

Wisdom Series: Wisdom and Creation

September 15, 2024

Gathering

Welcome and announcements		Jan Wiebe
Prelude	Sonatina in G Major, <i>Allegretto</i> Laura Hartzler	W.A. Mozart
Invocation		
*Opening Hymns	<i>Listen, Wisdom's Calling</i> Camille Lively, hymn leader Congregation sings "All" sections	Insert in pew

*Responsive Reading
One: Listen! Wisdom is calling
Many: Let us come together to worship in the variety of her wonder.
One: Listen! Wisdom is calling
Many: The Wisdom that was created before the earth began. The earth is filled with her creativity.
One: Listen! Wisdom is calling
Many: The whole creation waits breathless for Her.
One: Listen! Wisdom is calling
All: Let us come together for worship this day, Wisdom-created, listening for Wisdom's call.

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children		Danielle King & Colby Slabach
Hymn	<i>Guide My Feet</i> verse 1 coming forward; verse 3 return to seats	VT 816

Community Prayer		Carrie Mast
The Lord's Prayer		VT 673
	Monica and Steve Harnish, Louise and Lawrence Matthews, Ruth Naylor, Jan Wiebe, Jonathan Andreas, Phil Yoder, hymn leaders	

Scripture	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Chaska Yoder
Message	<i>Somewhere Between Ants and Kudzu</i>	Phil Yoder

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response	<i>I Sing the Mighty Power of God</i>	VT 182
Offering		
Words of Invitation		
Offertory	<i>He Leadeth Me</i>	arr. Richard Kingsmore
Dedication Prayer		

Sending

*Hymn of Sending	<i>We Long to Know Her</i>	VT 44
*Benediction		
*Postlude		

**Please rise in body or in spirit - VT: Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)*

To parents of young children: If you're feeling anxious about having them in church, God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel like you have to suppress those wiggles. Consider sitting closer to the front, where it's easier for your little ones to engage. Quietly explain the parts of worship and actions of the worship leader, musicians, pastor, and others who are involved in the service. Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn their behavior by mimicking you. If you have to leave the sanctuary with your child, please feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Lead Pastor Phil Yoder | 717.869.7624 | phil@fmcbluffton.org
Associate Pastor Carrie Mast | 419.230.1568 | carrie@fmcbluffton.org
Communication Coordinator Trusty Schumacher | 419.358.5766 | fmc@fmcbluffton.org
Director of Music Camille Lively | camille@fmcbluffton.org
Technology Coordinator Ray Raeburn | 419.230.2769 | ray@fmcbluffton.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phil's day off - Friday Carrie's day off - Thursday

Nursery Workers Today SS: Chaska Yoder/Carmen Ordonez
Worship: Sunita Hooley/Kevin Cluts

Nursery Workers Next Week SS: Mary Edmiston,
Worship: Jason Diller/Xavier Diller

Nursery sign-up here: <http://fmcbluffton.org/nursery-volunteers>



09/1/2024 - 09/08/2024

Attendance last Sunday:	135	Video:	Ray Raeburn
Reported Volunteer hours:	73	Sound:	Chris Moser/Jonah Sheets
Online views:	Live: 26 Recorded: 15	Chancel:	Anita Lehman
	Total Viewing Hrs: 38		

Leadership Circle

Moderator	Ray Person
Moderator-Elect	Laurel Neufeld Weaver
Stewardship Ministry Circle Leader	Kevin Nickel
Connecting Ministry Circle Leader	Ken Shenk
Christian Formation Circle Leader	Shelby Cluts
Deacon	Victoria Woods-Yee
Deacon	Kathy Dickson
Deacon	Isaac Schumacher
Treasurer	Rita Dietrich
Recorder	Carrie Phillips

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.



VT 12 Tree of Life, by Saejin Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS


Elizabeth Kelly has recovered well from her surgery and will begin radiation treatments on Sept. 23, continuing until early Nov. at 8:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday at the Armes Family Cancer Center in Findlay. **Elizabeth would welcome rides.** Treatments take less than 15 minutes. **Lois Wetherill** is coordinating this schedule. If interested, reach out to Lois: glwetherill@gmail.com or 419.358.1049. Thanks for your continuing prayers and support!


Thanks to the frequent visitors that brightened Mom, Marilyn Diller's, days. She always spoke of the visits with great joy. Thanks for all the cards, visits, and food with her passing, A special thanks to Pastor Carrie for a meaningful service, the rest of the staff that helped with the service, and to everyone who helped with the lovely dinner following the service.

- **The Marilyn Diller Family**




Today begins a **4-Sunday worship series on Wisdom.** Central District Conference created the worship materials in conjunction with the 2-year theme: *Listen! Wisdom is Calling.* FMC members who contributed include Conference Minister **Doug Luginbill** and **Anne Marie Spelman** who wrote the children's time stories. Members of the local worship planning team include **Steve Harnish, Louise Matthews, Ruth Naylor, Jan Wiebe, and Pastors Phil & Carrie.** See the brochure in your mailbox for more information.

 For the Wisdom series, we will sing VT 765, *Listen, God (Wisdom) is Calling.* We are looking for congregants who would like to lead this hymn over the next four weeks - a new person(s) each week. This can be individually or in groups. Contact **camille@fmcbluffton.org.**

TODAY: The Church College Relations Ministry invites everyone to food and fellowship with a **College Student & Recent Grad Potluck** today following worship. Some of our potluck guests will also be participating in worship. Make an extra dish or two to share, bring your own table service, and let's have a potluck! 

TUESDAY: Our Daily Bread volunteers will meet at the church between 10:30 and 10:40 to depart at 10:45 a.m. Contact **John or Carolyn Rich** to volunteer: 419.358.5405.

