Being Human
First Mennonite Church
September 9, 2018**

Welcome and Invocation STS 190

*Opening hymn “God, who stretched” HWB 414
LuAnn Stuckey

*Responsive Reading Psalm 8 (NRSV)

L: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C: You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

C: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands.

L: You have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

ALL: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Conversation with Friends Kathy Dickson
HWB 570 “We walk by faith” (v. 1 coming forward, v. 3 returning)
Conversation

Community Prayer Wanda Stopher

Scripture Genesis 2:4-25 Todd Rainey and Justin Berg
Mark 3:1-6 Sara Brenner

Sermon “Are our stories leading to aliveness?” Theda Good

*Hymn of Response “Like a mother who has borne us” STJ 91

Presenting our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” *arr. R. Hartsell*

Communion
Invitation STJ 169

*Sending Hymn “Go, my friends, in grace” STS 57

Benediction

Postlude “Promised Land” *arr. A.L. Page*

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

HWB-Hymnal: A Worship Book; STJ-Sing the Journey; STS-Sing the Story

Please ask an usher for assistance in locating large print hymnals.

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

Church Staff

- Pastor Wanda Stopher -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079 (cell); fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastor Theda Good -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); fmc.theda@bluffton.edu
- Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-10 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

Host: Ruth Naylor | **Greeter:** Jenny Moser | **Sound:** Kevin Cluts

Nursery: SS – Mary P. Steiner, Carmen Moser

Worship – Betsi and Joe Werling, Ana Neufeld Weaver

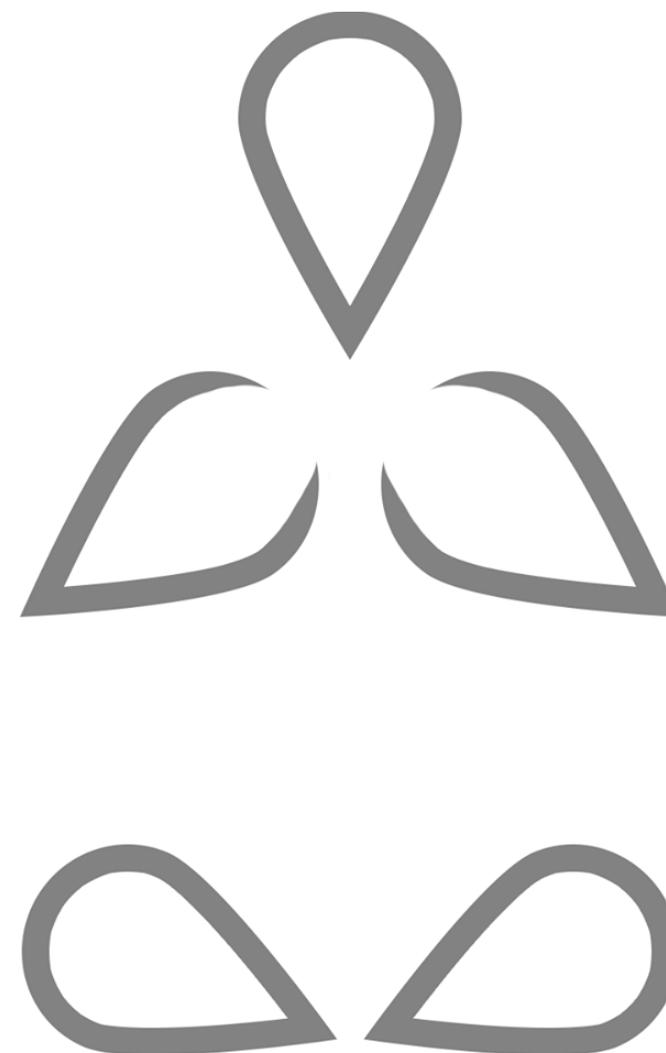
Nursery 9-16-18: SS – Lori Nester, Victoria Woods-Yee

Worship – Wendy Chappell-Dick, Kevin Cluts

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-205, MC-7
Spending plan giving Sept. 2, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$8,225.00
Special fund giving Sept. 2, 2018 (includes e-giving): K-5-\$9.15; Faith and Life-\$5	
Deacons' benevolent-\$438.30; Kitchen service-\$6; Habitat-\$20; MCC-\$50; School kits-\$15	
Flooring-\$655; Brazo en Brazo-\$650	\$1,848.45
Total giving Sept. 2, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$10,073.45
Total spending plan receipts as of June 30, 2018	\$189,473.39
Spending plan expenses as of June 30, 2018	\$198,232.79
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

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.



FMC members are needed to walk elementary students from school to Weekday Christian Education, which is held at First Mennonite. Walkers may cover one shift to all day. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Goings by phone/text at 419-303-6870 or at ajgoings@mercy.com

We give thanks for Mick Hardy's successful shoulder surgery. Please remember him in prayer through his healing and physical therapy. He is grateful to all those who have stepped in to fill his custodial duties here at FMC.

