

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 6-28-2020

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

419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Staff working from home

- 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, 419-230-1568, [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), 419-358-5766

### Sunday, June 28, 2020

Taste and See SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., centering prayer,

<https://zoom.us/j/342273765>

Sojourners SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>

Worship, Carol Wise, Brethren Mennonite Council executive director preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Congregational meeting, Zoom, 4 p.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>, contact Carrie Mast for password

### June 29-July 4

Tuesday (June 30) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday (July 1) **Early bulletin deadline, noon**

Thursday (July 2) VBS drive-thru, 6-7 p.m., Jackson St. entrance

Worship, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Friday (July 3) Church office closed (July 4<sup>th</sup> observed)

### Sunday, July 5, 2020

Sojourners SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.; Taste and See SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

**Food Connections**, a newly-formed ministry, will provide meals for individuals or families, following birth of a baby, surgery or other medical concerns. At present we are using the list of persons on the memorial meals list. If you are not on this list, and would like to be included for Food Connections, send your email address and phone # to Rita Dietrich at [ritad4248@gmail.com](mailto:ritad4248@gmail.com).

**The FMC youth group** is still collecting receipts from Community Markets. Place receipts in the horizontal slot at the top of the mailboxes or in the bucket on the table in the fellowship hall.

### Happy birthday

June 28 – Shannon Thiebeau

June 29 – Lauren Roberts

July 1 – Monica Harnish

July 2 – Lois Wetherill

July 3 – Jim Lehman

Brent Schroeder

**We welcome Carol Wise**, Executive Director for Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests as our preacher today. Carol feels very fortunate to be a part of the BMC staff at a time in history when change is so visible and real.

She has an MDiv from the Iliff School of Theology and was profoundly shaped by her experience on the pastoral staff of the La Verne Church of the Brethren. Carol has also directed a residential facility for abused and/or neglected teenage girls, and worked as a social services manager. She served on the BMC board and also has strong ties with the COB Women's Caucus.

Carol lives with her spouse, Kim, and worships with Common Spirit COB, a house church in Minneapolis.

**There will be a congregational meeting** Sunday (6-28) at 4 p.m. via Zoom to take action on the proposed changes to the church constitution. Our current constitution requires a two-thirds majority of those present in order to make changes to the constitution proper and a simple majority to make changes to the by-laws. Since the revisions to both the constitution and the bylaws are interrelated in the overall governance proposal, we will seek at least a two-thirds majority vote for both types of revisions. The meeting address will be the same as that used for the informational meetings: <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>. For those who could not attend one of the information meetings, there is a video recording of the presentation at the June 10 information meeting at <https://youtu.be/LicalPcR59c>. If you have questions, contact Gerald Mast at [mastg@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastg@bluffton.edu) or 419-234-3789.

### **Prayer concerns**

**Jim Harder** was diagnosed with multiple myeloma shortly before Christmas. Since then he has completed chemotherapy in preparation for a stem cell transplant. The transplant was originally scheduled for April but was postponed because of Covid-19 restrictions. It will now take place at the James Cancer Hospital in Columbus in early July. Let us surround Jim, Karen and their family with our prayers and care.

**Anne Buller and Rosalie Dosh** were diagnosed with COVID-19. They have been transferred to Mennonite Memorial Home to the COVID floor. Prayers are appreciated for them and their families during this very trying time.

**Lowell Hostetler** had triple heart bypass surgery this past week in Findlay. He will be in a step-down unit for a few days and hoped to be home by the weekend. Our prayers and acts of kindness are appreciated by Lowell and Marty. If you would like to take them a meal, go to <http://www.TakeThemAMeal.com>. Under Find, enter Hostetler. The password is 6483.

**Ray Raeburn's** mother, Loretta Raeburn, passed away on June 24. Let us hold Ray, Beth, and Andrew in our hearts as they grieve her loss. A service has been postponed until 2021.

### **Reminders**

**MPS will hold a Sunday school class** Sunday, June 28, at 9:15 a.m. with guest preacher Carol Wise, Executive Director of Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests. Discussion will include what it means for FMC to join Supportive Communities Network of BMC. Join the class via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766?pwd=VkErZG1LMmxBdDU1NnVTRVZneVp5Zz09> or by phone at 1-646-558-8656.

**The Reopening Task Force is an advisory group** tasked with the responsibility of providing recommendations and support for decisions concerning returning to in-person gatherings, and other related safety issues. This will be a collaborative effort as we as a congregation move forward. RFT will serve as a conduit between the congregation and persons or groups responsible for making decisions that will affect us all. Our primary goal is to reduce the risk of personal contact and to move forward in the safest way possible. We truly welcome all input. Direct questions, concerns or suggestions to Rita Dietrich at [ritad4248@gmail.com](mailto:ritad4248@gmail.com), who will then share with the appropriate person or groups for consideration. Its second task is to keep you informed, well in advance, of any decisions that are made.

**Bluffton Community VBS** continues through July 9 with drive-thru packet pick-up on Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Jackson St. entrance. With a theme of *Who is My Neighbor? Learning to Love Like Jesus*, this year's VBS includes short videos, bingo cards with prizes, craft kits, game supplies, and snack shopping lists. No registration is required. The offering benefits All Ability Playgrounds of Allen County.

**Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio** invites you to help with planting flowers, landscaping, or painting at their facilities. Masks should be worn and volunteers should bring their own water and snacks. MHCO will

provide masks, as well as tools. Volunteers will determine their own schedule after meeting with the maintenance staff. To volunteer, contact Jessica Strahm at [JStrahm@mhcoliving.org](mailto:JStrahm@mhcoliving.org) or 419-996-8433.

### **Our Connections**

**Several sessions of the CDC annual meeting** were recorded as webinars and will be shared as indicated below:

- Taking Each Next Step: Anti-racism in Our Homes, Churches, and Conference - July 16, 2 p.m. Eastern (Missional Church Committee)
- Climate and Community, July 30, time TBA (Amy Huser)
- SEMILLA, Aug 26, 7:30 p.m. Eastern time (SEMILLA Learning Tour Group)
- Anabaptism as Spiritual Practice, Sept 16, time TBA (Jamie Pitts)