

GATHERING

Prelude to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

Candle Lighting

* Call to Worship

This is the day the Lord has made.***Let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

Again today we come together to worship—

the God of creation, of salvation, of time and eternity.

The God of all peoples, of all nations,

of all conditions of people everywhere.

Praise the Lord.***All that is within me,******praise God's holy name.***

* Opening Prayer

* Hymn *In Thee is gladness*

HWB 114

Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,***we confess that we have sinned against you******in thought, word, and deed,******by what we have done,******and by what we have left undone.******We have not loved you with our whole heart;******we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.******We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.******For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,******have mercy on us and forgive us;******that we may delight in your will,******and walk in your ways,******to the glory of your Name. Amen.***

Words of Assurance

As Jesus healed the afflicted and restored those who have died, he also forgives our sins and gives us new life.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**PROCLAIMING**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

Hymn *I know not why God's wondrous*

HWB 338

Scripture Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sermon

Reflection

RESPONDING* Hymn *Slowly returning, ever turning*

STJ 23

Offering and Offertory

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

SENDING* Hymn *Lead on, O cloud of presence*

HWB 419

* Benediction

Postlude

* *All who are able are invited to stand where indicated.**Our worship ends after the postlude; please remain seated.**HWB – blue hymnal STS – purple hymnal STJ – green hymnal**Preacher: Charles Bontrager Worship Leader: Megan Croyle**Accompanist: John Gamin***Welcome to First Mennonite Church** If you are new here today, we're glad you can worship with us. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, we welcome you!**Woman's Poolside Bible Study: Tuesday's at 7:00pm at the Croyle's house.** "Faith Travels--Trusting God in Life's Transitions" by Marlene Kropf. This study focuses on how we experience God's presence during the transitions in our lives.**Wednesday 6:00pm** you are invited to a **Fellowship Meal** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a potluck dish to share as we become better acquainted in a casual setting.

The **2017 Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale** begins this Friday evening at 4pm with a silent auction, continuing all day Saturday (7am start). The Relief Sale is located this year at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. For a complete schedule of events look online at <http://www.ohiomccreliefsale.org/>. Brochures are available in the hallway.

Next Sunday during Sunday School we will be joined by our guest, Jesus Cruz of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Join us before our Worship Service for an hour of lively discussion.

Do you have loose change in your pockets? Drop it in the **Penny Power jug** in the fellowship hall to help bring water and food to third world countries through Mennonite Central Committee. Together, we can make a difference in the world.

A summary of the **CDC Annual Meeting** is printed in the *Reporter* (<http://bit.ly/2w7M8rO>). Audio recordings of the delegate sessions and worship services, and photos can be found at <https://www.mcusacdc.org/>

*Our **MISSION** is to welcome all to know Christ's salvation through worship and works of love, peace and justice in service for God.*

THIS WEEK July 30 – August 6

- TODAY** 9:30am Sunday School
10:45am Worship Service
- Tuesday** 7:00pm Women's Poolside Bible Study (at Croyle's)
🎙️ *Lois Chamberlin*
- Wednesday** 6:00pm Potluck Fellowship Meal – all are welcome!
- Thursday** **Announcements & calendar items** for Sunday due by **NOON** to: chrischamberlin99@yahoo.com
🎙️ *Lucie Nofziger*
- Friday** 4:00pm 2017 Mennonite Relief Sale begins
- Saturday** 7:00am Relief Sale continues
- Sunday** 9:30am Sunday School – discussion with Jesus Cruz
10:45am Worship Service (Turn in all School Kits)

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Sunday School 9:30 am
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**First Mennonite Church**
A congregation of Mennonite Church USA