Jackie and Beth Wells received the news this week that their 10-month-old son, Greyden, also has a tumor on his brain along with the diagnosis of retinoblastoma in both eyes. Your cards and prayers are deeply appreciated. Their address is in the "Living Elsewhere" section of the FMC address directory.

It's Fall Festival time! Mennonite Memorial Home Service Group invites you to donate a baked item for the bake sale to be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 21-22. Baked items should be delivered to MMH by 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 21. Monetary donations are also welcome and may be placed in Gloria Bucher's church mailbox. A sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall. Donations for the silent auction are also needed and can be made by contacting Jessica Strahm at 419.358.1015, ext 248 or jstrahm@mhcoliving.org.

Bluffton University September arts and events series:

Sept. 16 Art Reception: "Reconstruction," by John Sousa, 1-3 p.m., Grace Albrecht Gallery, Sauder Visual Arts Center

Sept. 18 Forum: "Debating the Constitution and Corporate Citizenship," Dr. Jonathan Andreas, professor of economics, and Dr. Perry Bush, professor of history, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Sept. 21 Colloquium: "Reading the Cosmos in Second Temple Jewish Literature: Nature as Model, Sign, Punishment, Witness and Mystery," Dr. Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, assistant professor of religion, 4 p.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall

Sept. 25 Forum: BU students, spring 2017 cross-cultural experiences, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

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.

CALENDAR

Today, September 9, 2018

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Theda Good preaching
11:30 a.m. SHYF fundraiser lunch, FH
12:30 p.m. Congregational meeting, FH

September 10-15, 2018

Tuesday (9-11) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m.
Trustees, 7 p.m.
Wednesday (9-12) Pastor visit with residents, MMH, 2:30 p.m.
Worship planning circle, 5 p.m., parlor
Stewardship, 6:30 p.m.
Adult bells and cherub choir, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel choir and youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (9-13) Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor

Next Sunday, September 16, 2018

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Jeff Gundy 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 cared for while you worship, our nursery is downstairs in the church. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Invitation to Communion: Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer! Come to the table humbly, not because you have earned a place here, but because you know your need of mercy and help. Come because you love God and want to love God more. Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us. Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Come, by the mystery of God's grace, One Spirit-filled people of God, the body of Christ present here and now.

Communion and Almsgiving: As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC include the giving of alms. We do this 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. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community. Baskets are available at the doors.

**Please note that all of the bread used in communion today is gluten free.*

The congregational meeting will be held today at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall, following the youth fundraiser meal. Annual reports are in mailboxes today. The agenda includes a ballot vote calling Wanda to renew her term.

SHYF invites you to attend their lunch fundraiser after church today – even if you don't plan to stay for the congregational meeting. The menu includes the following: *Mexican Haystacks | Chips and Salsa | Tres Leches Cake | Water and Coffee*

We have begun our year of walking, using "We Make the Road by Walking" in individual and corporate worship. When we come together in corporate worship we, by the grace of God, become more than the sum of our individual journeys. Symbolizing this shared journey, the bulletin board previously used for the FMC photo gallery has been re-purposed this year to help us think about how we are "making the road by walking" together. There will be images and text and also

opportunities for participation by all who worship with us. Please see Anita Lehman or Pastor Wanda with questions.

We will commission Carrie Mast in her new role as interim children and youth ministry director during worship on Sunday, Sept. 23. ~ *Governance Task Force*

Come to the party! Mennonite Women will kick off the year of centennial celebrations Monday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Join them for a look at how the groups who have met have worked, participated in Bible Study, kept busy with service projects supporting many mission efforts, and found time to fellowship.

You are invited to Fiesta Familiar today from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. This is the annual celebration of Brazo en Brazo, a ministry of First Mennonite and four other Mennonite churches in the Lima area. Come for food, music, and fellowship. If you are willing to help serve food from 5-5:30 p.m., please let Paul Neufeld Weaver know or sign up in the foyer. Also, one more person is needed to bring 2 dozen cookies or bars.

There are several opportunities to join a Sunday school class or learning circle to study the book, "We Make the Road by Walking." All are welcome at any of these options. **You may still order a copy of the book through the church office.**

Three Adult Sunday School opportunities:

- Faith and Life Class -- parlor
- Freudige Class – 3rd floor, room 303
- Faithful Living – basement, room 104/105

Learning Circle Opportunities:

- Sunday evenings in the fellowship hall at 5:20 p.m. with a light supper and book discussion at 6:05 p.m. Hosted by Walt Paquin.
- Sunday evenings, first and third of the month beginning Sept. 16 at Maple Crest in the family room, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Hosted by Rich and Gloria Bucher.
- Sunday evenings, first and third of the month starting Oct. 7 at 4:30-6 p.m. for the first meeting. Group may change the time. RSVP appreciated but not necessary. Hosted by Theda Good in her home; contact Theda or church office for address.
- Worship planning circle, Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. Focus is on preparation and planning for worship two weeks in advance. Hosted by Pastor Wanda.