

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## *Weekly Announcements 5-12-2019*

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 – On sabbatical through July 31, 2019
- 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, May 12, 2019**

- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Gloria Hernandez Bucher preaching.  
11:30 a.m. Freudige/Sojourner's class potlucks  
5:30 p.m. Learning circle

#### **May 13-18, 2019**

- Monday (May 13) Mennonite Women, 7 p.m., FH  
Tuesday (May 14) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor  
Saturday (May 18) Luginbuhl/Yoder shower, 1 p.m., FH  
Sunday (May 19) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Conversation on white privilege and racism, FH, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Linda Nyce preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
Paul Dyck visitation, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; memorial service, 4 p.m.  
FMC Learning circle, 5:30 p.m.  
MC Learning circle, 6:30 p.m.  
CO conversation, 7 p.m., sanctuary

### **Happy birthday!!**

- May 13 – Judy Steiner**  
**May 15 – Evan Blount**  
**May 15 – Lori Nester**  
**May 16 – Ellie Hartzler**  
**May 17 – John Templin**  
**May 19 – Bodey Benroth**  
**May 19 – Greg Hartzler**



### **Celebrate Mother's Day with a cupcake(s) from our youth**

Junior High and Senior High youth are holding their annual cupcake sale fundraiser today in the fellowship hall. Cupcakes are available during the Sunday school hour and following worship. Prices are as follows:

- \$0.75 per mini cupcake, \$3 per mini 1/2 dozen
- \$1.25 per large cupcake, \$6 per large 1/2 dozen
- \$15 per bag of coffee - decaf, medium roast, & dark roast, available in ground or whole bean in all 3 blends

### **Courtney Paul named FMC bookkeeper**

Courtney Paul has been appointed by Church Council as Bookkeeper. This new 3 hour per week position has been approved for a six-month trial period. Courtney's responsibilities will include paying bills, completing payroll, and developing monthly financial reports.

Darby Benroth and Carrie Mast will continue serving as Co-Treasurers during the trial period and can be contacted with questions.

**All are invited to participate in a CO conversation** on Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. While the focus of the discussion will be directed towards all junior high and senior high youth as they discern their response to military draft registration, it will also be an opportunity for all of us to discern our role as supporters of their Conscientious Objector status, and what that role might hold for us. The meeting will be facilitated by Perry Bush. Contact Carrie Mast, Director of Children and Youth Ministry, with questions: [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu) or 419.230.1568.

**You're invited to join a conversation** on white privilege and racism around a table in the fellowship hall during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, May 19. Anita Lehman will lead the conversation, which is one of the ministries identified during recent GTF all-church meetings.

**The Adult Summer Sunday School Elective series** will focus on "Covenant Relationships: Ruth to Romans." What can we learn from the stories in the Bible about the ties that bind us together as friends, families, and faith communities? How is the covenant that God made with Abraham fulfilled in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and in our own lives as we follow Christ? How does God's faithfulness help us cope with relationship failures and betrayals? These and many other questions about living in covenant will be addressed in the series that will run from June 2-August 25. Led by Gerald Mast, the class will use the MennoMedia Adult Bible Study and will meet in the assembly room at 9:15 a.m.

**Save the date: The all-church picnic has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 23, at the Bluffton Village Park. Details to follow.**

## **REMINDERS**

**All are invited to join Mennonite Women** Monday, May 13, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. MW will conclude a year of honoring 100 years of the First Mennonite women's group. They'll remember and reflect on the past, and look ahead as they begin a new century as Mennonite Women.

**A memorial service for Paul Dyck**, who died April 13, will be held Sunday, May 19, at 3 p.m. at FMC. Visitation will be held at the church from 1:30 p.m. until the time of the service. A private burial will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery. Paul's family appreciates your continuing thoughts and prayers.

**Summer musicians needed** - pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types. There are again opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer (June-August.)

Opportunities include:

- Lead the singing for "opening songs"
- Play piano or organ
- Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

Please contact our Director of Music, Mark Suderman, at 419.230.5368 or [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu). If you have specific dates in mind when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know. Thank you!

**Don't forget to drop your extra coins** into the My Coins Count glass jar in the fellowship hall. The money collected will be taken to the Black Swamp Benefit June 15 at Archbold High School. Your donations will go to a program which helps support Mennonite Central Committee's clean water projects around the globe.

**Individuals representing FMC** as delegates at the annual Central District Conference meetings June 20-22 in Milwaukee include: Theda Good, Carrie Mast, Gerald Mast, Darryl Nester, Lori Nester, Justin Neufeld-Weaver.

**You're invited to enjoy backyard fun** at the Schumacher's, 161 Riley St., at 6:30 p.m. June 13, July 11 and August 8. Invite friends, parking is limited so walk or bike if you can, and bring lawn chairs. If you have questions, contact JP or Tim Schumacher.

**June 13:** Create a sculpture, paint a rock creature, build a bird feeder and explore a tunnel. For all ages to participate or campfire conversations. Please bring lawn chairs. *Snack theme of the night: Floats!*

**July 11:** Play or observe games being played. Hunker-houser, freeze tag, mother may I, and more! Enjoy campfire conversations. *Snack theme: Cranking ice-cream*

**August 8:** Make an instrument and join the campfire sing-along. *Snack theme: Popcorn*

## **Our Connections**

**Edith Espinal has lived in sanctuary at Columbus Mennonite Church** for 19 months. "Solidarity with Edith Espinal" and "Central Ohio Worker Center" invite others to help Edith by making donations which will help pay her legal fees as she and her legal team explore her options. Donations will also pay for her day to day needs, as well as the overall sanctuary work of Columbus Mennonite Church. See <https://www.solidaritywithedith.org/> for more information.

**Dennis Mata, from our sister church**, Colonia Lopez in Honduras, has asked for prayers for his family. His sister and brother-in-law were murdered in front of their children recently. Dennis is also living in fear of his life.