

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 12-8-2019

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

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday, 419-551-1079; wanda@fmclubffton.org
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; theda@fmclubffton.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@fmclubffton.org
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019

- 8:30 a.m. Youth choir
- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
- 11:30 a.m. Freudige/Sojourners potlucks
- 5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, AR

Dec. 9-14

Monday (Dec. 9) Ad hoc tech committee, 7 p.m., parlor

Tuesday (Dec. 10) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.

Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor

MPS, 7 p.m., parlor

Wednesday (Dec. 11) MW work morning, 9 a.m.-noon

Pastor visit, MMH, 2:30 p.m.

Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.

Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.

Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.

Thursday (Dec. 12) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.

Staff Christmas breakfast, office closed until 11 a.m.

Evening prayers, 4:30 p.m., prayer room

Nurture, 7 p.m.

Trustees, 7 p.m.

Sunday (Dec. 15) Pancake breakfast fundraiser, 8:30 a.m., FH

Children's Christmas program, 9:45 a.m., sanctuary

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

FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

Caroling, 6:30 p.m. Mennonite Memorial Home

Happy birthday!!

12-10 – Carolyn Rich

History of the Advent panels

In 2005, Gene Caskey and Lois Wetherill created two panels to be used during Advent. With a theme of the journey to Bethlehem, Gene suggested piecing purple fabrics resembling a path down the length of each column in the chancel. To collect a range of purple hues, they searched thrift shops for purple fabric and clothing. Using the Community classroom as a workshop, they cut strips and laid them out on the floor before Lois sewed them together. As they worked, Gary Wetherill provided meals. Says Lois, "I must admit, I never tire of looking at these panels and remembering how they came to be."

Thanks to all who invested time, energy and creativity in making these worship visuals.

Spending Plan 2019: Transformation from abundance to beauty...

Did you know that First Mennonite provides funds and space to support a tutoring program? Two days a week, Bluffton University students serve as reading tutors to Bluffton Elementary second- and third-grade students. The money comes from our endowment fund, specifically from a bequest from the late Karl Gierman, and is used to purchase snacks and incentives for the participants. The program is called Karl's Club in memory of Karl.

Join the FMC children and youth for an Advent doubleheader on Sunday, Dec. 15! First, enjoy some pancakes and sausage hot off the griddle during the senior high youth Advent pancake fundraiser! Come and eat anytime between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Next, move into the sanctuary just in time for the junior high and children's Christmas program at 9:45. See the nativity story unfold with beauty and comedy. Both events are sure to please!

Enjoy a caroling and card party for all ages Sunday, Dec. 15! Wish our friends at Mennonite Memorial Home a very merry Christmas with caroling at 6:30 p.m. (meet in the Mennonite Home lobby) and immediately following, return to FMC for snacks and hot chocolate in the fellowship hall while we make holiday greeting cards and snowflakes to send to our neighbors in detention centers in Arizona.

The MW project committee invites all to the monthly work morning on Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m.-noon. Participants will cut, lay out, and sew comforter tops and kit bags. Bring rotary cutters, rulers, mats, and sewing machines. A sewing machine and several mats with rulers are available. Working as a team is an option.

Thanks to all who helped make the December 5 Red Cross blood drive a success. We collected 33 units of blood. Thanks especially to Heidrun Awad for coordinating FMC's part in the drive. ~ MPS

PRAYER CONCERNS

Thank you, FMC family, for your caring ways during Mom/Grandma's last weeks and after her death.

Thoughts, cards, and prayers were much appreciated.

~ Sally Roth and family

Bob Stratton died Nov. 28 at his residence. A memorial service was held Dec. 3 at English Lutheran Church. Treva and her family appreciate your prayers.

Dick Ramseyer's hip surgery went well and he is recuperating at home. Their daughter, Marty, is here to help with care and their son, Rick, will come next week. Dick and Elfrieda are grateful for your prayers.

REMINDERS

Evening Prayers will meet on Thursdays during December, from 4:30-5 p.m. in the prayer room upstairs. See the December Menno-Life for more details.

The primary children's SS classes and the junior high SS class will meet in the ViP room today and December 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.

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

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY

Dec. 8 Handel's Messiah, 4 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall, tickets are free but seat reservations are required at tickets.bluffton.edu.

EVERENCE

1. Donating to charities before Dec. 13? Some donations remain tax deductible under current law, including charitable distributions from individual retirement accounts, gifts of commodities and large gifts to donor advised funds. Learn more at everence.com/types-of-gifts.
2. Apply now for a 2020 scholarship. If you or your parents are or become Everence members and you will be enrolled in a college or trade school next fall, apply for an Everence college scholarship of up to \$3,000 before March 10, 2020. Visit everence.com/college-scholarships for guidelines and an application.