

First Mennonite Church
101 S. Jackson Street
Bluffton, Ohio 45817
Phone: 419-358-5766
Website: fmcbluffton.org
Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

CHURCH STAFF

- 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); fmc.thera@bluffton.edu
- Youth Ministry Director – Shannon Thiebeau, T/Th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; fmc.shannon@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

GREETER: Sally Roth

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Melissa Friesen, Mitch Kingsley

Worship – Kendra and Ellie Nickel, Jason Diller

NURSERY NEXT WEEK: SS – Cheri Slotter, Ashton Cluts

Worship – John and Julie Mackey, Ben Hartzler, Theo Andreas

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Worship attendance last Sunday	FMC-136, MC-5
Spending plan giving July 29, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$2,944.00
Special fund giving July 29, 2018 (includes e-giving): Building fund-\$100; ISAF-\$100	\$4,009.00
MCC immigration-\$50; Flooring-\$450; MCC-J. Moser-\$2,959; Misc.-\$200; Sojourners-\$150	
Total giving July 29, 2018 (includes e-giving)	\$6,953.00
Total spending plan receipts as of June 30, 2018	\$189,473.39
Spending plan expenses as of June 30, 2018	\$198,232.79
2018 spending plan	\$427,441.00

First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the “Anabaptist” movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.



- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small metal pencil sharpener (one or two holes) (The sharpeners are most likely to be found in the office section of stores)

We always need bag fabric and people to sew bags. Heavier fabric is ideal for school kits. Sewing directions are on the kit card in the kit collection area of Fellowship Hall. Some precut bags and cords are also there. **Relief kits:** MCC also notes an extreme need for relief kits. Kit lists are posted on the bulletin board in the kit collection area or you may write a check to FMC listing “relief kits” on the memo line.

~ Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

Mission Peace and Service will host four people from Japan who are part of the World Friendship Center PAX organization. They will be at FMC the evening of Thursday, Sept. 27, as well as Bluffton University, telling stories and doing a play of the impact of the A-bomb on Hiroshima. We are looking for host families for these individuals for two nights and breakfasts on September 26 and 27. If interested or wanting more information, please contact Alice Ruth Ramseyer at ramseyer@wcoil.com or 419-358-0835.

Would you like to be a support family for a Bluffton University international student? Bluffton is expecting a much larger group of new international students this fall - from Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe - and would like to offer each student the opportunity to have a local family to connect with. A support family can be an individual, couple or family with children. If you are intrigued by this idea and would like to find out what would be involved in being a Bluffton University International Student Support Family contact Paul Neufeld Weaver, weaverpn@bluffton.edu 419-296-9462 or International Student Coordinator Tom Siferd siferdst@bluffton.edu 419-358-3022.

The Lima Area Habitat affiliate is gearing up for another house build this fall, most likely in Elida. There will be a need for construction workers, food preparation teams, and donors/sponsors. More information will come soon. Habitat has also begun its repair program. There is a continued need for additional volunteers at the Lima Area Habitat ReStore, 550 W. Elm St. Jobs for volunteers include customer service, product preparation, cashier, donation pick up, maintenance, and cleaning. One-time volunteers are welcome, but regular volunteers are especially needed – even for just a few hours one or two days a week. To sign up, visit www.habitatlima.org/volunteer/ or call 419-222-4937.

Welcoming Statement

In response to God’s unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

CALENDAR

Today, August 5, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, Middle School cafetorium
Noon	Connections potluck

August 6-10

Tuesday (8-7)	Morning Prayers, 7 a.m. (prayer room upstairs) Staff meeting, 9 a.m. Et Cetera board planning mtg., 9 a.m., AR
Wednesday (8-8)	Stewardship, 6:30 p.m., parlor
Thursday (8-9)	Nurture, 7:30 p.m., parlor (note time change)

Next Sunday, August 12, 2018

9:15 a.m.	SS, Coffee time
10:30 a.m.	Worship, Brent Schroeder preaching

Reminders:

- **Check the new hanging literature racks in the fellowship hall for copies of the Central District Conference July Reporter, which covers the annual meeting.**

Cover photo by Leslie Pannabecker Bloss, niece of Alice Ruth Ramseyer and cousin of Mary Pannabecker Steiner.

