

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 3-1-2020

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

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday, 419-551-1079; wanda@fmclubluffton.org
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; theda@fmclubluffton.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@fmclubluffton.org

Sunday, March 1, 2020

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Theda Good preaching
11:30 a.m. Connections potluck, AR
Noon Catechism, FH
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, FH
2 p.m. Mennonite Youth Choir Festival, Goshen

March 2-8

Monday (March 2) Financial review, sanctuary, 6 p.m.
Tuesday (March 3) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (March 4) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (March 5) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.
VBS planning meeting, 6 p.m., AR
Worship, 7 p.m., parlor
Sunday (March 8) Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Elective SS class on contemplative prayer practices, 9:15 a.m., Room 301
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.
Freudige/Sojourners potlucks, 11:30 a.m.
Catechism, noon
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

Come to a family workshop Saturday, March 28, from 9:30 a.m.-noon to learn how to be equipped for your family's emotional health. Topics will include technology, stress management, calming techniques, resilience, and an opportunity to develop a personalized family plan to incorporate healthy emotional regulation at home. Erin Bauman from Cornerstone of Hope Christian Counseling will facilitate the workshop. Snacks and supplies will be provided.

Happy birthday!

March 6 – Dave Moser

The 2019 Financial Review meeting will be held Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. Discussion and questions are welcome.

Staffing change:

Mick Hardy recently resigned his position as custodian at First Mennonite Church. We have appreciated his service and wish him well.

Staff Relations and Trustees are working together to identify next steps. In this transition time, a list of custodial tasks has been created. If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please see the list posted on the custodian closet door in the fellowship hall. All supplies and equipment are in the closet. When you complete a task, please initial and date that task. Thank you!

~ Staff Relations and Trustees

Church Custodian wanted: First Mennonite Church is in search of a church custodian. Duties include: routine cleaning of the building, light maintenance, set-up for events, outside lawn mowing and snow removal, other duties as agreed upon. Hourly wage, up to thirty hours per week. Contact FMC at fmc@fmclubluffton.org. Please provide your name, best contact information and a resume.

~ Staff Relations and Trustees

Mennonite Youth Choir Festival Concert is at 2 p.m. today in Sauder Music Hall, Goshen College. FMC junior high youth singing include Theo Andreas, Kaleigh Coffman, Rebecca Estell, Ben Hartzler, Ellie Hartzler, John-Paul Nyce Yoder, and Claire Phillips. FMC elementary youth participating include Ryan Blount and Jorian Mast, third graders.

Pastor Theda will be out of the office from Tuesday, March 3, through Sunday, March 8. She will be traveling with a group from FMC to the US/Mexico border where they will be learning, serving, and experiencing life on the border. Others on the trip include Ana, Laurel and Paul Neufeld Weaver, Jan Wiebe and Theo Andreas, Fran Core, Lynda Nyce, Melissa Friesen, and Monica Harnish.

Junior and senior high youth and four adults will travel to Camp Friedenswald for a volunteer work weekend March 13-15.

FMC will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mennonite Central Committee with comforter knotting April 13-14, beginning Monday night (4-13) and continuing all day Tuesday (4-14.) In preparation for that event, individuals are needed to sew comforter tops. Kits are available on the table in the quilt room, or you may choose fabrics from the large bin on the shelf. Your help is greatly appreciated to make this event a success.



Displaying these signs is one idea suggested for Bluffton Community VBS this year, as a way to connect with the MennoMedia curriculum, *Who Is My Neighbor?* FMC is the host church June 7-11 and we will need many volunteers to make decorations and name tags, bake cookies, and prepare the church. We will also need many volunteers during VBS, greeting/checking in guests, distributing name tags, walking children between stations, playing music, and leading worship. If you are interested in supporting VBS in any way, contact co-organizers Amber Shelly (arshelly11@gmail.com) or Carrie Mast. Your suggestions are welcome.

Reminders

If you wish to order Easter flowers, place your payment/form in the offering plate or deliver payment/form to the church office by **Monday, March 9.** The flowers will decorate the chancel on Easter; those who have ordered flowers **must retrieve them immediately after worship on Easter or ask someone else to do so.**

Taste and See: A Sampling of Contemplative Prayer Practices, an experiential elective prayer class, will meet during Sunday school March 8-April 5 upstairs in room 301. You may attend any or all of the classes. For more information, contact Anne Marie Spelman, 309-830-6975 or spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com.

You're invited to attend the CDC East Regional Gathering Saturday, March 14, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship. The Cincinnati congregation will provide lunch; donations are suggested. **To help them plan for the amount of food needed, notify our church office by March 3 if you plan to attend.**

Be part of a multiage First Mennonite Green Team. This group is for anyone of any age who is interested in thinking about and acting on climate change and sustainability practices throughout our church building and faith community. You might also be interested in attending the Climate & Community weekend at Camp Friedenswald April 17-19 (see the Camp Friedenswald pillar in the fellowship hall for details.) There are 10 open seats in our transportation. *Attendance at the retreat is not required to be part of the Green Team.* Contact Carrie Mast or sign up in the fellowship hall if interested.

Hygiene and relief kit* drive: Lists for both kits are on the bulletin board at the collection area near the library. Hygiene kits include: 1 adult-size toothbrush, 1 large bar bath soap, 1 nail clipper, 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors, approx. 16 in. x 26 in.), and 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8 inches.)

***Relief Kits:** Pack items into a box labeled relief kit and place near the kit collection area. MCC will repack these. If you'd like to sew bags, there are sewing directions cards on the bulletin board in the kit collection area. Some precut bags and cords are also there and we are accepting donated fabric.