John and Marge Jantzen moved to Bluffton this summer and have cardboard boxes for anyone who needs them. Let Pastor Phil know if you are interested.

In past years, the FMC Pastor held a monthly hour-long **Bible study** at Maple Crest. This gathering was a place to share updates on our lives, study scripture for the upcoming Sunday, and offer a prayer for joys and concerns. In our last meeting, we discussed opening this gathering to the larger FMC community. We will be meeting on the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Patio room on the bottom floor of Maple Crest. Our first gathering will be on **Oct. 17 at 11 a.m.** All are welcome! 

Bluffton University presents the **Constitution Day Forum** this Tuesday, **Sept. 17 at 11 a.m.** Dr. Robert K. Postic, Professor of Political Science at the University of Findlay will present "*The Enduring Legacy of the U.S. Constitution.*"

All are welcome to attend Bluffton University's **Colloquium featuring Dr. Melissa Friesen's** presentation, "*Are You Loving It? New Theatre from the Toronto Fringe Festival*" Friday, Sept. 20 in Stutzman Lecture Hall at 4 p.m.

The Mennonite Memorial Home Service Group is holding a **Bake Sale** Saturday, Sept. 28 at Maple Crest during the Fall Festival. Sales begin at 10 a.m. You are invited to donate any baked item of your choice. Proceeds fund projects such as raised garden beds at Maple Crest and food warming carts at MMH. Bring your donations to our church kitchen by 5 p.m., Sept. 27. Your contributions are appreciated.

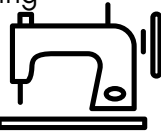
The Intergenerational Trip Ministry invites you to **Sauder Village Saturday, Oct. 19.** Most costs will be covered. Transportation is provided. We will leave Bluffton at 8:30 a.m. and return by 5 p.m. Lunch will be at The Barn Restaurant. The Village is handicapped accessible. Sign up in Fellowship Hall by Sept. 30.



Contact **Shelby Cluts** with questions: 419.234.2580 or clutsfamily@roadrunner.com.

Did you miss the Sept. 8 conversation about the organ? The Organ-izers are soliciting input about including the pipe organ rebuild/repair in our next capital campaign until Sept. 22. **Fill out a "green/yellow/red" form** in the Fellowship Hall and place it in Melissa Friesen's mailbox, or contact **Melissa, Chris Moser, LuAnn Stuckey, or Steve Phillips** with feedback.

Comforter knotting will be available during the SS hour on **Sept. 29** in the Fellowship Hall. All ages & all genders are invited to help!

Have a sewing machine, but unsure about **sewing MCC kit bags**? Jean Miller is willing to offer a hints and demonstration session. If interested, see Jean in Fellowship Hall before or after church today to suggest preferred meeting times or sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Sessions will probably be in October. (No commitment required.) 

The **Freudige Sunday School class invites anyone** interested to join our class as we read and **discuss the book**, *A Land Twice Promised: An Israeli Women's Quest for Peace.* We start at 9:30 a.m. in the room on the third floor behind the center balcony. All are welcome! Any questions, contact Mary Edmiston: edmistonmary100@gmail.com.

The September issue of the **Central District Conference Connector** has arrived! The theme is a continuation of our August issue on partnerships with other Anabaptist organizations. Reflections include an article from Oak Flat, information about the 50th anniversary of Et Cetera Inc. in Bluffton, Ohio, an invitation to participate in Our Whole Lives leadership training, a review of The New Anabaptists, and the latest edition of Doug's Mug. Print copies are available on the table outside the church office or view it online on the CDC website.

Ministry Minute!



Thank you for your generous bicycle donations to The Wheelhouse - A Christian Bicycle Cooperative. Donations of used bicycles are critical to The Wheelhouse ministry of providing transportation for adults in need. Thank you for your support! A special thanks to **Monica & Steve Harnish** for coordinating our FMC bike collection as a response to the needs of the Haitian immigrants in Lima!

You're Invited! Everence is sponsoring a service day at The Wheelhouse on Saturday, Sept. 28. Breakfast and lunch are included. The day runs from 9 a.m.-noon. See the bulletin insert for more details. Inform your **stewardship advocate, Rich Bucher**, if you plan to attend. About 3 volunteers are needed from FMC, and a total of 15 volunteers for the day. See insert for more details.

HAPPY

birthday

Sept. 15 - Kaden Niekamp

sept. 17 - Mary Edmiston
Jane Steinmetz

Sept. 18 - Beth Boehr
Chuck Buroker

Sept. 20 - Ansel Edmiston

Sept. 21 - Elfrieda Ramseyer



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, Sunday, September 15, 2024

Wisdom Series

Youth Choir, 8:30-9:15 a.m. Children's Choir Room

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

Worship: Phil Yoder preaching, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary

College Student & Recent Grad Potluck, noon Fellowship Hall

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

This Week

Monday, September 16

Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m. Parlor

Tuesday, September 17

Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Sanctuary

Our Daily Bread, 10:45 a.m. departure

Advent worship planning team, 7 p.m. Parlor

Wednesday, September 18

Jubilate, 3:15-4 p.m., Cherub Choir, 4-4:30 p.m. Children's Choir Room

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

Adult Bells, 6 p.m., Youth Bells, 7 p.m. Bell Choir Room

Chancel Choir, 7 p.m. Sanctuary

SHY, 7:30 p.m.

Fri-Sun, September 20-22

Women's Retreat at Camp Friedenswald

Next Sunday, September 22

Worship: Carrie Mast preaching

Lectionary: Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a, Mark 9:30-37

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

Welcome to our worship service today.

Visitors are invited to sign one of our guest sheets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Wireless hearing aids are available. Worship bags for children can be found hanging on wooden pegs at each sanctuary entrance. Child care is available during Sunday School and worship for young children in the nursery located in the basement.