

Prelude to Worship

## GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Interlude

Candle Lighting

\* Call to Worship

*Leader:* God speaks to us here again today.

**People:** **We gather bringing with us our messy lives  
and unclear futures.**

*Leader:* The Lord puts before us the way to an abundant life.

**People:** **Following our Savior often seems too hard –  
– too much.**

*Leader:* Yet it is the way of living water and never-ending life.

**People:** **Let us choose and follow the Lord  
today and always.**

\* Opening Prayer

## PRAISING GOD

\* Hymn *Cantemos al Senor (Let's sing unto the Lord)* HWB 55

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

The good news in Christ is that when we face ourselves and God with the awareness of our need, we are given grace to grow, and courage to continue the journey.  
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

## PROCLAIMING

Scripture Reading Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Hymn *All people that on earth do dwell* HWB 42

Scripture Reading Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon

Reflection

## RESPONDING

\* Hymn *True evangelical faith* (insert)

Offering and Offertory

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

## SENDING

\* Sending Hymn *How can I say* STS 117

\* 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: Bobbie Mohr  
Accompanist: Haylee Keeler*

**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!

**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.

You are all invited to join the joint Summit/First Mennonite **Christmas Choir** directed by Lowell Nofziger, which will perform during our Christmas Eve service here at First. Practices will be Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th beginning at 7 pm after potluck.

There are **Salvation Army Angel Tags** on the back window. Please remember not to wrap the gifts, but adding a gift bag or wrapping paper for parents to use is much appreciated. Don't lose any part of the Angel Tag because it is needed for identifying the recipient and the recipient's family. Please have your gifts here at the church by Dec. 13th. If you have any questions, please contact Bobbie.

The 29th year of "**Search for the Christ Child**" will be held at Oak Grove Mennonite, Sunday, December 3rd, 2017 from 5:30-7:30pm. This is a forty-five minute, indoor/outdoor, walk-through experience of what the first Christmas may have been like. Dress warmly! Admission: one article of canned food or toiletries for People to People Ministries. Everyone is welcome!

You are invited to Trinity UCC on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00pm for a **candlelight vigil of prayer and remembrance**. Trinity is planning to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, and to remember the thousands of American victims and survivors of gun violence. This event is one of hundreds taking place nationwide during the week of December 6-17.

---

#### **LOOKING AHEAD\*:**

WED, Nov. 29, 6pm Potluck Fellowship Meal

SUN, 12/03, 9:30am Sunday School Hour, 10:45am Worship

☪ SUN, 12/03 *Norma & Ken anniversary*

SUN 12/03, 5:30pm Search for the Christ Child (Oak Grove)

TUES, 12/05 Deacons Meeting TTBA

WED, 12/06, 6pm Potluck, 7pm Christmas Choir rehearsal

SUN, 12/10, 9:30am Sunday School Hour, 10:45am Worship

TUES, 12/12, 7pm Steering Team

WED, 12/13, 6pm Potluck, 7pm Christmas Choir rehearsal

SUN, 12/17, 9:30am Sunday School Hour, 10:45am Worship

SUN, 12/17, 12pm Chili Lunch & Caroling

WED, 12/20 6pm Potluck, 7pm Christmas Choir rehearsal

*\*Announcements & calendar items for Sunday*

*due by Thursday NOON to: [chrischamberlin99@yahoo.com](mailto:chrischamberlin99@yahoo.com)*

#### **First Mennonite Church**

405 Trease Road

Wadsworth OH 44281

Charles Bontrager, Pastor

Direct (330) 969-9364

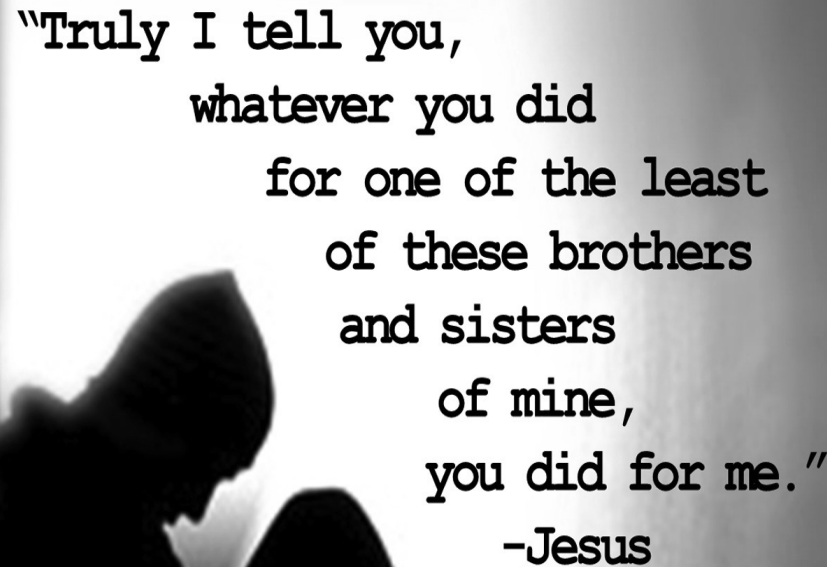
Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship Service 10:45 am

Office (330) 334-1863

[www.firstmennonite.com](http://www.firstmennonite.com)

[fmcwadsworth@gmail.com](mailto:fmcwadsworth@gmail.com)



"Truly I tell you,  
whatever you did  
for one of the least  
of these brothers  
and sisters  
of mine,  
you did for me."  
-Jesus



**First  
Mennonite  
Church**

A congregation of  
Mennonite Church USA