

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## Weekly Announcements 12-29-2019

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, Dec.29, 2019

9:15 a.m. [No SS] Holiday brunch, 9:15 a.m., FH  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Theda Good preaching  
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, AR

### Dec. 31-Jan. 4

Tuesday (Dec. 30) Morning prayers cancelled  
Church office closing at noon  
Wednesday (Jan. 1) New Year's Day, church office closed  
All choir rehearsals cancelled  
Thursday (Jan. 2) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.  
Community meal, 6 p.m., senior center  
Worship, 7 p.m., parlor  
Friday (Jan. 3) SHY, winter retreat, Camp Friedenswald  
(returning Sunday)  
Sunday (Jan. 5) Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Danisa Ndovlu preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
Connections potluck, noon  
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

### Happy birthday!!

1-1 Cheryl Treece  
1-1 Jim Weaver  
1-2 Dawn Kreider  
1-5 Larry Diller  
1-5 Rhonda Winstead

### Coming soon: Lent 2020

Yes, Christmas is barely past and before you know it we will observe the liturgical season of Lent. Whether or not you've ever served on a planning team before, you're invited to consider joining a team to make preparations 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.

### Also coming in 2020: "Voices Together" hymnal

**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](mailto: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.

### Save the date: Hymnal celebration and fundraiser

- Sunday, Jan. 12, 4 p.m., sanctuary
- Sing hymns from our present hymnal and supplements, as well as new hymns from the "Voices Together" hymnal coming in fall 2020
- Hear FMC musicians and ensembles
- Consider offering a monetary gift to support our purchase of new hymnals
- Childcare provided

**Our senior high youth will attend winter camp** at Camp Friedenswald January 3-5. Youth attending include Jacob Biesecker-Mast, Grace Paquin, Danielle Novak, Sophia Gott, Ana Neufeld Weaver, Ellie Nickel, and Jacob Suter. Their chaperones are Carrie Mast and Walt Paquin.

### **REMINDERS**

**Pastor Wanda will be out of the office through January 5.** For pastoral care needs during this time, contact Pastor Theda.

**Beginning January 5, 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.

**We are planning a trip** to the borderlands of South Texas, to learn, bear witness to the human story at the US/Mexico border and assist those who are meeting the needs of migrants where possible. The dates are March 3- 8. The potential cost including airfare, lodging, and vehicle rental is estimated between \$550-700 plus meals. For more information, contact Laurel Neufeld-Weaver at [weaverl@bluffton.edu](mailto:weaverl@bluffton.edu). **To add your name to the list of travelers, notify Danielle Novak at [daniellenovak@me.com](mailto:daniellenovak@me.com) by Thursday, Jan. 2.**

~ Planning Team: Danielle Novak, Jan Wiebe, Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Lynda Nyce, Theda Good

**Lost books and materials:** The church library is catching up and trying to find lost books and materials. If you find a notice in your mailboxes, please check at home and let the library know about the materials by returning or leaving a note on the library desk. Many thanks. ~ Library committee

### **OUR CONNECTIONS**

**Caroling in Bluffton: The annual New Year's Eve caroling**, featuring traditional Swiss-German carols, will start at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31 at Maple Crest Senior Living Village. Please note the earlier time this year. Music will be provided. Bring your friends and relatives to participate.

**Mennonite Arts Weekend** is Feb. 7-9 at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati. Kat Luginbuhl is one of the featured artists this year. The event includes artists' presentations, keynote address, art gallery, a hymn sing and performances. There will be artwork for sale and the weekend ends with a Sunday morning worship service. See more information at <https://mennoniteartsweekend.org/>.