

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 9-20-2020

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@fmcbuffton.org**
- **Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; theda@fmcbuffton.org**
- **Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568, mastc@buffton.edu**
- **Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@buffton.edu**
- **Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@fmcbuffton.org, 419-358-5766**

Sunday, Sept. 20, 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>

Faithful Living SS, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

For ID and password, contact Greg Ring,
gring@marathonpetroleum.com or
419-379-5310

Worship, Alex Sider preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

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

contact Carrie Mast for password

SHY, Larry and Judy Diller's farm, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 21-26

Tuesday (Sept. 22) Morning prayers, Zoom,
7 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday (Sept. 23) JHY, JHY classroom, 7 p.m.

Thursday (Sept. 24), Council, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020

Sojourners SS; Taste and See SS, Zoom, 9:15

a.m.; Faithful Living, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy birthday

Sept. 21 – Junia Spelman

Sept. 22 – Leah Niekamp

Sept. 24 – Jackie Frey

Nathan Heslep

Joanne Niswander

Sept. 25 – Lyle Burkholder

Ana Neufeld-Weaver

Sept. 27 – Jo Clemens

Today we welcome Alex Sider as our guest preacher. Alex has taught for 15 years at Bluffton University where he is the Harry and Jean Yoder Scholar in Bible and Religion and directs Peace and Conflict Studies. He and his family live in Bluffton and attend First Mennonite Church.

We want to feature some quarantine recipes in the October Menno-Life. We hope you'll share them with us! If you have photos to accompany them, we'd love to see them. Please email recipes to fmc@fmcbuffton.org by Monday, Sept. 28.

The Faithful Living Class is meeting via Zoom this fall. The class meets at 9:30 and welcomes anybody looking for a Sunday school class and those who simply want to join occasionally. All are welcome! For the meeting ID and password, contact Greg Ring at 419-379-5310 or gring@marathonpetroleum.com

New news

Conversations for Kids: You can catch all of the Conversations with Friends all the way back to the beginning of the pandemic in one place now. The following link will take you to a private YouTube channel for FMC children (and anyone who self-identifies as a child at heart.) When you click the following link, you'll have access to all of the stories and conversations shared during worship as standalone videos.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8GP3BoW44SIRI_VMRsBOh8_szrfmDsk

SHY Campfire at Larry & Judy Diller's Farm: SHY will meet Sunday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. to pack six care packages for the 2020 SHY graduates now attending college. Bring 6 of each item you care to share with them in their boxes and be ready to spin some yarns around the campfire. We'll play some storytelling games socially distanced around the fire. While we can't share snacks, you're welcome to bring your own snacks.

JHY: Meet in the JHY room from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, to plan the upcoming year. Wear masks!

Stewardship Commission took action at their meeting last week to offer additional financial support on behalf of FMC to Camp Friedenswald in light of the Covid pandemic. In FMC's scheduled support of Camp in 2020, our spending plan included \$2,800 under Missions, Peace, & Service, as well as \$3,000 for camperships under Christian Education. The \$2,800 is evenly divided over the year and sent monthly. The camperships are typically reimbursed directly to families at a rate of 50% of the cost of camp per child or youth after families have paid for camp. Though all summer camps were canceled this year due to Covid, Stewardship members voted to send the full \$3,000 designated for camperships directly to Camp. This means that FMC will give \$5,800 in total to Camp in 2020. We also supported Camp by taking both the JHY and the SHY to Winter Retreats in January, and many of our families attended Family Winter Retreat in February. Additionally, some families have attended the summer and fall getaways. Stewardship encourages you to consider offering additional financial support directly to Camp Friedenswald to ensure its future.

Thanks to all who joined the farewell event for Theda and Dawn. If you missed the event and would like to watch it, follow this link: <https://vimeo.com/458333666>. Thanks to Ray Raeburn for recording this!

Reminders

When we began meeting virtually last March, we had no idea how long it would last or how our worship would evolve. In March, we kept the order of worship as close to what it had been in person, in part because we were just figuring out how to transfer it to a virtual platform. But keeping things as close as possible to what we had experienced in person was comforting. Along the way, we have adapted and made small changes. Now you may notice some changes that are part of an effort to move forward with a plan that we hope will help us when we begin to transition from virtual worship back to gathering in person. We already know we're not likely returning to the way it was in worship or in any aspect of our lives. But we do look forward to the new day when we will gather and worship together. We welcome and appreciate your feedback as we navigate this transition.

~ Mark Suderman, Director of Music, and Pastor Wanda

Find copies of our *Reopening Guidelines* in the literature rack in the fellowship hall or at fmc@fmdbluffton.org. Click on the *Reopening Guidelines* tab at the top of the home page, then follow the links on that page. These include a spreadsheet outlining our planned response to the various levels in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, and the second a more detailed explanation. As new information emerges about the virus and as new treatments and vaccines become available, the guidelines may be revised.

This fall's theme is *Voices Together* and we are highlighting music by individuals, small groups, and families using hymns from our current collection, previous hymnals, or the new *Voices Together* hymnal. Each Sunday a hymn will be presented in the way you choose. Then the hymn will be presented by solo, quartet, piano, video or another way. Please contact Mark Suderman if you would like to participate.

Ministry Opportunities

Looking for a way to get involved and serve at Camp Friedenswald? Camp depends on volunteers to help

offer quality facilities and programs. Volunteer opportunities include kitchen, office, woodworking and maintenance. Camp provides meals and lodging, depending on the length of service and stay. For more information, email Jenna@friedenswald.org or call (269) 476-9744.

Our Connections

Anabaptism as Spiritual Practice webinar will be held Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 6:30 p.m. (ET). This webinar introduces Anabaptist history as a Spirit-oriented tradition and the difference that might make for our lives and congregations. Join at <https://zoom.us/j/91785893004>, Meeting ID: 917 8589 3004, or by Skype for Business at <https://zoom.us/skype/91785893004>

MCHO Service Group will hold a chicken barbecue fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 26, from 4-6 p.m. with curbside pick-up at Bubba C BBQ, 158 N. Jackson St. Tickets are \$8 from service group members, by emailing Ivike4850@yahoo.com or at 576-204-9232. Proceeds will go toward a new van for MMH.

MDS has just released the September *On the Level*, which features volunteers exploring ways to assist with recovery from Hurricanes Laura and Sally and West Coast wildfires and others in Pennsylvania making plans to assist farmers facing drought. [Click on this link to read more: https://conta.cc/33EJ34W](https://conta.cc/33EJ34W)