

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## *Weekly Announcements 2-17-2019*

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817  
419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

- Pastor Wanda Stopher -- Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday; 419-551-1079 (cell); [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)
- Pastor Theda Good -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); [fmc.theda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.theda@bluffton.edu)
- Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-10 a.m., [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4, [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

### Calendar

#### **Sunday, Feb. 17, 2019**

- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching  
4 p.m. “Different Decisions of Conscience,” Dr. Perry Bush, Kreider Rm., Marbeck Ctr., Bluffton University  
Opening reception, Voices of Conscience” exhibit (follows presentation, Reading Room, Musselman library  
5:30 p.m. Learning circle, supper provided, FH  
6:30 p.m. Learning circle, Maple Crest  
7 p.m. Mentor/mentee event, FH

#### **Feb. 18-24, 2019**

- Monday (Feb. 18) Ride to Remember mtg., 5 p.m., FH  
Tuesday (Feb. 19) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Financial Peace U, 7 p.m., FH  
Wednesday (Feb. 20) Adult bells, Cherubs, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel, youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (Feb. 21) Church Council, 7 p.m.  
Friday (Feb. 22) Menno-Life deadline  
Sunday (Feb. 24) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Youth Sunday, 10:30 a.m.  
Learning circle, supper provided, 5:30 p.m., FH  
“Remember What Happened to Uncle Daniel?” Dr. Scott Holland, 4 p.m. Kreider Rm., (Voices of Conscience)

### **FMC families enjoy family camp**

If the church feels a bit emptier than usual, it might be that several of our families are enjoying family camp at Camp Friedenswald this weekend.

Attending camp are Laura, Greg, Ben, Ellie, Micah and Anna Hartzler; Gerald, Carrie, Anna, Jacob and Jorian Mast; Amy, Ethan, Ryan and Evan Blount; Betsi and Savannah Werling; Alison, Milena and Madelyn King; Jonathan Andreas, Theo, Seth and Jan Wiebe; Kristen and Kaden Niekamp; and Danielle and Lakota Corbin.

### **Youth Sunday Feb. 24**

Prepare for the Senior High Youth to lead you in worship on Sunday, Feb. 24. The youth will be connecting with chapter 25 in *We Make the Road*, titled “Jesus, Violence, and Power.”

### **Review of the 2018 financial year**

The Stewardship commission invites the congregation to attend a meeting to review the 2018 financial year Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This is not an official congregational meeting since no decision-making is scheduled, but all are welcome to attend, reflect, and ask questions.

### **New items to read and watch**

Check the literature rack for new reading material. New this week: The winter issue of “Behind the Hammer,” which features the annual report of Mennonite Disaster Service.

A DVD of the Mennonite Women’s January celebration is in the church library’s special events box.

**I cannot thank you enough** for the nurture, prayers, food, cards, rides, and good humor that you gifted me with in January and beyond! My fractured leg is mending and I hope to be walking soon. Healing my heart from my mother's death will certainly take longer. I have felt this community wrapping me in love and support over these past weeks as I begin this new chapter of my life. -- *God's peace, Elizabeth & Ray*

**Everence Sharing Funds** provided \$2,475 in matching funds to support special needs in our church last year. For more information, contact Rich Bucher, the Everence advocate for our congregation.

## **REMINDERS**

**All mentor-mentee pairs will meet** for a snack potluck and "Truth-or-Dare: Mentor-Style" at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17 in the fellowship hall. They'll share and enjoy snacks, build relationships, and learn about other pairs. Each mentor-mentee pair will bring a snack to share. While playing the game, truth prompts may invite you to share more about yourself, while dare prompts will challenge you to step out of your comfort zone.

**Regional Gathering:** You're invited to attend the CDC Regional Gathering from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at First Mennonite. The event will include updates about CDC, opportunities to get acquainted, and singing. Lunch and child care will be available. Those planning to eat lunch are asked to bring a donation to help cover the costs. Please register on the sign-up sheet on a table near the office or by contacting the office at [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu) or 419-358-5766. If you wish to bring child(ren), please contact Carrie Mast at [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu) or 419.230.1568 to ensure we have age appropriate activities.

**Hygiene and relief kit drive:** We continue to collect hygiene/relief kits – see more information posted in the collection area near the library.

## **OUR CONNECTIONS**

**"Voices of Conscience"** exhibit opens Sunday, Feb. 17 in Musselman Library, Bluffton University. The exhibit, which will remain open through March 31, focuses on the witness of peace-minded people against the First World War and immerses visitors in the historical experience of witnessing for peace. The exhibit also suggests parallels to the culture of war and violence in our world today. The exhibit was developed by the Kauffman Museum, North Newton, KS. Also included is an exhibit "Of Bronze and Bravery: Local Voices of Conscience," featuring works by John P. Klassen. Library hours are 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. F; 1-4 p.m. Saturday and 4-10 p.m. Sunday.

### **University events:**

**Feb. 17:** "Different Decisions of Conscience: Mennonite Combatants, Noncombatants and objectors in Ohio, 1916-1919," Dr. Perry Bush, 4 p.m., Kreider Room, Marbeck Center; Opening reception for the "Voices of Conscience" exhibit following in the Reading Room, Musselman Library.

**Feb. 19:** "We Need to Talk: How to have Tough Conversations at Work, at Home, at Church," Forum panel discussion with Lawrence Milan '73, Daniel Metzger '05 and Nicole Fairburn '15, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Feb. 19:** "The Witness of Conversational Bodies," Forum presentation by C. Christopher Smith, editor, Englewood Review of Books, 11 a.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall, Centennial Hall

**Feb. 22:** "When Talking is Tough: Image Theatre as a Catalyst for Engagement," Friday Colloquium by Dr. Melissa Friesen, 4 p.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall, Centennial Hall

**Valentine's Day marked 500 days** that Edith Espinal has lived in sanctuary at Columbus Mennonite Church. She and her supporters continue to advocate for a legal path for her to remain with her family in Columbus. Share your love and solidarity by donating to [SolidarityWithEdith.org](http://SolidarityWithEdith.org) or text "Edith" to 44-321.

**The Community Chili Cook-off** to benefit the Bluffton Community Assistance program, will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m. at Bluffton Middle School. Samples of each chili and a vote for People's Choice costs \$5/person. Sandwiches, chips, desserts and drinks will be available for purchase. The event is sponsored by Bluffton Presbyterian but chefs and volunteers from other local churches are involved. Canned and boxed food donations will be accepted, as well; a chance for a gift basket will be given to each person who brings an item.