

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 9-1-2019

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

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday, 419-551-1079; wanda@fmcbluffton.org (new address)
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; theda@fmcbluffton.org
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-11 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@fmcbluffton.org (new address)
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019

- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle

Sept. 2-7

- Monday (Sept. 2) Labor Day, office closed
Tuesday (Sept. 3) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Worship, 7 p.m., parlor
Wednesday (Sept. 4) Adult bells, 6 p.m.
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (Sept. 5) Deadline to submit bulletin info, 9 a.m.
Community meal, senior center, 6 p.m.
Worship, 7 p.m., parlor
Sunday (Sept. 8) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, communion
Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.
Congregational meeting, 11:30 a.m.
Brazo en Brazo, 4-7 p.m., Lima Mennonite
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

Happy birthday!!

- Sept. 2 – Gary Bishop
Sept. 2 – Elysia Bush
Sept. 3 – Ruth Naylor
Sept. 4 – Paul Neufeld Weaver
Sept. 5 – Wendell Miller
Sept. 5 – Peter Suter

Today's Conversation will be led by Warigia (Alice) Hinga, who works for Tumaini Brooks Centre, a children's center in Kenya that schools, feeds and cares for poor children. Alice is a friend of Joyce Hostetler. During Sunday school, our children's classes met with Alice for stories and singing. During the fall quarter, the children's offering will benefit the center.

Though we are completing the walking book, the Sunday night learning circle will continue to meet at the same time and place (Sundays at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall) for a light meal to discuss the morning's scriptures and sermon. All are welcome for a single week or attend on an ongoing basis.

Mennonite Women will launch its new century at the first meeting of the year – Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. You'll hear project reports, an introduction to the devotional guide, brainstorm on new activities, discuss ministry options and enjoy some snacks.

Communion 09-08-19: As is our practice, next Sunday on the day of our congregational meeting, we will observe communion in our worship service. Please take time this week in preparation, reviewing and considering your relationship with God and with your sisters and brothers. In this way, we tend both to our relationships and to the unity within Christ's body. Another practice we observe associated with communion is the giving of alms. We do this at FMC 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.

MORE NEW INFORMATION

Copies of the **2019-2020 Christian education flyer** listing Sunday school options are available in the fellowship hall literature rack. Look for the bright orange paper! In the literature rack, you'll also find copies of a **flyer outlining the upcoming five-Sunday series on Sabbath**.

Save the date: Sunday, Sept. 29 for a 5th Sunday potluck celebrating the new school year. This meal will celebrate students in preschool through university.

You are invited to attend the Fiesta Familiar Sunday, Sept. 8, from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. This outdoor celebration of Latino and Anglo cultures is sponsored by the five churches supporting the Brazo en Brazo project which is an outreach ministry to Hispanics in the Lima area. Food will be served from 4:30-6 p.m. First Mennonite is responsible for providing cookies and for serving food for 30 minutes. Contact Paul Neufeld Weaver or sign in the fellowship hall if you can provide cookies or help serve.

REMINDERS

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, Sept. 8, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary and will include two agenda items: 1) approving the slate of new commission and council members, and 2) receiving a brief update on congregational finances.

New SS class: As a foundational literary text in Western civilization, the Bible's construction of "nature" and "culture" influences contemporary understandings of environmental issues. This SS class will meet September 8-December 15 to explore the relationship between the Bible and nature. There will be some readings for those who want to prepare, but the readings are not required. Each session will begin with a summary of the reading in combination with a biblical passage, followed by discussion. If you're interested in attending, please contact Ray Person at r-person@onu.edu.

Pastor Theda will be out of town through September 6. She and Dawn will spend some time in Tucson, AZ, volunteering with Humane Borders and visiting some old friends.

Here are some recommendations from Elizabeth Nisly and Pastor Wanda to learn more about immigration. *Tell me How it Ends: An Essay in 40 Questions* by Valeria Luiselli; *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez: A Border Story* by Aaron Bobrow-Strain; and *Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security* by Todd Miller.

If you wish to keep your walking book for further reflection, please do! If you'd like to share it, turn it in to the church office. We'll share them with other churches, small groups and Sunday school classes. See Pastor Wanda if you have questions.

Please join one of our musical ensembles – all beginning soon!

- Chancel Choir (**adults**) - Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7-8 p.m., sanctuary, Mark Suderman, director
- Adult and Youth (**Grades 7-12**) Bells - Wednesday, Sept. 4, 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, assembly room, Ray Raeburn, director
- Cherubs (**ages 3-grade 1**) - Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m., children's choir room. Laura Hartzler, director
- Jubilate (**Grades 2 - 5**) - Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m., children's choir room, Laura Hartzler, director
- Youth choir (**Grades 6-12**) - Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. children's choir room, Laura Hartzler, director

Beginning in October 2019, we will publish M-L every other month. In the October issue, we'll examine the purpose of the Menno-Life and how we see its usefulness as a way to get to know each other, to learn who is doing what, and what/who the church is. Let's tell some stories! At the end of one year, we will evaluate this schedule. ***The deadline for submitting items for the October issue is Friday, Sept. 20.***

OUR CONNECTIONS

The Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio service group will hold a silent auction at MMH during the fall festival Saturday, Sept. 28. Donations of auction items, services and experiences are welcome. To donate, contact Jessica Strahm, 419-358-1015, ext. 248 or jstrahm@mhcoliving.org.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY

Through Oct. 18 Art exhibit, "A Visual Reflection on Fear and Connection" Merrill Krabill, professor of art, Goshen College, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. weekdays and 1-5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Sauder Visual Arts Center

Sept. 3 Forum "Discernment on Purpose -- Checking in on Your Best Life," Kathy Dickson, director of vocational discernment and community engagement, Methodist Theological School of Ohio, 11 a.m., Centennial Hall

Sept. 6 Colloquium "The Power of Purple (and Red and Blue and Green and Yellow and Orange) Plant Pigments to Promote Human Health," 4 p.m., Centennial Hall