

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 12-1-2019

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, Dec. 1, 2019

- 8:30 a.m. Youth choir
- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Theda Good preaching
- 11:30 a.m. Connections potluck
- 11:30 a.m. Decorating sanctuary, all invited to help, pizza lunch afterward
- 5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, AR

Dec. 2-7

- Monday (Dec. 2) Ad-hoc tech committee, 7 p.m., parlor
- Tuesday (Dec. 3) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
 - Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
 - Bluffton Farmers Market dinner, 6 p.m., FH
- Wednesday (Dec. 4) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.
 - Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
 - Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
- Thursday (Dec. 5) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.
 - Red Cross blood drive, 1-6 p.m., FH
- Sunday (Dec. 8) Youth choir, 8:30 a.m.
 - SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
 - Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.
 - Sojourners, Freudige potlucks
 - FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

Evening Prayers begins Dec. 5

Evening Prayers will begin Thursday, Dec. 5, in the prayer room upstairs, from 4:30-5 p.m. See the December Menno-Life for more details.

Happy birthday!!

- 12-3 Carrie Phillips
- 12-3 Sarah Phillips
- 12-4 Sandy Benner
- 12-6 Doug Luginbill
- 12-6 Natalie Shenk
- 12-8 Susie Gratz

Join the youth in decorating the sanctuary immediately following worship today. A pizza lunch will be provided for those who help.

Dates to remember!

- ***Dec. 15** Advent pancake breakfast fundraiser, 8:30-9:30 a.m.
- ***Dec. 15** Children's Christmas program, 9:45 a.m.
- ***Dec. 15** Christmas caroling at MMH, 6:30 p.m.
- ***Dec. 25** Christmas Eve service, 6:30 p.m.
- ***Dec. 29** Holiday brunch, 9:15 a.m.

REMINDERS

The **primary children's** SS classes and the junior high SS class will meet in the ViP room December 1, 8, and 15 to prepare for the Christmas program to be presented during the SS hour on December 15. Junior high youth not in the program will be assisting with chaos control.

First Mennonite will hold a Red Cross blood drive Thursday, Dec. 5, from 1-6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Walk-ins are welcome, but you may schedule a donation at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>. **Also, volunteers are needed!** There is a sign-up form in the fellowship hall to help unload/load trucks, register donors, help in the kitchen, provide cookies, etc.

2019 Advent brochures are located in a basket on the hearing aid cabinet in the fellowship hall. Please help yourselves!

January 25: Saturday family workshop, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Details forthcoming.

First Mennonite will host the community meal at the Senior Center on Thursday, Dec. 5. To find out how you can help, see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. ~ Mission, Peace and Service

College Scholarship Fund: First Mennonite offers financial assistance to students who attend an Anabaptist/Mennonite college or university. Scholarships are matched dollar-for-dollar by the institutions up to \$1,000, matching 25% above that amount. Scholarships for 2019-20 school year were increased to \$1,500/student/year because funds were available. Eight students are currently receiving FMC scholarships.

*Students currently attending or considering attending a Mennonite college in 2020-21

should contact Louise Matthews (matthewsa@bluffton.edu) by Sunday, Nov. 24. Final college decisions need not be made until spring but Dec. 1 is the deadline to guarantee matching funds.

*The "College Scholarship Fund" is dependent on your generous financial support and contributions may be designated as such. Participating students for 2020-21 will receive \$1,000 from FMC for the year unless sufficient funds are available to again offer \$1,500. ~ Church College Relations

The Bluffton University International Student Assistance Fund was established by Paul Neufeld Weaver, Lori Nester and Ivan Friesen to make funds available to international students when needs arise. Carrie Mast has also been involved in assisting with overseeing the fund. Donations may be made by writing a check to First Mennonite Church and designating ISAF. This is not part of FMC's regular spending plan.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY

Dec. 3 Christmas Festival, Forum, Music Department, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Dec. 6 "The Myth of Redemptive Violence," colloquium, y Dr. Alexander Sider, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

Dec. 8 Messiah, 4 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall, tickets free but reservations required, <http://tickets.bluffton.edu>