

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 8-4-2019

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 (cell); fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); 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@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, August 4, 2019

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon	Connections potluck
2-4 p.m.	Joanne Niswander birthday party, FH
5:30 p.m.	FMC learning circle
6:30 p.m.	MC learning circle

August 5-August 11, 2019

Tuesday (August 6)	Morning prayers, 7 a.m. Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor Discovery Team, 7 p.m., parlor
Thursday (August 8)	Backyard fun, Schumacher's, 6:30 p.m. Nurture, 7 p.m., parlor
Sunday (August 11)	SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m. Freudige/Sojourners' potlucks, noon FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

Today we welcome back Pastor Wanda from her sabbatical. As we prepare for a new season of ministry, worship, and governance work, we are glad to receive her gifts of joy, creativity, humor, vision, careful discernment, and calm leadership. We pray for the Holy Spirit's presence as we resume the journey together.

A deep and profound thank you to all at First Mennonite Church for the generous gift of sabbatical rest this past three months. I especially appreciate the ways many picked up responsibilities and covered various tasks, making a sabbatical possible! I look forward to both sharing my experience and learnings and hearing about how the church has grown. Thank you. ~Pastor Wanda

Happy birthday!!

August 3 – Carter Phillips
(missed last week)

August 5 – Steve Phillips

August 7 – Jeff Gundy

August 7 – Lowell Hostetler

August 9 – Levi Schumacher

August 9 – Jan Wiebe

August 10 – Ron Lora

August 11 – Mary P. Steiner

Revised children & youth SS plans for today: Children are invited to the ViP room in the basement for a Veggie Tale video. Youth are encouraged to attend Elizabeth Nisly's presentation in the fellowship hall about her internship in Mexico with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian binational border ministry with a focus on migration and redefining borders.

VBS Thank You! A huge thank you to all who helped with Bluffton Community VBS: Amber Shelly, JP Schumacher, Sunita Hooley, Linda Headings, Kendra Gott, Rita Dietrich, Mary Steiner, Victoria Woods-Yee, Courtney Paul, Mary Ina Hooley, Andrea Goings, Elizabeth Kelly, Lori Nester, and Liana Gott. We needed each of you to make this a positive experience for our children!

Eileen Kehler died July 31 at Betty House, Willow Ridge. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 10, at First Mennonite Church, with a lunch to follow. Neil and his family appreciate your continuing thoughts and prayers.

Final summer backyard fun! You're invited to enjoy backyard fun at Tim and JP Schumacher's, 161 Riley St., at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, August 8. Make a musical instrument, eat some popcorn and sit around the campfire and chat. Bring friends! If you have questions, contact JP or Tim.

If you are able to host a Japanese visitor from Lima's sister city August 22-26, please speak with Ken Shenk (419-889-1804.) The organizers are interested in having an FMC family host the 18-year-old university student for those days. She prefers a home without pets. Her hobby is drawing illustrations.

REMINDERS

All are invited to help Joanne Niswander's family celebrate her upcoming 90th birthday today from 2-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall. No gifts, please.

Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well is the theme of a workshop being planned for Saturday, Nov. 16. Dr. Glen E. Miller, a retired physician of Goshen, IN, wrote a book with the same title and will be the keynote speaker.

MCC school kit collection will continue through September. Bags for kits and the list of items required for each bag are available next to the church library. Additional fabric and instructions for sewing bags are also available.
~ Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

Jackie and Elizabeth Wells invite you to the Greyden Strong Cancer Benefit at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 1, at the Armory Event Center, Napoleon. *(Jackie's family is holding the fundraiser for their son, Greyden, to help support his medical expenses. Greyden, who is now 20 months old, was diagnosed at 9 months with trilateral retinoblastoma.*

From Mission, Peace and Service

In August we will collect items for the Bluffton Food Pantry as part of Bluffton Area Ministerial Association's effort to supply the pantry during low donation months. Let's pack one or two pews!

All are invited to a potluck with Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder at 6 p.m., Tuesday, August 13. They will speak about their work in Burkino Faso and their recent move to Canada. Bring food to share, as well table service.

Brazo en Brazo's Fiesta Familiar will be Sunday, Sept. 8, from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite.

Individuals in immigration detention centers are often released with only the clothes they're wearing. Kits containing clothing and hygiene products can help rebuild their dignity as they transition into life outside the center. MCC is partnering with the South Texas Response Team, a group of pastors working with Catholic Charities Respite Center in McAllen, Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, Loaves and Fishes in Harlingen, Angry Tias & Abuelas in the Rio Grande Valley, and other partners to distribute kits to people as they leave. Rather than making these kits, we encourage you to make a cash donation at mcc.org/donate, click on Cash for Kits and in the comments/Instructions box, write "CS Immigration Kits."

OUR CONNECTIONS

Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers every Saturday for their current build. They need construction workers, meals for volunteers, and donations. To volunteer, go to www.habitatlima.org and click on the link "Get Details and Sign Up," and follow directions to be trained, sign up for work or meals, or to donate. You can also call the Habitat office to volunteer: (419)222-4937. Build days will continue every Saturday for several months and volunteers are also needed on Wednesdays. Those available on Wednesdays should call the Habitat office. Thanks to everyone for helping to create decent, affordable housing a reality in this area.

~ Mark Suderman, director of volunteers