

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## Weekly Announcements 1-27-2019

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817

419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

- Pastor Wanda Stopher -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079 (cell); [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)
- Pastor Theda Good -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); [fmc.theda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.theda@bluffton.edu)
- Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-10 a.m., [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

### Calendar

#### Today, Sunday, January 27, 2019

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Theda Good preaching
Noon	Junior high and senior high lunch and drama workshop
3:30 p.m.	MPS discussion on immigration
5:30 p.m.	Learning circle <b>canceled this week</b>

#### January 27-Feb. 3, 2019

Monday (Jan. 28)	Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m.
Tuesday (Jan. 29)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (Jan. 30)	Adult bells, 6 p.m. Chancel, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Sunday (Feb. 3)	SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m. Worship, Karol Farris, pulpit exchange, 10:30 a.m. Learning circle, supper provided, FH, 5:30 p.m.

### **MPS plans immigration discussion**

Mission Peace and Service Commission invites interested individuals to attend a meeting on immigration on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 3:30 p.m. at First Mennonite.

Discussion will focus on tangible ways to promote just immigration policy and reform, possible avenues for action, including the possibility of bringing the documentary “The Wall” to FMC and/or the larger Bluffton community.

### **Hygiene, relief kit drive underway**

It is time for FMC’s 2019 hygiene and relief kit drive and we’ll be collecting kits for a few months. Lists for both kit types are on the bulletin board at the collection area near the church library. Please limit your generosity to the items listed.

#### **Hygiene Kit content**

##### **(NEW items in original packaging)**

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer’s packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors. approx. 16 in x 26 in)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6–8 in)**

**Relief Kits** - These kits are larger and more expensive to collect, but are also needed. They would be a good project for Sunday school classes or small groups. Relief kit lists are also on the bulletin board. Pack all items into a box, label it “Relief Kit”, and place it near the kit collection area. We will get it to MCC where the items will be placed into a new 5 gallon plastic pail with a lid.

Judy Decker of Lima has been supplying us with many bags to use for kits. If you would like to sew some bags, there are sewing directions cards on the bulletin board in the kit collection area of Fellowship Hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. We are also accepting donated fabric. ~ Jean Miller

**Pastor Wanda** is out of the office January 25-28. She will return on Tuesday, January 29. Please see Pastor Theda for pastoral care needs.

**Pastor Theda** will be away the first weekend of February (1-3) attending a board meeting for Brethren Mennonite Council, at York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, IL. For pastor care needs please contact Pastor Wanda.

**Sunday immediately following worship:** Joint junior high and senior high youth lunch and drama workshop with Melissa Friesen. Black beans and rice are on the menu. We will prepare the meal together, eat, and then play.

**Our next Red Cross blood drive** will be held Thursday, Feb. 7 in the fellowship hall from 1-6 p.m. If you can provide cookies, help with registration, make sandwiches, help serve food, or unload and load the truck with their equipment, add your name to the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. **To schedule your blood donation appointment**, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), sponsor code "fmenncbl."

### Prayer concerns

**Margaret Weaver** died January 19 at Mennonite Memorial Home. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 17, at First Mennonite.

**Margaret Kelly Neal**, mother of Elizabeth Kelly, died January 19 in Tallahassee, Fla.

**Gene and Dottie Long's** daughter-in-law, Connie, died January 23 at Ohio State University - Richard M. Ross Heart Hospital, Columbus. She was married to David Long.

### Reminders



Because last Sunday's cancellation, the GTF has revised the schedule for the Whole Congregation meetings as follows:

- **February 10: Mapping the New Path Together**
- **April 7: Making the New Path Together**
- **April 28: Moving on the New Path Together**

Please plan to participate in *Mapping* ways we live into the 5 Priorities on Sunday, Feb. 10, from 4-7 p.m. We will be using an Open Space Technology (OST) format which specializes in empowering all attendees to contribute. To learn about OST, go to the links on the GTF page on our website. Over the next few weeks, consider the 5 Priorities and think about how First Mennonite Church can best live into them. What ministries do we need? In what ways should we provide oversight and visioning? What are the essentials? What are you/we passionate about? Please have conversations with friends, family, and those among us you may not know well. The 5 Priorities are printed on light green paper and copies are in the racks in the fellowship hall. There will be opportunities to participate if you want to. The youth will provide refreshments and a light supper; donations welcomed! Childcare will be provided; if you need childcare, please email Elizabeth Kelly: [ekelly.2018@gmail.com](mailto:ekelly.2018@gmail.com) for headcount and age appropriate programming.

**Ernie Porzelius is turning 90** on February 1 and you are invited to help celebrate! Open house from 2-4 on Saturday, Feb. 2 in the patio room at Maple Crest.

~ Joan LoBianco

**Bulletin/announcements:** You'll find copies of the weekly announcements *each Sunday morning 1.) in the fellowship hall, 2.) with the bulletins near the balcony entrance, and 3.) at the Church Street entrance.* At the end of the trial period, March 3, we'll reassess this plan. We encourage feedback; write down your suggestions, sign and date, and place in an offering plate or in one of our mailboxes.

### **Weather-related cancellations**

Cancellations will be posted on the church website, on the Bluffton Icon, Lima FOX-WLIO (Hometown Stations) The Findlay Courier, WFIN, WKXA and 106.3FOX.

**Often the words** “End of Life” make us feel we are planning our death. What we are doing is taking care of details that will assist family and friends if we can no longer make decisions. Creating wills, estate planning, establishing power of attorney, living wills and planning memorial services helps us live with less stress. If you are interested in helping to plan a workshop on this topic, contact Pastor Theda.

**Bluffton University**

January 26: Forum, Bluffton students report on work at Washington Community Scholars Center, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall