

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 4-14-2019

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

Calendar

Sunday, April 14, 2019

9:15 a.m. Journey Forward,
9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher
preaching
11:30 a.m. Sojourner, Freudige potlucks
1:30 p.m. Café Conversation, FH
5:30 p.m. Learning circle, FH
Learning circle, 6:30 p.m., MC

April 15-20, 2019

Tuesday (April 16) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
RTA organizational mtg., 7 p.m.,
parlor

Wednesday (April 17) Adult bells, Cherubs, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday (April 18) Chancel, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Community meal, 6 p.m.,
Bluffton senior center
Maundy Thursday service, 6:30
p.m., FH
Deacons cancelled

Saturday (April 20) Diller shower, 11-4, FH

Sunday (April 21) Easter brunch, FH, 9:15 a.m.
No Sunday school
Worship, Wanda Stopher
preaching, 10:30 a.m.
Easter potluck lunch, 11:30 a.m.
Learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

Happy birthday!!

April 14 Sarah Basinger
April 14 LaVonne Klassen
April 14 Jorian Mast
April 15 Seth Andreas
April 16 Jen Benroth
April 16 Carla Richard
April 18 Helen Brooks
April 19 Julie Mackey
April 20 Carmen Ordóñez Moser
April 21 Becki Ahmed

A New Path TOGETHER

Thanks to everyone for their involvement in Making the Path Together! It is helpful to have new and recovering ministries identified. Meanwhile, we consider how a new governance structure would organize and support them, as well as developing processes for carrying forward the current and future emerging ministries of FMC. Discussion summaries and ministry templates are posted on our website: fmcbluffton.org. Hard copies of these documents are also located in a binder on the table outside the church office. Like the webpage, this provides a travelogue of the journey of A New Path Together! Please attend the April 28 meeting as we prepare for the next phase of the journey.

~ GTF: Gerald Mast, Greg Hartzler,
Elizabeth Kelly, Wanda Stopher

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday and begin what is known in the Christian calendar as Holy Week. It is the week when Jesus' followers remember his passion. We remember his entrance into Jerusalem, his last meal with his disciples, his arrest, trial, torture, crucifixion and burial. This Holy Week you are invited to ponder all this through scripture, prayer, or considering chapters 32, 32-A, 32-B, and or 32-C in our walking book. You might pray and reflect at home or you may be drawn to a special place. This week the sanctuary will be set up with several stations at which you may read, reflect or pray. Come alone or with friends or family. You are also invited to join the community of faith on Maundy Thursday, a time to remember together; and the Good Friday cross walk and service, a community service of remembrance.

Sing Hallelujah!

The Chancel Choir will be singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter Sunday. There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join.

Easter brunch: Please attend our Easter brunch at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, April 21. Bring breakfast/brunch foods to share, as well as your table service. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. There will be no Sunday school that morning.

~ Nurture

Easter lunch: All are invited to join the Easter potluck lunch following worship. There will be a ham; please bring your favorite Easter food to share. No need to RSVP, just come enjoy time and great food.

In observation of National Healthcare Decision Day (April 16), local churches and Herb Walker, St. Rita's Medical Center hospice chaplain, invite you to an informational meeting Tuesday April 30, from 2-3:30 p.m., or Thursday, May 9, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Bluffton town hall. Participants will learn more about advance directives and have opportunities to complete the required documents.

Thank you to all who helped load frames and knot comforters April 8-9. We finished 18 comforters, 8 of which were Wanda's, bringing her 60 x 60 project to 63! Thank you also to those who brought refreshments, lunch and cleaned up afterwards. Please take a comforter to hem from the quilt room or a kit to sew new tops in preparation for all project day. **Note:** We may have a kit-making and sewing day during the summer.

****Check our bulletin boards** for details about upcoming events in the community and elsewhere. New this week: The Bluffton Public Library spring tea and a conference at MTSO, "On Food and Faith: Ministry in the Time of Climate Change."

REMINDERS

Bluffton High School presents the Wizard of Oz April 12-14 in the middle school. FMC youth in the cast include Patrick Estell (Scarecrow), Ana Neufeld Weaver (Glinda the Good Witch), Seth Andreas (Mayor of Munchkin City), and Sophia Gott (Farmhand and Oz Girl.) Grace Paquin is a cellist in the orchestra. Performances are April 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m., and April 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

Join our first Community Café conversation today, Sunday, April 14 from 1:30-3 p.m. in the fellowship hall to discuss a sales tax on the May 7 ballot that will support Allen County Regional Transit Authority. This conversation will invite open conversation about big picture issues for us as Anabaptists around the intersections and boundaries between church, politics, and justice. Childcare will be available; contact Carrie Mast to arrange. See Perry Bush, Mitch Kingsley, or Pastor Wanda with questions.

We are supporting two events at the same time on Maundy Thursday, April 18. The community meal is at 6 p.m. at the Bluffton Senior Center. **At 6:30 p.m.**, we'll hold a service of prayer and remembrance in the fellowship hall. The service will offer the opportunity to receive communion, followed by other opportunities to remember and celebrate our common shared life with singing, candle lighting, anointing, foot washing, and prayer. Participants may choose to engage in one or all of these options and children are welcome to participate fully in this service.

Ana Neufeld Weaver, Grace Paquin and Jacob Biesecker-Mast are members of the Lima Area Youth Orchestra, which will perform its season finale Sunday, April 14, at 7 p.m. in the Lima Senior High School Auditorium. Tickets at \$10 per person and \$5 for students/seniors will be available at the door.

The Service Group of the Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio will hold an Easter bake sale Saturday, April 20, from 9:30-11 a.m. in the Hilty Home entrance. The sale will feature a variety of home baked goods including cinnamon rolls, cookies, cakes, and pies.

Hygiene and relief kit collection continues through April. Kit lists are on the bulletin board by the library. Thank you for your participation in the kit drive.

My Coins Count: Drop coins into the big jug in the fellowship hall to help MCC food and water projects. Last year we collected \$841.74. Let's set a new record before the June deadline!

~ John Rich

Bluffton University

April 16 Athletic Awards Forum, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall