

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 10-27-2019

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; 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., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@fmcbluffton.org
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2019

- 8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Worship, Gerald Mast preaching
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle

Oct. 28-Nov. 3

- Tuesday (Oct. 29) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Jubilee, 2020 Spending Plan intro, 6 p.m.
MPS, 7 p.m. (rescheduled from 10-22)
- Wednesday (Oct. 30) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
- Thursday (Oct. 31) Deadline to submit bulletin info, 9 a.m.
- Sunday (Nov. 3) Youth choir, 8:30 a.m.
SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.
Mary Boyer memorial service, 2 p.m., FMC
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

Happy birthday!!

Oct. 28 – Mark Novak

Oct. 29 – Lynda Nyce

Oct. 30 – Kylie Longworth

An information meeting to preview the proposed 2020 Spending Plan on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 6 p.m. will provide explanations of the process for developing the 2020 plan, as well as the most significant changes. The proposed spending plan is based on a five-year history of our congregation's spending and reflects a new initiative based on work by the Governance Task Force and Stewardship Commission to simplify and clarify, be transparent, and better align our spending plan with our congregation's values and five priorities. This video provides the background and scriptural foundation of the process for those who want to prepare for the meeting or for those unable to attend:

<https://zoom.us/recording/share/pF1lD1ZB9hau5WemiTptobsBe5F5JwgD0GHlyLTRu3ewlumekTziMw?startTime=1571872641000>

Note: There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, Nov. 10 to take action on the spending plan.

Our kit coordinators delivered 184 school kits, 26 hygiene kits, and one relief kit to The Lantern, Pandora. According to Jean Miller and Sue Schaaf, this completes our kit collecting for 2019. In early 2020, they will announce the beginning of the next collection. Thanks to Wendell Miller and Tom Schaaf for their help in loading and delivering kits.

MORE NEW STUFF

Thanks to Pastor Theda Good and Carrie Mast for their work in garnering one of the grants awarded in the Activated Faith Community Challenge by Activate Allen County. Our \$500 grant will fund the rental of Bluffton Family Recreation Center for two nights of activity for our congregation. *(See more info below.)*

Here's your chance to burn off some Halloween treats. First Mennonite is renting Bluffton Family Recreation on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 6-8 p.m. Try some Pickleball or kick a soccer ball with children, moms, dads and elders. Basketball, walking the track, parachute play, weight training and more will be available. Conversation on bleachers is also encouraged.

Melissa Florer-Bixler, pastor at Raleigh (NC) Mennonite Church, will be the Spiritual Life speaker at Bluffton University and is available to meet with those at First Mennonite interested in the topic, "The Gender-ful Language of God." In this discussion, we will explore the language we use for God in our conversations, prayers, and worship service. This will be a brown bag supper on Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

~Pastor Theda

You're invited to attend the BHS marching band concert on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. You'll hear some of their fall repertoire and **see some of FMC's youth in the band:** Sophia Gott, senior field commander; Patrick Estell, trumpet; Landon Novak, trombone; and Carter Dyar, percussion.

Bluffton High School Fall Play: "Jookalorum," a collection of stories from O. Henry, will be performed Nov. 15-16 in the middle school cafetorium. Tickets will be sold at the door. Cost is adult \$3, student \$1. The performances begin at 7:30 p.m. FMC youth with parts in the play include Sophia Gott, Ana Neufeld Weaver, and Patrick Estell.

As immigration is part of our national conversation, we've heard about the US/Mexico border and the challenges of people fleeing from violence and poverty. If we were to organize a tour from First Mennonite and you would be interested in participating to experience the border first hand, please sign up on the sheet by the office. *This is not a commitment.* We want to know if there is enough interest to pursue a trip during the first week of March or in May, 2020. ~ *Jan Wiebe, Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Lynda Nyce and Pastor Theda*

Laurel and Paul Neufeld Weaver provided the red rose in the chancel area in honor of the arrival of their granddaughter, Zoey Michelle Kerns, born October 23. Her parents are Erin and Jason Kerns, Dayton.

REMINDERS

A memorial service will be held for Mary Boyer at First Mennonite Sunday, Nov. 3, at 2 p.m. Visitation and a meal will follow in the fellowship hall.

There will be an all-church potluck after worship Sunday, Nov. 17, in celebration of the years of casket making and its conclusion. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. A short program will highlight the work and those involved over the many years the caskets were produced.

You're invited to meet Glen Guyton, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, on Sunday, Nov. 24. Glen will offer the sermon based on John 17:20-23 at First Mennonite Church. At 6:30 p.m. **(note time change)** Nov. 24, Glen will share his vision for the denomination at a reception in the fellowship hall. All are invited to attend.

The deadline to register for The "Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well" workshop is Nov. 1 – sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. The workshop, is from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 in the fellowship hall and features Dr. Glen E. Miller as speaker. Cost of \$15 covers lunch and notebooks. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the speaker begins at 9 a.m.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY

Oct. 27 Fall Concert: Fall Choral Concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Oct. 28 Art Event: "Anthrotopographies" exhibit by John Sabraw, Sauder Visual Arts Center, through Dec. 12

Oct 29 Forum: "In The Field: Helping Others Live Their Best Lives through Social Work," 11 a.m., Yoder Hall

Oct. 31-Nov. 3 Fall Play: "Arsenic and Old Lace," 7:30 p.m. Th-Sat and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Ramseyer Auditorium, College Hall. Tickets at <http://tickets.bluffton.edu> or at Marbeck Center desk