

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## *Weekly Announcements 2-24-2019*

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

#### Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019

- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Youth Sunday  
4 p.m. “Remember What Happened to Uncle Daniel at Leavenworth?”  
Dr. Scott Holland, 4 p.m.,  
Kreider Room, Marbeck Center, (Voices of Conscience)  
5:30 p.m. Learning circle, supper provided, FH

#### Feb. 25-March 3, 2019

- Monday (Feb. 25) Our Daily Bread, 9:45 a.m.  
Tuesday (Feb. 26) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Financial Peace U, 7 p.m.,  
FH  
MPS, 7 p.m., parlor  
Swiss Historical Society, AR, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday (Feb. 27) Adult bells, Cherubs, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel, youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (Feb. 28) Pastor at Maple Crest, 2:30 p.m., family room  
Deacons, 7 p.m., parlor  
Sunday (March 3) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
SHY, 1:30 p.m.

### **Easter flower orders due March 17**

Easter flower order forms are inside today's bulletin. An assortment of flowers are available through K&J Greenhouse. **Orders must be submitted to the church office by Sunday, March 17.**

### **How will you observe Lent?**

Lent is coming! You will find a brochure in your mailbox noting services at First Mennonite Church and in the community. This year, continuing to “make our way by walking,” we will focus in worship on Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5, 6 and 7.

How will you observe Lent this year? What is the Spirit stirring within you? How will you make room for the teachings of Jesus to take hold? What action will you take? What practice will you add? What behavior will you cease? If you want to talk about this, please see Pastor Theda or Pastor Wanda.

### **Food, assistance needed for CDC regional gathering**

First Mennonite Church will provide lunch for the CDC East regional gathering on Saturday, March 9. (See reminder on next page.) If you are able to provide food for the meal or available to serve lunch and help with clean up, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. We will serve soups, bread, cheese, fruit, and cookies/brownies. For more information, contact Lori Nester at [nesterl@bluffton.edu](mailto:nesterl@bluffton.edu) or 419-358-9650.

### **New in the literature rack**

New items in the literature rack in the fellowship hall include the following:  
\*March Prayer Vine  
\*February CDC Focus

## **From Christian Education**

Save the date: On Saturday, March 30, the senior high youth will offer a Blaurock Cafe to include all kinds of entertainment, music and food, as well as a silent auction, and fun for all ages! Listen and watch for more details about this jumbo fundraiser to end all fundraisers. Okay, so maybe there will still be coffee for sale, and maybe we will still bring you cupcakes on Mother's Day. But this is going to be big!

Mark your calendars! Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School is slated for July 21-25 at St. John's United Church of Christ. Registration forms can be picked up in the fellowship hall and returned to the church office or Carrie Mast's mailbox.

**Thank you, First Mennonite Church,** for giving \$22,964.00 to Mennonite Mission Network in 2018! Your donations, prayers and enthusiastic participation play a vital role in our global church. Together, we more fully experience God's kingdom on earth.  
~ Karla Minter, MMN

**We are grateful for your generous support** of the work of Mennonite Central Committee, as we provide hope, healing and comfort around the world in the name of Christ. Thank you, friends and supporters at First Mennonite Church, for the ways you contribute to the work of MCC through volunteering time, creativity and energy at thrift shops, relief sales, meat canning and in assembling material resource kits. We were also blessed by your financial support of \$2,140 in 2018.

~ With sincere thanks, Sarah Geiser, MCC Great Lakes

## **REMINDERS**

**The Stewardship commission invites the congregation** to attend a meeting to review the 2018 financial year Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This is not an official congregational meeting since no decision-making is scheduled, but all are welcome to attend, reflect, and ask questions.

**Regional Gathering:** You're invited to attend the CDC Regional Gathering from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at First Mennonite. The event will include updates about CDC, opportunities to get acquainted, and singing. Lunch and child care will be available. Those planning to eat lunch are asked to bring a donation to help cover the costs. Please register on the sign-up sheet on a table near the office or by contacting the office at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu) or 419-358-5766. If you wish to bring child(ren), please contact Carrie Mast at [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu) or 419.230.1568 to ensure we have age appropriate activities.

**Hygiene and relief kit drive:** We continue to collect hygiene/relief kits – see more information posted in the collection area near the library.

## **OUR CONNECTIONS**

“**Voices of Conscience**” exhibit is open now through March 31, focuses on the witness of peace-minded people against the First World War and immerses visitors in the historical experience of witnessing for peace. The exhibit also suggests parallels to the culture of war and violence in our world today. The exhibit was developed by the Kauffman Museum, North Newton, KS. Also included is an exhibit “Of Bronze and Bravery: Local Voices of Conscience,” featuring works by John P. Klassen. Library hours are 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. F; 1-4 p.m. Saturday and 4-10 p.m. Sunday.

### **University events:**

**Feb. 24:** Winter Instrumental Concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Feb. 24:** “Remember What Happened to Uncle Daniel at Leavenworth?” Dr. Scott Holland, 4 p.m., Kreider Room, Marbeck Center, (Voices of Conscience)

**Feb. 26:** Student Senate Presidential Debate, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall