

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 4-19-2020

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 , 419-358-5766**

Sunday, April 19, 2020

Taste and See SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/342273765>

Sojourners SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>

Worship, Tig Intagliata preaching, 10:30 a.m.

US/Mexico border presentation, Zoom, 4 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/601942413>

Learning circle will meet by Zoom, 6 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>, contact Carrie Mast
for password

April 20-25

Tuesday (April 21) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday (April 22) Coffee & tea social hour, Zoom, 3 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/110200533>

Evening prayers, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Thursday (April 23) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.

Vespers, Zoom, 4 p.m.

Sunday (April 26)

Sojourners SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.

Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Music Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Summer music

Assuming we are back to a more normal schedule...Pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types: there are again opportunities for offering your musical gifts during summer worship services (June-August.) Opportunities include:

- Lead the singing for opening songs
- Play for the service, including accompany hymns
- Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

Please contact Mark Suderman, director of music, at 419.230.5368 or sudermanme@bluffton.edu. If there are specific dates on which you're available, let Mark know. Thank you!

Happy birthday

April 19 – Julie Mackey

April 20 – Carmen Ordonez

April 21 – Becki Ahmed

April 22 – Margie Closson

Melinda Estell

April 24 – Ryan Niekamp

Eastertide 2020

In Eastertide we join those who walked with Jesus before his death, as he reveals himself after his resurrection. In a locked room, walking and talking, breaking bread, fishing, one minute he's there, and the next, he's gone again. Certainly a time of joy and delight, it is also a time of confusion, wonder, lingering grief and questioning. It is in this time that Jesus seeks out his friends. Ruth Haley Barton writes, "As our resurrected Lord, Jesus' first order of business was to seek out his now-dispersed disciples to meet them in their emptiness outside the tomb, to walk with them on the road between the now and not-yet, to create space to repair what had been lost and broken, and to find a way in through the locked doors of their fear and doubt. Because experiencing the resurrection doesn't happen overnight. Some resurrections take time. And those are no less miraculous."

May we be found by Jesus this Eastertide. May we be found in the stories of Jesus' seeking and finding his friends. May we be found among the suffering, and alongside those who doubt at table and along the way.

~Pastor Wanda

Reminders

See and hear a presentation about the US/Mexico border Sunday, April 19 from 4-5 p.m. The group from FMC who traveled to south Texas March 3-8 will share their experiences. To join the presentation, follow this link: <https://zoom.us/j/601942413> ~ Theda Good, Lynda Nyce, Jan and Theo Andreas, Fran Core, Melissa Friesen, Monica Harnish, and Paul, Laurel & Ana Neufeld Weaver

We will continue to meet for three prayer sessions via Zoom. The prayer schedule is: Morning Prayers-Tuesday, 7-7:30 a.m.; Evening Prayers-Wednesday, 7-7:30 p.m.; Vespers-Thursday, 4-4:30 p.m. The same link will be used for all three prayers: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/296319743>. Or? <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3794797132>

Coffee/tea social hour!
Zoom in for coffee and tea social hour:
Coffee & tea via ZOOM will be offered on Wednesday afternoons at 3 p.m. This will simply be a social hour hosted by Theda and Wanda. Link for this meeting is <https://zoom.us/j/110200533>.

Sojourners will meet via Zoom on Sunday, April 19, at 9:15 a.m. to discuss the current lesson on *Injustice Will Be Punished* in the Adult Bible Study guide from MennoMedia which is drawn from Esther 7:1-10. The address is <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>. All are welcome.

Taste and See will meet at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, April 19 on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/342273765>. Experience a very traditional and ancient form of prayer in *Lectio*

Divina, which means “divine reading.” This relatively simple method invites you to listen to Scripture with the ears of your heart, allowing the text to serve as an entry point to conversation with God. Often taught side by side with Centering Prayer, *Lectio Divina* includes space for reading, reflection, response and rest in the word of God. *Taste and See* has decided to continue to meet. *Specific topics have not yet been identified, but the class may focus on practicing prayer forms already discussed. All are welcome.*

Sunday night Learning Circle will meet via Zoom at 6 p.m. Sundays until it is possible to meet in person again. Circle will meet at <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>. Contact Carrie Mast for the password to access the meeting.

The Central District Conference board has canceled the annual meeting June 25-27 at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Smithville. The board asks delegates and participants to keep the morning of June 27 open, as they discuss the possibility of doing something electronically. Details are forthcoming. “Our theme, ‘Spirit, bless our souls with yearning,’ has likely taken on new meaning during this season. We pray that out of this unwelcome crisis, Christ’s spirit might bless us with something truly hopeful and unexpected.

MCC invites you to a free six-part webinar series on immigration and border realities. Join MCC staff and partners in the field who will provide insight into the current reality of the U.S. immigration and border crisis. *The first free webinar on Immigration in times of COVID-19* will be held Tuesday, April 21 at 2 p.m. EST. Communities and populations who were already vulnerable before this crisis began face even greater risks during this pandemic. Media coverage has focused on contagion and death rates, while setting aside immigration and border news coverage. For more information and to register for these free webinars, visit mcc.org/immigration-webinar-series.

Contributions: Please consider electronic giving as a safe alternate to the traditional offering plate contributions. From the FMC website at fmcbluffton.org, click on *ONLINE GIVING*, at the far right of the red navigation bar at the top of the page and follow the instructions. *If you prefer not to use the*

electronic option, please mail your contributions to FMC or slide them under the office door. All forms of contributions are much appreciated, whether by cash, check or e-giving.

MennoMedia offers Sunday school to you at home! [Read more](#) to find Shine Resources and follow the [Shine FB page](#), which includes links to videos of individuals reading the children's story from the Shine storybook, as well as singing and videos.