

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 8-11-2019

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); theda@fmcbluffton.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@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, August 1, 2019

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon Freudige/Sojourners potlucks
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle

August 12-17, 2019

Tuesday (Aug. 13) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
MPS, 5 p.m., parlor
Potluck with Yoder-Frey family, 6 p.m.

Wednesday (Aug. 14) Pastors visit MMH, 2:30 p.m.

Thursday (Aug. 15) Deacons, parlor, 7 p.m.
Nurture (rescheduled), 7 p.m., library

Sunday (Aug. 18) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Theda Good preaching, 10:30 a.m.
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.
MC learning circle, 6:30 p.m.

Happy birthday!!

August 12 – Dick Boehr

August 12 – Jan Emmert

August 12 – Dorothy Houts

August 13 – Don Pannabecker

August 14 – Bob Flick

August 15 – Barb Stettler

August 17 – Lisa Shelly

August 17 – Kim Suter

Thank you, Victoria Woods-Yee, for creating the welcome back card for Pastor Wanda Stopher. We're so grateful for your artistic talents!

Music ensemble rehearsals to begin

Note the dates, times, locations and ages for our music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship and encourage others to join. We welcome new members and the return of former members!

- Chancel Choir (**adults of all ages**) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7-8 p.m., sanctuary, Mark Suderman, director
- Adult and Youth (**Grades 7-12**) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, assembly room, Ray Raeburn, director
- Cherub Choir (**ages 3-grade 1**) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6-6:30 p.m., children's choir room. Parents of 3 year olds are encouraged to attend the first few rehearsals. Laura Hartzler
- Jubilate (**Grades 2 - 5**) will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6:30-7:15 p.m., children's choir room, Laura Hartzler, director
- Youth choir (**Grades 6-12**) will begin on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30-9:15 a.m. children's choir room, Laura Hartzler, director

Advent planning already??

Did you know that Advent Planning/Leading Team forms in August and begins its work as early as September? An Advent Planning Team typically includes several staff members, as well as someone to lead worship, someone else to lead the Conversation with Friends, someone to create visuals, and someone to arrange scripture reading. *Leader*, a denominational magazine that provides worship resources, offers "What Are You Waiting For?" as this year's Advent theme. Any of this pique your interest? Pastor Wanda is forming an Advent Planning Team now! Contact her with questions, for more details, or to express your interest!

Many, many thanks to everyone who helped to make my early 90th birthday celebration a very special day last Sunday. For those of you who came in person, or sent a card (or intended to but forgot), thank you so much. And a special thank you to those who put in extra hours setting up and taking down (Mick and probably others), helping serve (Ana, Ellie, Jacob, Patrick), and generally being good hosts to all my friends and family that came from a distance. I love you all!

~ Joanne Niswander

FMC promotes education by sponsoring various programs, such as the church-matching scholarship offered by Mennonite colleges/universities for congregations who provide financial assistance to their college students. In the past, FMC has committed \$1,000/student/year to students who attend a Mennonite institution. Because of the generosity of our congregation, \$17,182 was available in the scholarship fund for school year 2019-20, allowing us to increase the amount per student to \$1,500 this school year. Eight students will attend Mennonite schools this year and will each receive \$750/semester from FMC to be matched dollar-for-dollar by their attending institution and one non-traditional student will receive \$500 for the year. Current students include Christopher Harnish, Goshen; Isaac Andreas, Seth Andreas, Cassidy Bush, Douglas Nester and Elizabeth Nisly, Eastern Mennonite; Nthati Phetlhu and Therisanyo Phetlhu, Bluffton; and JP Schumacher, AMBS. Scholarships have been disbursed for fall semester. Now is a great time to consider making a financial contribution by one of 3 options: 1) Write a check to FMC, indicating "college scholarship" in the memo or 2) donate online and select "college scholarship" or 3) indicate "college scholarship" on a giving envelope with cash or check. Thanks for your support.

~ Church College Relations: Louise Matthews, Jacob Litwiller, Mona Reichenbach, Theda Good

Book Study Opportunity: *Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well*

Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well (Glenn E. Miller) is the book we'll be using for a book study leading up to the workshop being planned for November 16. Book study will meet weekly, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. Please sign up for a book by September 3, to allow time for us to order books. A sign-up sheet is on the table outside the office. The book costs \$13. If you have questions, contact Judy Diller at 419-303-4341.

From Columbus Mennonite: We received a letter of thank you for our financial gift to the sanctuary work of Columbus Mennonite Church. The church continues to be a place of refuge for Edith Espinal. Please read the letter, now posted on the "Around FMC" pillar in the fellowship hall.

REMINDERS

All are invited to a potluck with Nancy Frey and Bruce Yoder at 6 p.m., Tuesday, August 13. They will speak about their work in Burkino Faso and their recent move to Canada. Bring food to share, as well as your own table service.

MCC school kit collection will continue through September. Bags for kits and a list of items for each bag are available next to the church library. Additional fabric and instructions for sewing bags are also available.

If you are able to host a Japanese visitor from Lima's sister city August 22-26, please call Ken Shenk at 419-889-1804. The organizers are interested in having an FMC family host the 18-year-old university student for those days. She prefers a home without pets. Her hobby is drawing illustrations.

In August we will collect items for the Bluffton Food Pantry as part of Bluffton Area Ministerial Association's effort to supply the pantry during low donation months. Let's pack one or two pews!

Brazo en Brazo's Fiesta Familiar will be Sunday, Sept. 8, from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite.

OUR CONNECTIONS

Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers every Saturday for their current build. They need construction workers, meals for volunteers, and donations. To volunteer, go to www.habitatlima.org and click on the link "Get Details and Sign Up," and follow directions to be trained, sign up for work or meals, or to donate. You may also call Habitat to volunteer: (419)222-4937. Build days will continue on Saturdays for several months and volunteers are also needed on Wednesdays. Those available on Wednesdays should call the Habitat office. ~ Mark Suderman, director of volunteers

In Ohio, floods and tornados have reportedly damaged or destroyed more than 7,000 homes, many without adequate insurance. The Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service has provided cleanup in Dayton on four Saturdays since an EF4 tornado hit the area on May 27. Since then, 120 volunteers have given 780 hours and assisted 31 families with tree and debris removal, and minor roof repair. Long-term recovery work continues in Logan County (flooding) and Montgomery County (Dayton tornados).

~ Lawrence Matthews, FMC contact