

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 2-9-2020**

**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; [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org)**
- **Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; [theda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:theda@fmcbluffton.org)**
- **Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-11 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, [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)**
- **Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed**

**Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020**

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time  
(Faith and Life class is NOT meeting today)  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching  
11:30 a.m. Freudige/Sojourners potlucks,  
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, FH

**Feb. 10-16**

Monday (Feb. 10) Mennonite Women, Cyneatha Milsaps speaking, 7 p.m., FH  
Tuesday (Feb. 11) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Wednesday (Feb. 12) MW work morning, 9 a.m., FH  
Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (Feb. 13) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.  
Nurture, 7 p.m., FH  
Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor  
Sunday (Feb. 16) Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Cyneatha Milsaps preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

**Happy birthday!**

Feb. 10 – Theda Good  
Feb. 11 – Karen McCullough  
Feb. 16 – Mona Reichenbach

Thank you to **Lois Wetherill**, for creating the pulpit cloth used in worship throughout Epiphanytide season.

**FMC's address/phone directory is now available on the church website. It is password protected and you may obtain the password by calling the church office at 419-358-5766 or e-mailing [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org). You may choose to receive the password verbally or via text.**

**Save the date:** The 2019 Financial Review will be Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Initial year of Jubilee Fund underway**

The Jubilee Fund Administrators have approved the first two requests for monetary support from the fund. In their requests, the group traveling to the Texas/Mexico border, and the Morning Prayers organizers showed clear connection between their ministries and FMC's 5 Priorities. According to the Governance Task Force, "the impetus at the heart of the creation of the Jubilee Fund is to encourage, empower and resource new ministry of First Mennonite Church." Those seeking support for new ministries may obtain Jubilee Fund request forms from the church office or on the GTF page on the church website: <http://fmcbluffton.org/gtf/>. Jubilee Fund administrators include Kendra Nickel, Greg Hartzler, and Mary Pannabecker Steiner.

**SHY & JHY:** Meet in the fellowship hall today at 6:50 p.m. to walk together to the Faithline gathering at the Methodist church. The event is from 7-8:30 p.m. and includes dinner and worship with other Bluffton area youth in junior and senior high school.

**The MW project committee** invites all to the monthly work morning on Wednesday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m.-noon. Participants will cut, lay out, and sew comforter tops and kit bags. Bring rotary cutters, rulers, mats, and sewing machines. A sewing machine and several mats with rulers are available. Working as a team is an option. Instruction is available.

## MORE NEW INFO

**Faith and Life Class** will not meet today. The class will discuss chapter 6 on Sunday, Feb. 16.

**Cyneatha Milsaps**, executive director of Mennonite Women USA, will speak Monday, Feb. 10, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Milsaps will focus on “How do we care for young white males in a climate where privilege, colonization, white supremacy and nationalism is dominating our discourse? As a mother of African American males I have found myself extremely concerned for young white males and the lack of concern by the general population. As women with the power and love to change the lives of not only our children but our nation, let’s discuss what is needed now to protect the next generation of young men and women.”

**The Nurture Commission** plans a *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* on Saturday, March 14. Here's how it works:

- Decide whether to host, be a guest, or either
- Register on the table outside the church office BEFORE Sunday, March 1
- Being a guest is simple:
  - Indicate the number in your party and any food restrictions, plan to bring a side dish or dessert. You will be contacted with directions to your host's home, what to bring, arrival time, and an emergency contact number. Show up on time.
- Hosting requires a little more effort:
  - Indicate the number of guests you are willing to host. You will be contacted with the number of guests to expect, any food allergies or special requests.
  - Prepare a soup, bread(s) and drinks.
  - Wait and see who shows up at your door.

*Questions may be directed to Rita Dietrich, 419-303-1102 or ritad4248@gmail.com.*

## REMINDER

**Hear EMU Athletic Director David King**, author of *Overplayed*, discuss how he and co-author, Margo Starbuck, debunk myths around youth sports and guide parents in considering boundaries, values, and faith in this context. King will speak Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Copies of the book may be borrowed from the church office and in the fellowship hall. Make reservations for child care (provided) with Carrie Mast.

**Hadil Alhayek and Rick Polhamus** will speak about “Human Rights in Palestine and Israel” Thursday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Hadil is from the Gaza and attends the University of Findlay. Rick is a longtime member of Christian Peacemaker Teams who has been to Israel/Palestine many times. ~ MPS

**Persons interested in serving as a delegate** for the Central District Conference annual meeting June 25-27 at Oak Grove Mennonite, Smithville, should inform Shelby Cluts by Feb. 26 at 419.234.2580, via her mailbox or at [clutsfamily@roadrunner.com](mailto:clutsfamily@roadrunner.com). Delegate registration is paid by FMC. Council will approve delegates by March 2.

**MPS 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:** Individuals with a creative approach to peacemaking, a CO story to share, or expertise in writing solid arguments. Contact Carrie Mast at [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu) or 419.230.1568 to see how all of these gifts can support our youth as they make decisions about their conscientious objector status and military registration.

**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.

## Our Connections

**Cloud of Witnesses**, a band comprised of Phil Gratz, Lucas Harnish, Chris Gott, and Wendy Chappell-Dick will perform Sunday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in the First Mennonite sanctuary. The band plays country, pop and folk music.

## Bluffton University

**Feb. 11 Forum**, “Gun Violence: Its Effects on Family and Community,” Cyneatha Milsaps, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Thank you to all FMC folks** who supported Et Cetera Shop in renovating and moving in to the old glove factory. The donated money allowed the project to move ahead when the store really needed the support for a necessary loan. As the new year starts, we have some numbers to measure how things are going: Last year, thrift shop sales averaged \$12,568 per month for January-August 2019. After the move to the new location, average sales for September-December 2019 rose to \$21,331. This is not an apples-to-apples comparison because of holiday shopping, but it is very good news. The store is thriving under direction of Chrissy Lugibihl and volunteers. The renovation loan is now about \$450,000. As a result of increased sales, the board is making payments earlier and larger than required. For two years no contributions were made to MCC while the store got on its feet in the new location. Payments have resumed with a \$25,000 contribution and hope to do more. Please visit the new store. There is much for which to be thankful.

~ Bill Suter, FMC representative to Et Cetera Shop, Inc.

**The stewardship information** on the back page of the bulletin has changed and we will continue to explore different ways of bringing financial updates to you throughout 2020. We invite your feedback; please contact a stewardship commission member.

~ Stewardship

**Each new year First Mennonite Church staff** review our commitments to each other for the ways we intend to do our work together. Our commitments/covenants include agreements about meeting times, how we will use technology, sharing office space, sharing information and more! These covenants are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. ~ Wanda Stopher, Theda Good, Carrie Mast, Mark Suderman, Mary Pannabecker Steiner, Mick Hardy