

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 4-5-2020

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; 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, M-F, 8-11 a.m., 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, April 5, 2020

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

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

Sojourners SS will meet by Zoom, 9:15 a.m.

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

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, service available for viewing at 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle will meet by Zoom, 6 p.m.

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

April 7-11

Tuesday (April 7) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday (April 8) Coffee & tea social hour, Zoom, 3 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/110200533>

Evening prayers, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Thursday (April 9) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.

Vespers, canceled for Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday service, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday (April 12)

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

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

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching

Learning circle will meet by Zoom, 6 p.m.

Three prayer options via Zoom

We will continue to meet for Morning Prayers via Zoom and have added two time options.

The prayer schedule is:

Morning Prayers-Tuesday, 7-7:30 a.m.

Evening Prayers-Wednesday, 7-7:30 p.m.

Vespers-Thursday, 4-4:30 p.m.

The same link will be used for all three prayers:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/296319743>. If you need assistance with Zoom, please contact the church office.

Happy birthday

April 5 – Kendra Gott

April 6 – Mike Edmiston

April 8 – Janet Schumacher

April 10 – Jim Harder

View worship service at 10:30 a.m.

Our Palm Sunday morning worship service will be available by 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 5. It will again be a video but will include congregational singing retrieved from previous recordings of worship at FMC.

Maundy Thursday service planned

Are you missing gathering as a whole congregation and worshipping together? Unfortunately, we still aren't able to meet in the same space, but we can join together at the same time! Follow this link <https://zoom.us/j/674868595> to join a Maundy Thursday service of worship at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 9. The meeting will be open 15 minutes in advance, creating an opportunity to greet one another before we begin. Hope to see you there!

NEW!!!

**Zoom in for coffee and tea social hour:
Coffee & tea via ZOOM will be offered
on Wednesday afternoons at 3 p.m.**

**This will simply be a social hour hosted
by Theda and Wanda. Link for this
meeting is**

<https://zoom.us/j/110200533>.

From MPS: The siege of Gaza has created restrictions on the availability of food, water, medical care, commerce, and industry for about 1.8 million people. Mennonite Palestine Israel Network invites Mennonite congregations to “twin” with people confined in the Gaza Strip. MennoPIN seeks to build reconciliation in Israel and Palestine. Mission, Peace, & Service is wondering if there are people in our congregation who would like to explore the twinning effort. Interested persons should contact Mitch Kingsley at kingsleym@bluffton.edu.

Reminders

Contributions: Please consider electronic giving as a safe alternate to the traditional offering plate contributions. From the FMC website at fmcbluffton.org, click on *ONLINE GIVING*, at the far right of the red navigation bar at the top of the page. When registering with Vanco, the faith-based electronic payment organization with which we work, you will need your bank routing and checking account numbers. You'll choose a starting date, as well as frequency. FMC does NOT have access to your personal banking information. **If you prefer not to use the electronic option, please feel free to mail your contributions to us at 101 S. Jackson St., or slide them under the office door. All forms of contributions are much appreciated, whether by cash, check or e-giving.**

The Sojourners class will meet via Zoom on Sunday, April 5, at 9:15 a.m. The address for this meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>. We will discuss the current lesson on *God's Just Servant* in the Adult Bible Study guide from MennoMedia which is drawn from Isaiah 42:1-9. Anyone is welcome to attend, even if you are not a regular attender of Sojourners.

Taste and See class will meet at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, April 5, on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/342273765>. Join us this Sunday as we learn about and practice Centering Prayer. This is a widely practiced modern form of an ancient Christian contemplative prayer style. It is a way to take a break from our compulsive thought patterns and consent to God's work in our depths.

Sunday night Learning Circle will meet via Zoom at 6 p.m. Sundays until it is possible to meet in person again. Circle will meet at <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>.

MennoMedia is making Sunday school available to you at home! [Read more](#) to find Shine Resources. You can also check out the [Shine FB page](#), which includes links to videos of people reading the children's story from the Shine storybook and other kinds of singing and videos.

Thanks to Victoria Woods-Yee for creating our bulletin covers throughout this Lenten season.

Mennonite Women have canceled the April 13-14 comforter knotting event. Please continue to sew tops with the hope that we can schedule a new date this summer.

FMC will host Bluffton Community VBS June 7-11. We'll need volunteers to make decorations and name tags, bake cookies, and prepare the church, and will need volunteers during VBS, checking in guests, distributing name tags, walking children between stations, playing music, and leading worship. If you are interested in helping, contact co-organizers Amber Shelly (arshelly11@gmail.com) or Carrie Mast.