

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 6-21-2020

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817

419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Staff working from home

- 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, 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, June 21, 2020

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

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

Sojourners SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>

Worship, Jackie Wyse-Rhodes preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>,

contact Carrie Mast for password

June 22-27

Tuesday (June 23) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday (June 24) GTF information meeting, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Thursday (June 25) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.

VBS drive-thru, 6-7 p.m., FMC Jackson St. entrance

Council, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Saturday (June 27) CDC annual meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.-noon

Sunday, June 28, 2020

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

Worship, Carol Wise, Brethren Mennonite Council executive
director preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Congregational meeting, Zoom, 4 p.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy birthday

June 21 – Marilyn Diller

Tig Intagliata

Ken Shenk

June 22 – Mel Stettler

June 23 – Darrell Huber

Elnore Yost

June 27 – Douglas Nester

Romaine Pannabecker

June 28 – Shannon Thiebeau

Pastor Wanda is on vacation from
Thursday, June 18, through
Tuesday, June 23.

Please contact Pastor Theda for
pastoral care needs.

Governance Task Force will host the second information/discussion meeting Wednesday, June 24 at 7 p.m. about proposed changes to the church constitution that will be decided at the June 28 congregational meeting. To join the meeting via Zoom, click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208> OR by phone at 1-646-876-9923.

Copies of documents emailed recently are available on the bulletin table in the fellowship hall.

We will hold a congregational meeting Sunday, June 28 at 4 p.m. via Zoom to take action on this proposal. Our current constitution requires a two-thirds majority of those present in order to make changes to the constitution proper and a simple majority to make changes to the by-laws. Since the revisions to both the constitution and the bylaws are interrelated in the overall governance proposal, we will seek at least a two-thirds majority vote for both types of revisions. The meeting address will be the same as that used for the informational meetings: <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>. For those who could not attend one of the information meetings, there is a video recording of the presentation at the June 10 information meeting at <https://youtu.be/LicalPcR59c>. If you have questions, contact Gerald Mast at mastg@bluffton.edu or 419-234-3789.

Today we welcome Dr. Jackie Wyse-Rhodes as our guest preacher. Jackie, a member of First Mennonite and one of our regular pianists, is an Assistant Professor of Religion at Bluffton University and, starting this fall, will also be serving as campus pastor. Jackie teaches courses in biblical studies and is currently working on a commentary on the book of Numbers for the Believers Church Bible Commentary series. Jackie and her husband Brandon live in Bluffton with three beloved cats, littermates named Aelfgifu and Aethelflaed (nicknamed Foo and Fleed; named after medieval British queens) and an orange tabby named Enoch (see Genesis 5:21–24.)

MPS will hold a Sunday school class Sunday, June 28, at 9:15 a.m. with guest preacher Carol Wise, Executive Director of Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ Interests. The discussion will include what it means for First Mennonite to join Supportive Communities Network of BMC. Join the class via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766?pwd=VkErZG1LMmxBdDU1NnVTRVZneVp5Zz09> or by phone at 1-646-558-8656.

The Reopening Task Force is an advisory group tasked with the responsibility of providing recommendations and support for decisions concerning returning to in-person gatherings, and other related safety issues. This will be a collaborative effort as we, as a congregation, move forward. RFT will serve as a conduit between the congregation and the person or groups responsible for making decisions that will affect us all. Our primary goal is to reduce the risk of personal contact and to move forward in the safest way possible. We truly welcome all input. Direct any questions, concerns or suggestions to Rita Dietrich at ritad4248@gmail.com, who will then share with the appropriate person or groups for consideration. Our second task is to keep you informed, well in advance, of any decisions that are made.

Prayer concerns

Greyden Wells lost his fight with cancer June 11. This is a very sad time for his family. He was a very dear and courageous little boy. Your prayers are much appreciated by his parents, Jackie and Beth Wells, and his siblings, B and Noah Taylor. A celebration of life service was held June 18 at [Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home](#), Napoleon. Memorial contributions may be made to the funeral home; all donations will be sent to Kellogg Eye Center for future Retinoblastoma research in honor of Greyden.

Jacob T. (Jake) Friesen, 100, died June 6 in Newton, KS. He served as pastor of FMC from 1956-1967. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, July 26, 2020, at the Faith Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas. The service will be streamed online simultaneously. Memorials may be made to the Jacob T. and Lola Friesen Memorial Fund for the Vision Impaired at Kidron Bethel, <https://kidronbethel.org/giving/donate> or checks payable to Kidron Bethel Village with designation in the memo: send to KBV % Fund Advancement, 3001 Ivy Drive, North Newton, KS 67117. The full obituary may be read at https://www.meaningfulfunerals.net/obituary/jacob-friesen?fh_id=11520

Reminders

Bluffton Community VBS continues through July 9 with drive-thru packet pick-up on Thursdays from 6-7 p.m. at the Jackson St. entrance. With a theme of *Who is My Neighbor? Learning to Love Like Jesus*, this year's VBS includes short videos, bingo cards with prizes, craft kits, game supplies, and snack shopping lists. No registration is required. The offering benefits All Ability Playgrounds of Allen County.

The CDC 2020 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, June 27, from 9 a.m.-noon ET in a virtual format. More information and a schedule are available at <https://mcusacdc.org/annual-meeting-2020/>.

This summer, our chancel display is crowd sourced. Persons of any age are invited to bring special items to place on the table each week, little souvenirs of daily life, travel, and the psalms that accompany us. Our display represents each person's meditative thoughts coming together. It also is a project that invites people to enter the sanctuary even when others are not there. The items that have been used will be placed on the window sills below the big stained-glass windows for owners to retrieve. Thank you! ~ Wendy Chappell-Dick

Our Connections

Camp Friedenswald is offering short getaways that allow guests to enjoy camp while continuing to distance from others. Camp provides the cabin, meals delivered to the door, hiking trails, beach time, boating and a campfire. See <https://friedenswald.org/camp-getaway-summer-2020/> for details.

The June edition of *On the Level* is available from Mennonite Disaster Service at <https://conta.cc/2UX1MVZ>. It includes reports of how MDS volunteers helped Hesston College make modifications to campus housing to improve student health and safety and how MDS plans for an eventual return to projects.