

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 2-2-2020

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, Feb. 2, 2020

- 9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
- 11:30 a.m. Connections potluck, FH
- 5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, AR

Feb. 3-9

- Tuesday (Feb. 4) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
- Wednesday (Feb. 5) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
- Thursday (Feb. 6) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.
Blood drive, 1-6 p.m., FH
Worship, 7 p.m., parlor
- Sunday (Feb. 9) Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.
Freudige/Sojourners potlucks, 11:30 a.m., FH
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

Happy birthday!

- Feb. 4 – Andrew Raeburn
- Feb. 6 – Walt Paquin
- Feb. 7 – Marlyce Gundy
- Feb. 7 – Chris Moser

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at FMC on Thursday, Feb. 6 from 1-6 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

To schedule your blood donation appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to redcrossblood.org, sponsor code "fmenncbl".

If you're able to help unload/reload the truck, bake cookies, work in the kitchen, or help with other needs, sign-up on the sheet posted in the fellowship hall.

SS elective: *Taste and See: A Sampling of Contemplative Prayer Practices*

Join us for an experiential elective prayer class during Sunday school from March 8-April 5 upstairs in room 301. Each week we will learn about a different contemplative prayer practice and try it through a facilitated experience. We will close each class with a time to debrief. Each prayer form is silent and all sharing during debriefing is optional.

This will be a safe, non-judgmental space to engage with God and Scripture in ways that may feel new to us, but have old roots in Christian practice. The goal of the class is to offer you a taste of ways to connect with God and become aware of your union with God. Perhaps one or more will resonate with you and be useful in your faith journey now or down the road. Topics will include centering prayer, imaginative prayer with the Gospels, praying with art, the examen as a form of discernment, and *Lectio Divina*. Whether these are familiar prayer forms for you or you've never heard of them, you are welcome to come for any or all of the classes.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Anne Marie Spelman at 309-830-6975 or spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com.

MORE NEW INFO

Pastor Theda is away this weekend at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary as part of the Journey Program. She will be back in the office on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Mennonite Women will host Cyneatha Milsaps, executive director of Mennonite Women USA, on Monday, Feb. 10 in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. She will share what is happening in MW USA and her vision for the future.

“Human Rights in Palestine and Israel” will be the focus of a talk by Hadil Alhayek and Rick Polhamus Thursday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Hadil is from the Gaza and is currently a student at the University of Findlay. Rick is a longtime member of Christian Peacemaker Teams who has been to Israel/Palestine many times.
~ Mission, Peace and Service

Persons interested in serving as a delegate for the Central District Conference annual meeting June 25-27 at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville, should inform Shelby Cluts by Wednesday, Feb. 26. Cost of registration for delegates is covered by the church. Council will approve delegates and notify them by March 2. To prepare for the annual meeting, delegates may want to attend the CDC East Regional Gathering, Saturday, March 14, at Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship. If you're interested in serving as a delegate, notify Shelby at 419.234.2580, clutsfamily@roadrunner.com or put a note in her mailbox.

Missions, Peace and Service Commission seeks a volunteer to assist twice yearly with the Red Cross blood drives at FMC. Heidrun Awad is the volunteer coordinator for this event. The additional person would help provide refreshments to donors and represent FMC during the blood drives, held on Thursdays from 1-6 p.m. Notify Paul Neufeld Weaver if interested. Talk to Heidrun or Judy Kingsley for more information.

Wanted: Peacemakers interested in connecting with our junior high and senior high youth in developing peace packets. If you have a CO story to share, expertise in writing solid arguments, and a creative approach to peacemaking, contact Carrie Mast at mastc@bluffton.edu or 419.230.1568. Learn how you can support our youth as they make decisions about conscientious objector status and military registration.

Lost and found items: Please check the lost and found items in and on the blue tub near the mailboxes in the fellowship hall, as well as in the cupboard above the telephone in the kitchen. All remaining items will be taken to Et Cetera on Feb. 7.

Weather-related cancellations will be posted on the church website, the Bluffton Icon, Lima FOX-WLIO (Hometown Stations,) The Findlay Courier, WFIN, WKXA and 106.3FOX. If we cancel an event and you know of someone who may not see or hear these announcements, please notify her/him.

REMINDERS

David King, author of *Overplayed: A Parent's Guide to Sanity in the World of Youth Sports*, will be at FMC on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. to lead a conversation around questions of parenting and intentional decision-making in the midst of children and youth sports. Copies of King's book are available for borrowing in the church office and in the fellowship hall. We've invited Grace Mennonite to join us; you may bring friends, as well. Child care will be provided. Contact Carrie Mast to reserve space for your children.

Note that the stewardship information on the back page of the bulletin has changed. Financial stewardship is displayed as total giving for the month to date, as well as the average monthly giving needed to meet our spending plan goals. We will continue to explore different ways of bringing financial updates to you throughout 2020. We invite your feedback; please feel free to contact a stewardship commission member.

~ Stewardship: Lynn Miller, Kendra Nickel, Andrea Goings
Heidrun Awad, Mark Novak, and Carrie Mast

Bluffton University

Feb. 4 Forum, *Eyes Wide Open: Reality Bites & How to Deal*, Alaina Shearer, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Feb. 4 Celebrate the Library week, Feb. 4-6, Musselman Library

Feb. 5 Health and Wellness Expo, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Musselman Library

Feb. 6 Research Fair, 1-4:30 p.m., Musselman Library

Feb. 7 Colloquium, *Arts-based Civic Practice and Learning in Community*, Melissa Friesen and Walt Paquin, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall, Stutzman Lecture Hall

MC USA

Mennonite Church USA invites everyone to focus on climate justice this month through its "Learn, Pray, Join" initiative, in partnership with [Mennonite Creation Care Network](#) and the [Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions](#). The initiative will also provide additional opportunities to learn about creation care and climate justice, including podcasts and resources for adult Sunday school and small group study. In addition, MC USA will publish news stories and blogs from people across the church focusing on how they have engaged with climate justice. Discover how you can get involved at mennoniteusa.org/news/climate.