

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 1-19-2020

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
- 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
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, JP Schumacher preaching
- 5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, AR
- 7 p.m. Mentoring event

Jan. 20-25

- Monday (Jan. 20) Church office closed in observation of Martin Luther King Day
 - Adriel staff meeting, FH/kitchen, 9 a.m.
 - Et Cetera Board, AR, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday (Jan. 21) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
 - Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
- Wednesday (Jan. 22) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.
 - Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
 - Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
- Thursday (Jan. 23) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.
 - Council, 7 p.m., parlor
- Sunday (Jan. 26) Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
 - Worship, Youth Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
 - FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

Happy birthday!!

*[Missed in last week's list:
Jan. 14-Mary Amstutz]*

Jan. 20-26

- Jan. 21 Ryan Blount
- Jan. 21 Kevin King
- Jan. 21 Todd Rainey
- Jan. 22 Karen Klassen Harder
- Jan. 22 Amber Shelly
- Jan. 23 John Mackey
- Jan. 24 Ezekiel Coffman
- Jan. 25 Nancy Tripp
- Jan. 25 Jackson Niekamp
- Jan. 25 Janine Paul

Mentors & Mentees! Gather today at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall for the mentoring version of *Cutthroat Kitchen*. Based on the show from the Food Network, contestants will compete for advantages and disadvantages in order to make the best gingerbread house. Get ready for some team building and outwitting one another!

Morning Prayers invitation

This has already been a year of uncertainty in our world. In troubled and troubling times, it is more important than ever for us to remain centered and grounded. One way to do that is through prayer. If you are recognizing this need for yourself or on behalf of the world, consider attending Tuesday morning prayers. From 7-7:30 a.m., there is silence, scripture, and prayer. Prayers are followed at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast and fellowship. You're welcome to make this a regular practice, but the invitation is also open for occasional participation as you are able.

~ Pastor Wanda

You're invited: The Faithful Living class invites anyone looking for a Sunday school class, to join them in their classroom next to the nursery downstairs. Feel free to attend occasionally or regularly. The class is currently discussing Chapter 8 of Ruth Naylor's book, *Faith Talk*. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Ring, 419-379-5310, or any class member.

SAVE THE DATES!

The next Red Cross blood drive at FMC will be held from 1-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 in the fellowship hall. To schedule your blood donation appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to redcrossblood.org, sponsor code "fmenncbl".

Should I sign up our seven-year-old son for the travel team? What should we do about our daughter's Sunday morning games? Am I the only one longing for a sane balance between children's sports, family time, and church commitments? David King, Director of Athletics and Associate Director of Advancement at EMU and author of *Overplayed: A Parents' Guide to Sanity in the World of Youth Sports*, will be at FMC to address these questions and more on Tuesday, Feb. 18. Copies of the book will be available through the church office. Contact Carrie Mast if interested in attending the presentation or borrowing a copy of the book.

REMINDERS

Epiphanytide: In the liturgical calendar, Christmas is sandwiched between the seasons of Advent and Epiphany, sometimes referred to as Epiphanytide or the Season of Epiphany. Christmas is enriched and even extended by these seasons. In Advent we wait and prepare for the coming of the babe and in Epiphany we explore the various ways God is revealed in scripture and in the coming of Jesus and we examine our own hearts in light of what we discover. The length of the Season of Epiphanytide varies depending on the date of the following Easter and runs to the beginning of Lent. During Epiphanytide this year we will return again and again to the questions: "What do we learn about who God is from these texts? And what does this mean for our hearts and lives today?"

No previous experience necessary: You're invited to join a team that will make preparations for and lead worship during the upcoming season of Lent. If you have questions or just want to talk more about what this might entail, please see Pastor Wanda.

Join Faith and Life class discussions of *Faith Talk* by Ruth Naylor. The class meets in the parlor at 9:15 a.m.

OUR CONNECTIONS

Central District Conference 2020 Regional Gatherings

- *Feb. 8, Central Regional Gathering at Hively Avenue Mennonite Church, Elkhart, IN, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- *Feb. 15, South Regional Gathering at Raleigh Mennonite Church, Raleigh, NC, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
- *Feb. 22, West Regional Gathering at Madison Mennonite Church, Madison, WI, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- *Mar. 14, East Regional Gathering at Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship, Cincinnati, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bluffton University

Jan. 21 *Walking the Talk: Transforming the Dream into Reality*, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Forum, Dr. LaShonda Gurley, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Camp Friedenswald

There is still time to register your family for winter family retreat at Camp Friedenswald, scheduled Feb. 14-16. After the busy holiday season and in the middle of winter blues – this camp is a great break for the whole family. Activities include sledding, rides on the tube run, broomball for the kids (and kids-at-heart), food, and rest by the relaxing fireplaces. Childcare is provided. Take your family and friends to reconnect with a fun and relaxing weekend together. Cost: Adults \$120, Ages 4-17 \$40, Ages 0-3 Free, Family Max \$350. To register, go to <https://friedenswald.org/winter-retreats/>