Welcome to our worship service today. If you are a visitor, please sign one of our guest books located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Wireless hearing aids are available. If you would like your children cared for while you worship, our nursery is downstairs in the church. Worship activity bags for children are available.

Announcements

Pastor Wanda will be on vacation August 6-11. For pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor Theda.

Church and community members who are interested in responding to recent anti-immigrant raids and policies in Ohio and throughout the country are invited to gather Sunday, August 12, at 4 p.m. in the assembly room. This is an opportunity to ask questions, get more information, plan concrete action in support of immigrants and gather around the peace pole to pray with and for those who have come to this country as immigrants.

The annual church picnic will be held at noon Sunday, August 26, at the Bluffton Village Park. Please bring a hot and a cold dish to share, as well as table service for your family. Water will be provided. ~ *Nurture Commission*

You may still request a free copy of “We Make the Road by Walking.” Sign-up in the cafetorium or fellowship hall or request one from the church office.

Music ensemble rehearsals to begin: Note the dates, times, locations and ages for music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship and encourage others to join. We welcome new additions to the ensembles and enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (**adults of all ages**) begins on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m., Mark Suderman, director, sanctuary
- Adult (**adults of all ages**) and Youth (**Grades 7-12**) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, Ray Raeburn, director, assembly room
- Cherub Choir (**3 yr. old-1st grade**) begins on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 6 p.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children’s choir room
- Jubilate (**2nd-5th grade**) begins on Wednesday, Sept., 5 at 6:30 p.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children’s choir room
- Youth Choir (**7th grade and up**) will meet on Sunday, Sept., 16 at 8:30 a.m., Laura Hartzler, director, children’s choir room
 - *Parents of young children new to choir are welcome to stay as needed.*

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, September 8. Governance Task Force invites you to save the morning of September 8 for a Governance Workshop at the retreat for all commission members. *Please note that all other interested individuals are encouraged to attend!* This is an opportunity for emerging and established leaders, the idle curious, and persnickety people to gather for education, thoughtful conversation, creative organizing/planning, and laughter as we discern a new path together. Marathana Prothro will facilitate our conversation and food will be provided. Childcare will be available as needed. More information will be shared at the August 19 congregational meeting.

Copies of the resource we have used, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership* (Dan Hotchkiss) are available in the church office. All are encouraged to read it. It is a bit “dense” at times but Hotchkiss does a great job of helping us think about the necessary role of governance that supports and sustains our primary tasks of mission and ministry. The September 8 retreat will use this work to help us establish a common vocabulary for our ongoing conversations. Come to the retreat even if you didn’t read the book. No tests or quizzes will be given!

Thank you First Mennonite Church for your support! With your contributions to my MVS fundraising placement, we have surpassed our goal! I look forward to sharing stories with everyone, of my time in Alamosa through my MVS advocates, Doug and Paula Luginbill, or when I visit during the holidays. ~ *Jonatan Moser*

George Lehman’s brother-in-law, Mike Yoder, passed away on July 30. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, August 18th at 11a.m. at Assembly Mennonite Church in Goshen, IN. Please remember the Lehman and Goings families in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Mike.

Sanctuary renovation schedule:

- Pew repairs, construction of steps and railings complete
- Ongoing: Pew upholstery cleaning
- August 6-19: Hardwood flooring to be installed (front of sanctuary floor and stage area), sanding and clear coating of wood floor under and in balcony
- August 20-25 or 31: Carpet installed and new rubber stairs by Church St. door

MCC kit collection underway: MCC school kit collection has begun. Please note that kit requirements have changed this year:

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm; inch markings optional)