

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 3-22-2020

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., 419-230-1568, mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@fmcbluffton.org

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Sunday school, coffee time cancelled, **service will be available for viewing online by 2 p.m.**

Worship, Theda Good preaching

Catechism cancelled

Learning circle cancelled

March 16-21

Tuesday (March 24) Morning prayers cancelled, Zoom version will begin at 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Zoom

Wednesday (March 25) All choirs cancelled

Thursday (March 26) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.

Council, 7 p.m., Zoom

Saturday (March 28) Family Equipping Workshop cancelled

Sunday (March 29) Sunday school, coffee time cancelled,
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching,
(watch for updates on website)
Catechism cancelled
Learning circle cancelled
Report of border/Mexico trip cancelled

Happy birthday

3-23 Corrinne Boehr

3-23 Ben Hartzler

3-23 Evan Steiner

3-24 Jim Dillman

3-25 Anna Biesecker-Mast

3-27 Tad Steiner

3-28 Linda Suter

3-29 Annette Heslep

Choir updates

The Chancel choir and both bell choirs are cancelled for the remainder of the academic year. Laura Hartzler has cancelled the children's choirs through April and will reevaluate the plan for the rest of the year.

FMC contributions update

Electronic Giving is an option for giving in support of First Mennonite Church. There is a link, "ONLINE GIVING," at the far right of the red navigation bar on the FMC website. To register, you will need your bank routing and checking account numbers. You'll choose a starting date, as well as frequency.

If you prefer not to use the electronic option, please feel free to mail your contributions to us at 101 S. Jackson St., or slide them under the office door. All forms of contributions are much appreciated, whether by cash, check or e-giving.

Update on live streaming worship

Due to some additional technical capacity, we will not be ready to live stream worship this Sunday but hope to do so by March 29.

County Electric and Spectrum have both done work at FMC this week to make this possible. We appreciate the expertise of Art Shelly and Ray Raeburn in determining our needs and thereby allowing us to deliver our worship services to you in your homes.

Watch for an update providing the information you will need to access the service.

Pastoral concerns

Virginia Theis had triple bypass surgery on March 13 at the OSU Ross Heart Hospital, and is currently at the Mennonite Memorial Home for rehab. Your prayers and cards are much appreciated!

Catechism class

Email sent by Wanda Stopher, Theda Good, and Carrie Mast to catechism class: Jesus often used physical touch to show the love of God as he cared for and healed people. We also know that we can best care for one another right now through social distancing. So, in thinking about our Catechism gatherings, we would like to postpone our studies together rather than use videoconferencing or other virtual space to meet. We believe the educational, spiritual, and relational connections we are cultivating are best fostered in physical space together. As soon as we are able to resume gathering face to face, we'll be in contact...technology is a wonderful tool which we will all be relying on heavily over the next weeks and months to remain connected so, in the meantime, we are available to talk with anyone who has questions or interest in continuing exploring the Biblical story. Text us, email us, call us, write us letters if you like! We believe Jesus is present in our conversations no matter the medium...

Reminders

Thanks to Victoria Woods-Yee for creating all of our bulletin covers throughout this Lenten season.

FMC custodian needed: Duties include routine cleaning the church, light maintenance, event set up, lawn mowing and snow removal, other duties as agreed upon. Hourly wage, up to 30 hours per week. Provide your name, contact info, and resume to fmc@fmcbluffton.org. ~ Staff relations, Trustees

Hygiene and relief kit drive: Lists and instructions for both kits are on the bulletin board at the collection area near the library.

FMC will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mennonite Central Committee with comforter knotting April 13-14. If you are able to sew comforter tops prior to the event, you'll find kits on the table in the quilt room, or you may choose fabrics from the large bin on the shelf.

FMC will host Bluffton Community VBS June 7-11. We'll need volunteers to make decorations and name tags, bake cookies, and prepare the church, and will need volunteers during VBS, checking in guests, distributing name tags, walking children between stations, playing music, and leading worship. If you are interested in helping, contact co-organizers Amber Shelly (arshelly11@gmail.com) or Carrie Mast.

Join the First Mennonite Green Team, to think about and act on climate change and sustainability practices. Contact Carrie Mast or sign up in the fellowship hall if interested.

Bluffton University

The Bluffton University education department is offering free online educational enrichment in response to K-12 school closures in Ohio. Bluffton Study Buddies, Bluffton University education majors including student teachers, will provide academic help and educational games/activities through the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Educational enrichment sessions will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday through at least April 3. Students will be matched with a Bluffton University student teacher or education major based on subject need—history, language arts, math, etc. “Bluffton University Educator Preparation professors and students look forward to assisting and supporting K-12 students in unique ways during these challenging times,” said Gayle Trollinger, professor of education. To review instructions for logging into Zoom, go to www.bluffton.edu/studybuddies/. All online sessions will be monitored by a Bluffton University faculty or staff member.