

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## Weekly Announcements 9-29-2019

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; [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org)
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; [theda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:theda@fmcbluffton.org)
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-11 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, [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

### Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019

- 8:30 a.m. Youth choir  
9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Ray Person preaching  
11:30 a.m. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday potluck, recognition of students  
4 p.m. Pastors Wanda and Theda, presentations on trips to US/Mexico border  
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle

### Sept. 30-Oct. 6

- Monday (Sept. 30) Stewardship, 7 p.m., parlor  
Tuesday (Oct. 1) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Wednesday (Oct. 2) CDC Pastor-Peer, 9:30 a.m., parlor  
Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (Oct. 3) Deadline to submit bulletin info, 9 a.m.  
Community meal, senior center, 6 p.m.  
Worship, 7 p.m., parlor  
Sunday (Oct. 6) Youth choir, 8:30 a.m.  
SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Jeff Boehr preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
Connections potluck  
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

### Pastors to talk about US/Mexico border trips

Pastors Wanda Stopher and Theda Good will make presentations on their trips to the US/Mexico border today at 4 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Wanda participated in an MCC learning tour of the Mexico and U.S. border in May. In September, Theda (and Dawn Kreider) worked on a water project with Humane Borders in Tucson.

**Mary Pannabecker Steiner** is on vacation through Oct. 6. Thanks to Gloria Hernandez Bucher for substituting in the office!

### Happy birthday!!

- Sept. 30 – Liana Gott  
Oct. 2 – Jeff Strahan  
Oct. 4 – Jason Diller  
Oct. 4 – Mary Yoder  
Oct 4 – Kevin Cluts  
Oct. 5 – Elaine Suderman

### We will observe World Communion

during our worship service on **Sunday, Oct. 6**. Preparing for communion is to take time to examine one's life and relationships with God and with our sisters and brothers, the body of Christ. It is an opportunity to tend our relationships with others. Unity within the body of Christ is one of the themes of communion. Another theme is the care for others through the giving of alms. This is done at FMC by giving to the deacons' benevolent fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our deacons' benevolent fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community.

**Opportunity to serve:** At our New Path Together meetings last spring, a group gathered with enthusiasm and vision for ways our church library might support and empower all the ministries of First Mennonite Church. The vision was “to renew and update our church library as a ministry of learning, discovery, formation, and hospitality for all generations, curiosities and ministries.” If this sounds exciting to you, if you have specific gifts or skills to offer, or if you just want to spend an hour with others who are passionate about this vision, show up in the parlor on October 8. We will meet from 4-5 p.m. See Pastor Wanda if you have questions.

## **PRAYERS**

**Keith Brauen** has been released from the hospital and is now in rehab at Mennonite Memorial Home.

## **REMINDERS**

- Today we'll celebrate our students in preschool through university at the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Potluck immediately after worship. Students will be recognized along with their parents. Our university students will be our guests so bring an extra dish to share, and your own table service.
- Today is the last day to order a hymnal with the FMC order for *Voices Together*, the new collection for the Mennonite Church that will arrive in the fall of 2020. Cost is \$24; sign up in the fellowship hall.
- A mentor-mentee activity will take place at 7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, in the fellowship hall.
- The Mennonite Women project committee plans a comforter/kit bag work session Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m.-noon. Bring rotary cutters, rulers, mats, and sewing machines. Additional work mornings will be held the same time every second Wednesday of the month. If you have quilting-weight fabrics to donate to the project, place them on the table in the quilt room. Yardage for backings, about 5 yards, is also needed. A sample of the desired weight is on the MW bulletin board in the fellowship hall.
- Membership class: Are you new to First Mennonite Church and/or want to know more about the church? Are you interested in exploring or refreshing your memory about what it means to be a member of FMC? You're invited to attend a membership class that will meet from 9-10 a.m., Oct. 13, 20, 27, and Nov. 3. Please contact either Pastor Wanda or Pastor Theda if you have questions and/or are interested.
- Our conversations are key in deepening our relationships and sharpening our focus. In worship October 13-November 10, we will explore the theme, *Church: Community of Conversation*.

## **OUR CONNECTIONS**

**The Black Swamp Benefit board** thanks all of those who contributed to the benefit, which raises awareness for the local work of Sunshine Communities and the global work of Mennonite Central Committee. In 2019, the Sunshine Communities and MCC will each receive \$40,750 from this event.

**Bluffton Area Ministerial Association** and Day One of Crime Victim Services are sponsoring a workshop, “Cultivating a Culture of Consent” on Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 6-9 p.m. at English Lutheran Church, Grove St. Led by Erin Burkholder, the workshop will focus on recognizing, responding, and reducing intimate partner violence. For more information, see the bulletin board by the Jackson St. and parking lot doors.

## **BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY**

**Oct. 1:** Forum, “It’s Not My Problem ... And Other Myths about the Opioid Crisis,” Conrad Weaver, producer/director, “Heroin’s Grip” documentary, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Oct. 1:** Poetry reading, Matt Hart, 4 p.m. Reading Room, Musselman Library

**Oct. 1:** Colloquium, “An Analysis of the Decision Making of Novice Teachers in Alaska, Texas and Ohio Concerning Literacy Instruction and Assessment,” Dr. Amy Mullins, associate professor of education, 4 p.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall

**Oct. 1:** Film screening, documentary, “Heroin’s Grip” showcases stories of the heroin and opioid crisis, followed by a panel of social service providers discussing challenges, screening starts at 7 p.m., Yoder Hall