

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 1-5-2020

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; wanda@fmcbluffton.org
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; 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@fmcbluffton.org
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Danisa Ndlovu preaching
Noon Connections potluck
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, AR

Jan. 6-11

Tuesday (Jan. 7) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (Jan. 8) MW work morning, 9 a.m.-noon
Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (Jan. 9) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.
Caring Connections, 2:30 p.m., parlor
Trustees, 7 p.m.
Nurture, 7 p.m.
Friday (Jan. 10) JHY, winter retreat, Camp Friedenswald
(returning Sunday)
Sunday (Jan. 12) Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.
Sojourners/Freudige potlucks, noon
Voices Together celebration, 4 p.m., sanctuary
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

Happy birthday!!

1-6 – Jim Benner
1-6 – Bret Stopher
1-8 – Gloria Hernandez Bucher
1-11 – Kan Chan
1-11 – Glennys Henry
1-12 – Janet Yoder

Come sew with us!

The Mennonite Women project committee invites all to the monthly work morning on Wednesday, Jan. 8, from 9 a.m.-noon in the fellowship hall. Participants will cut, lay out, and sew comforter tops and kit bags. Bring rotary cutters, rulers, mats, and sewing machines. A sewing machine and several mats with rulers are available. Working as a team is an option. Instruction is available.

Today we welcome Danisa Ndlovu, as our preacher. President of Mennonite World Conference from July 2009 to July 2015, Danisa is now global director of FaithWalk Ministries, International. Prior to that, he served for 15 years as bishop of Brethren in Christ Church in Zimbabwe. He earned a Master of Divinity in theology and a Master of Arts in Biblical studies from Ashland Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Treziah, live in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and are the parents of three adult children. Their daughter and son-in-law, Trustworthy and Isaac Schumacher, and their son, Keagan, live in Cincinnati. (Isaac is the son of JP and Tim Schumacher.)

Our junior high youth will attend winter camp at Camp Friedenswald January 10-12. Youth attending include Ben Hartzler, Ellie Hartzler, Kaleigh Coffman, John-Paul Nyce Yoder, Theo Andreas, Rebecca Estell, Ethan Blount, Ethan Nickel, Claire Phillips, and Makayla Suter. Their chaperones are Carrie Mast, Greg Hartzler, and Rich Bucher. ***Addition to the list (in last week's bulletin) of senior high youth who are at camp this weekend: Landon Novak. The SHY return today.**

The January 25 Family Workshop is postponed. The rescheduled date and details will be announced soon.
~ Safe Church Committee (Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Megan Coffman, & Carrie Mast)

FMC mailboxes: When placing an item in a mailbox in the fellowship hall, please be sure you put it in the correct mailbox – the slot **UNDERNEATH** the label.

REMINDERS

Lent 2020: Whether or not you've ever served on a planning team before, you're invited to consider joining a team to prepare for and lead worship during this season of Lent. If you have questions or just want to talk more about what this might entail, see Pastor Wanda.

A hymnal celebration and fundraiser will be held Sunday, Jan. 12, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. We'll sing hymns from our hymnal and supplements, and the "Voices Together" hymnal coming in fall 2020, and hear FMC musicians and ensembles. Please consider offering a monetary gift to support the purchase of new hymnals for the church. Childcare will be provided.

Vote for your favorite hymn: At the hymnal fundraiser we will sing three hymns that get the most votes from the congregation. Vote for your top three hymns by e-mailing Mark Suderman at sudermanme@bluffton.edu or write your three hymns on a piece of paper and put in the box in the fellowship hall. You may list them, for example, as HWB 223 or STS 11 or STJ 35.

Beginning today, Faith and Life Sunday school class will discuss "Faith Talk: a spiritual memoir inviting reflection & dialogue" by Ruth Naylor. All are welcome to join the discussions led by Ruth. The class meets in the parlor at 9:15 a.m.

OUR CONNECTIONS

Bluffton University

Jan. 8 "Human Targets" exhibit by George Cooley and Margaret Brostrom opens, Grace Albrecht Gallery, Sauder Art Center, through Feb. 23.

Mennonite Arts Weekend

Feb. 7-9: Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati. Artist presentations, artwork for sale, Sunday morning worship service. See more information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/>.

Mission partners: We received a letter from Janie and Neil Blough, our mission partners in France. You'll find a copy posted on the MPS bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Here is an excerpt: In true ecumenical spirit and as a way to become better acquainted with our new neighborhood, we decided to go to the Christmas Eve service at the Catholic church just down the street from where we live. Once again, we saw people of many origins, with blacks outnumbering whites, as is the case in many urban congregations in Europe today...the celebration began with groups singing Christmas songs in many languages: French, a dialect from Brittany, Spanish, two kinds of Creole, Malagasy, Portuguese, English and Lingala. Interestingly, the Christmas carols and the Biblical texts read in both contexts were the same...In the highly secularized country of France, Christians of immigrant origins are helping to fill churches that would be otherwise sparsely attended. People of many origins are choosing to gather and work together in the context of their church communities. Such congregations are very aware of and sensitive to the problems of the world: immigration, poverty, conflict, violence and racism. Because of their minority status in society, Christians of divided traditions are also learning to know each other and work together. Such gatherings do not receive much publicity, but they are happening in many places throughout France and Europe. We find them to be sources of light that point to the Light that the darkness cannot and will not overcome...the light is in our hands and we are called to live and point to the Hope of which this season so strongly reminds us.