

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 2-16-2020**

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817  
419-358-5766 | [fmclubffton.org](http://fmclubffton.org) | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday, 419-551-1079; [wanda@fmclubffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmclubffton.org)
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; [theda@fmclubffton.org](mailto:theda@fmclubffton.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@fmclubffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmclubffton.org)
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

**Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020**

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Cyneatha Milsaps preaching  
11:30 a.m. Freudige/Sojourners potlucks  
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, FH  
7 p.m. Cloud of Witnesses concert, sanctuary

**Feb. 17-23**

Monday (Feb. 17) Et Cetera Board, 7 p.m., AR  
Tuesday (Feb. 18) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
David King, *Overplayed*, 6:30 p.m., FH  
Wednesday (Feb. 19) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (Feb. 20) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.  
MPS Gaza presentation, 6 p.m., FH  
Deacons, 7 p.m., AR  
Sunday (Feb. 23) Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
SHY/JHY working on peace packets, 1:30 p.m., FH  
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

**Happy birthday!**

Feb. 16 Mona Reichenbach  
Feb. 17 Rich Bucher  
Feb. 17 Megan Coffman  
Feb. 19 Treva Stratton  
Feb. 21 Carrie Mast

**At the beginning of each new year, FMC staff** members review our commitments to each other for the ways we intend to do our work together. Our commitments/covenants include agreements about meeting times, how we will use technology, sharing office space, sharing information and more. These covenants are posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

~ Wanda Stopher, Theda Good  
Carrie Mast, Mark Suderman  
Mary Pannabecker Steiner, Mick Hardy

**SHY & JHY will meet in the fellowship hall at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, to develop materials for their peace packets. These packets will help each youth establish their conscientious objector status. They will also hear stories and experiences from people in the congregation, some via video and written word, around their own CO status. The congregation is welcome to attend, share, answer questions, and simply show support.**

**The 2020 hygiene and relief kit drive** has begun and will continue for a few months. Lists for both kit types are on the bulletin board at the collection area near the library. Hygiene kit contents (new items, in original packaging) include:

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 16 in. x 26 in.)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8 inches)

**Relief Kits** - These kits are larger and more expensive to collect, but are also needed. Relief kit lists are also on the bulletin board. Pack all items into a box, label it "relief kit" and place near the kit collection area. We send these to MCC, where the items are packed into a lidded bucket. Please limit your generosity to the items listed. If you'd like to sew bags, there are sewing directions cards on the bulletin board in the kit collection area. Some precut bags and cords are also there and we are accepting donated fabric.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Lois Jean Andreas** fell a week ago and broke her hip. She had hip replacement surgery and is now recovering back at Mennonite Memorial Home. Our care and prayers for her recovery are appreciated.

**Anna Ruth Reichenbach and her daughter, Mona**, are dealing with multiple family situations. Anna Ruth's granddaughter delivered preemie twins; one did not survive and the other is in the neonatal intensive care unit in Columbus. Her daughter-in-law was also recently diagnosed with breast cancer. Our care and prayers are deeply appreciated.

## **REMINDER**

**The Nurture Commission** plans a *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* on Saturday, March 14. Here's how it works:

- Decide whether to host, be a guest, or either
- Register on the table outside the church office BEFORE Sunday, March 1
- Being a guest is simple:
  - Indicate the number in your party and any food restrictions, plan to bring a side dish or dessert. You will be contacted with directions to your host's home, what to bring, arrival time, and an emergency contact number. Show up on time.
- Hosting requires a little more effort:
  - Indicate the number of guests you are willing to host. You will be contacted with the number of guests to expect, any food allergies or special requests.
  - Prepare a soup, bread(s) and drinks.
  - Wait and see who shows up at your door.

Questions may be directed to Rita Dietrich, 419-303-1102 or [ritad4248@gmail.com](mailto:ritad4248@gmail.com).

