

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022

Gathering

Welcome and announcements Ray Person

Prelude *Praise the Lord* J.W. Kerr
LuAnn Stuckey

Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 47 *God of Our Strength*

*Responsive Reading - selections from Psalm 91

One: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

Many: will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

One: Those who love me, I will deliver;

Many: I will protect those who know my name.

One: When they call to me, I will answer them;

Many: I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

All: With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Telling God's Story

Special Music *Christ the Way of Life Possess Me* K. Lee Scott
Chancel Choir

Conversation with Children John Rich
Hymn VT 516 *Jesus Loves Me*
(sing coming forward & going back to seats)

Community Prayer Kathy Dickson
Hymn HWB back page *The Lord's Prayer*

Scripture Luke 16:19-31 & 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Elizabeth Kelly

Message *How to Escape Hell* Gerald Mast

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 758 *Who Will Speak a Word of Warning*

Commissioning & Licensing of Carrie Mast Doug Luginbill, Conference Pastor

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* J. Carter

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 832 *The Lord Lift You Up*

*Benediction

*Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

VT - *Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)*

HWB - *Hymnal: A Worship Book (Blue Bound Book)*

First Mennonite Church
101 S. Jackson St, Bluffton OH
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Pastor of Pastoral Care	Jeff Boehr, 419-236-9150 jeff@fmcbluffton.org
Director of Music/Interim Church Administrator	Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 sudermanme@bluffton.edu
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Technology Coordinator	Ray Raeburn, 419-230-2769 rayraeburn@gmail.com

First Mennonite Church Office Hours
• Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Video: Ray Raeburn
Sound: Chris Gott
Chancel: Janine Paul

9/11/22 - 9/18/22
Reported Volunteer hours: 5
Attendance: 113
Online viewers: 38

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.

September 25, 2022
First Mennonite Church



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Headings is having knee surgery on Saturday, September 24. Please keep her and Ron in your prayers.

Next Sunday, October 2, will be the Installation and Licensing of Pastor Phil Yoder. The worship service will also include communion. All are invited to a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Kurt Badertscher, a member of the Bluffton community, is looking for any odd jobs. He can be reached at 419-860-4253.

With your generosity, the **Deacon's Benevolent Fund** continues to support members of both the congregation and the community. From **January - June 2022**, financial support was distributed as follows:

Gas Cards	\$730.00
Grocery Cards	\$250.00
Utilities Support	\$439.21
Funeral Support	\$500.00
Housing Support	\$4,839.00

Total Support Expenditures \$6,758.21

As of June 30, 2022, **the balance in the Deacon's Benevolent Fund was \$13,365.41.**

We are grateful to Rich Bucher for being our Everence Advocate and applying for the Everence Sharing Fund Grants. This year we have received \$2000 in grants for the Deacon's Benevolent Fund. ~Jeff Boehr, Interim Pastor of Pastoral Care

Early-bird registration is open for the 2023 Mennonite Arts Weekend in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 3-5. Twelve artists and our featured musical group, A Girl Named Tom, will explore this year's theme BETWEEN: Embracing Vulnerability. You will find information about the participating artists, venue, schedule, and registration at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/>. Hope to see you there!

First Mennonite Church's Racial Justice Ministry is partnering with other organizations to sponsor a free event on October 11 at 7 PM at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Lima, featuring the voices of exonerees who spent years on death row facing execution for crimes they didn't commit. Additional partners sponsoring the event include the Lima Interfaith Coalition, Bluffton University, Lima Mennonite Church, Allen County Justice Coalition, Ohio Innocence Project, NoDeathPenaltyOH Campaign, and others. The purpose of the event is to heighten awareness of the abolition movement and bi-partisan bills before Ohio's House and Senate to repeal the broken death penalty system. Three exonerees, Kwame Ajamu, Derrick Jamison, and Ray Krone, will share parts of their journeys from arrest to death row to exoneration.

MHCO invites you to enjoy its inaugural Gala October 13 at 6:00 pm at The Centre at Bluffton. The event will include a meal, raffle and auction items including desserts and other exciting experiences from Service Group member churches and others. Meal tickets are \$30.00 and should be reserved prior to October 4th. Both meal and raffle tickets can be purchased at the front desk at any MHCO campus or online. All proceeds will support the mission of MHCO, specifically the benevolent care program. For more details go to: <https://mhcoliving.org/ways-to-give/mhcogala/>.

On Sunday, November 13, we will have visitors from Central District Conference to hear stories about our experiences in Christian community and worship here at FMC. This is called Sacred Listening and is being held across churches this year in the CDC. Would you be willing to share a story? More details to come.

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.



follow us



Today, Sunday, September 25, 2022

Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages, 9:15 a.m

Worship: Gerald Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

This Week

Monday, September 26

★ Pastor Phil Yoder begins! ★★☆☆

Tuesday, September 27

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Parlor

Caring Connections, 11 a.m. Parlor

Finance Committee, 4 p.m. Parlor

Senior High Youth, 8 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 28

Noodle Night, come and go 4:45-6 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Adult Bells, 6 p.m. Youth Bells, 7 p.m. Assembly room

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Next Sunday

Sunday, October 2

Worship: Imani Jones preaching;

Installation and Licensing of Pastor Phil Yoder with reception to follow worship

Lectionary: Lamentations 1:1-6; Psalm 137; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

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. Worship bags and nursery space are available for young children during worship. Bags can be found hanging on wooden pegs at each sanctuary entrance, and parents are invited to stay in the nursery with their children.