

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 8-2-2020

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

419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Staff working from home

- 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, 419-230-1568, mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@fmcbluffton.org, 419-358-5766

Sunday, August 2, 2020

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

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

Sojourners SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>,

contact Carrie Mast for password

August 3-8

Tuesday (Aug. 4) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Anti-Racism Ministry, 6:30 p.m., Zoom (for link, see page 2)

Thursday (Aug. 6) Worship, 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 9, 2020

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

Worship, Pamela Short preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy birthday

August 2 – Rachel Clemens

August 3 – Elizabeth Nisly

Carter Phillips

Robert Suter

August 4 – Virginia Theis

August 5 – Steve Phillips

August 7 – Jeff Gundy

Lowell Hostetler

August 9 – Levi Schumacher

Jan Wiebe

August 10 – Ron Lora

Next Sunday, Aug. 9, we will

welcome Pamela Short as our guest preacher. A native of Fulton County, she has pastored three churches: Tedrow Mennonite, Lockport Mennonite and Tontogany Presbyterian.

The Reopening Task Force continues to meet and discuss the everchanging Covid-19 events and guidelines as they pertain to churches. We are presently developing a detailed plan for FMC with guidelines for a safe return to face-to-face gatherings. We are calling it *Covid-19 Guidelines for Gathering* which will outline four levels of distancing with respect to facilities, worship, programs and fellowship. We will parallel our levels with the state's yellow, orange, red and purple levels. We hope to share this plan with the congregation by the early part of September. In the meantime, any questions, concerns or suggestions may be directed to any member of the task force.

~ Rita Dietrich, Monica Harnish, Carrie Mast, Karen McCullough
Mary Pannabecker Steiner, Wanda Stopher, Mark Suderman, Lois Wetherill

You are invited to help Ana Neufeld Weaver celebrate her high school graduation with a socially distant graduation party from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7, at 145 N. Spring St., Bluffton. To participate, sign up for a time at <https://tinyurl.com/y9ere8j5> There are eight separate time slots and a limit of 10 people per half hour time slot. Please wear a mask to keep everyone safe. Ana will be attending Goshen College studying music education. Thank you to all those who have already wished Ana well on her graduation and to all those who are unable to attend.

~ *The Neufeld Weaver family*

The Anti-Racism Ministry invites you to offer suggestions for projects and goals for the group during a meeting on Tuesday, August 4, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held via Zoom due to COVID-19. The link to join the meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/97455223505>. If you are unable to join them at this time, you are welcome to share ideas with the group by emailing Brent Schroeder (brentschroeder@gmail.com), Jan Wiebe (Wiebe.jan@gmail.com), or Theo Andreas (24theo@gmail.com). Thank you to all who have forwarded ideas and to those who have joined as members of this ministry.

Reminders

Those who visit First Mennonite may notice that the temperature is a bit warmer than usual in the FH and sanctuary. Due to less use of the church, the thermostats have been set higher. In addition, we plan to keep the fire doors shut. With our recent procurement of hand sanitizers for each room and entrance, and in anticipation of wall-mounted touchless dispensers at the entrances, the doors will remain closed. Prior to worship service tapings on Wednesdays, we will prop open the fire doors and close them at the end of each taping. If you visit the church, please do not prop open these doors.

No school kits: Consider monetary donation

Mennonite Women has postponed the school kit drive, but because MCC is still distributing many types of kits around the world, they encourage monetary contributions through First Mennonite (write school kits on the memo line) or by giving directly to MCC at <https://donate.mcc.org/cause/cash-kits>.

Food Connections, a newly-formed ministry, provides 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 but would like to be included for Food Connections, send your email address and phone number to Rita Dietrich at ritad4248@gmail.com.

Our Connections

Share your 2020 experiences! *Anabaptist History Today*, a collaborative storytelling project supported by 16 Anabaptist archives and historical organizations, seeks your stories of living during these changing times. Upload videos, audio recordings, photos, journal entries, artwork, poetry and personal reflections at <https://aht.libraryhost.com/s/archive/page/share-your-story>.

Join MCC Great Lakes for a virtual Pipeline to Prison learning tour. Explore the U.S. criminal justice system from different perspectives and learn about practical opportunities for engagement and advocacy efforts locally. Through five online sessions, participants will explore the connections from broad systemic issues of racism and incarceration through the local level. This free learning tour will take place each Monday in August from 2-3:30 p.m. (EST). Registration is limited to 25 participants. The goal is for all participants to commit to attending each virtual session to get the full learning experience. For more information and to register visit mcc.org/gl-pipeline-to-prison-virtual or call 574.534.4133.