**EMU AD David King**, author of *Overplayed*, will speak Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. King's book discusses myths around youth sports and helps parents consider boundaries, values, and faith in this context. **Please note: Last call for childcare reservations with Carrie Mast.**

**Hadil Alhayek and Rick Polhamus** will speak about "Human Rights in Palestine and Israel" Thursday, Feb. 20 at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Hadil is from the Gaza and attends the University of Findlay. Rick is a longtime member of Christian Peacemaker Teams who has been to Israel/Palestine many times. ~ MPS

**Cloud of Witnesses**, a band comprised of Phil Gratz, Lucas Harnish, Chris Gott, and Wendy Chappell-Dick will perform Sunday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in the First Mennonite sanctuary. The band plays country, pop and folk music.

**The Jubilee Fund Administrators** have approved the first three requests Jubilee Fund request forms are available from the church office or on the GTF page on the church website: <http://fmcbluffton.org/gtf/>. Fund administrators include Kendra Nickel, Greg Hartzler, and Mary Pannabecker Steiner.

**SS elective offering for Lent: Taste and See: A Sampling of Contemplative Prayer Practices:** Join us for an experiential elective prayer class during Sunday school March 8-April 5 upstairs in room 301. Each week we will learn about a different practice and then try it through a facilitated experience. Topics include centering prayer, imaginative prayer with the Gospels, praying with art, the examen as a form of discernment, and *Lectio Divina*. Whether these are familiar prayer forms for you or you've never heard of them, you are welcome to come for any or all of the classes. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Anne Marie Spelman at 309-830-6975 or [spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com](mailto:spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com).

**FMC's address/phone directory** is now available on the church website. It is password protected and you may obtain the password by calling the church office at 419-358-5766 or e-mailing [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org). You may choose to receive the password verbally or via text.

**Persons wishing to serve as a delegate** for the Central District Conference annual meeting June 25-27 at Oak Grove Mennonite, Smithville, should notify Shelby Cluts by Feb. 26 at 419.234.2580 or at [clutsfamily@roadrunner.com](mailto:clutsfamily@roadrunner.com).

**Save the date:** The 2019 Financial Review will be Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

## **Bluffton University**

**Feb. 18** *Values-based Athletics in a Social Media World*, Forum, David King, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Feb. 18** *What they Don't Tell You About Working in the Real World*, Forum, BU alumni, 11 a.m., Centennial

**Feb. 20** Poet George Kalamaras, public reading, 4 p.m., Feb. 20, Reading Room, Musselman Library

**Feb. 21** *Inside Job: An Integrated Approach to Personal Branding*, Colloquium, Marathana Prothro, 4 p.m., Centennial

**Feb. 23** Winter Instrumental Concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Feb. 23** Reception for *Human Targets* exhibit, George Cooley and Margaret Brostrom, 1-3 p.m., Sauder Art Center

**Thank you to all who supported Et Cetera Shop** in renovating and moving in to the old glove factory. The donated money allowed the project to move ahead when the store really needed the support for a necessary loan. As the new year starts, we have some numbers to share: Last year, thrift shop sales averaged \$12,568 per month for January-August 2019. After the move to the new location, average sales for September-December 2019 rose to \$21,331. This is not an apples-to-apples comparison because of holiday shopping, but it is very good news. The store is thriving under direction of Chrissy Lugibihl and volunteers. The renovation loan is now about \$450,000. As a result of increased sales, the board is making payments earlier and larger than required. For two years no contributions were made to MCC while the store got on its feet in the new location. Payments have resumed with a \$25,000 contribution and hope to do more. There is much for which to be thankful. ~ Bill Suter, FMC rep to Et Cetera

**The Jubilee Fund Administrators** have approved the first three requests for monetary support, including the group traveling to the Texas/Mexico border, Morning Prayers group, and MPS for the community chili cook off. Each request showed connection between the ministry and FMC's 5 Priorities. According to the Governance Task Force, "the impetus at the heart of the creation of the Jubilee Fund is to encourage, empower and resource new ministry of First Mennonite Church." Jubilee Fund request forms are available from the church office or on the GTF page on the church website: <http://fmcbluffton.org/gtf/>. Fund administrators include Kendra Nickel, Greg Hartzler, and Mary Pannabecker Steiner.