

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 8-18-2019

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 (cell); fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); theda@fmcbluffton.org
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-11 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@bluffton.edu
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, August 18, 2019

- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Theda Good
- 5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle
- 6:30 p.m. MC learning circle (final session)

August 19-25, 2019

- Tuesday (Aug. 20) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
- Thursday (Aug. 22) **Deadline to submit bulletin info, 9 a.m.**
Council, parlor, 7 p.m.
- Sunday (Aug. 25) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Wanda Stopher, 10:30 a.m.
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

- Happy birthday!!**
- Neil Kehler-Aug. 19
 - Kate Pannabecker-Aug. 20
 - Bruce Steingass-Aug. 20
 - Mustaq Ahmed-Aug. 21
 - Kay Huber-Aug. 21
 - John Murray-Aug.21
 - Jeff Boehr-Aug. 23
 - Heidrun Awad-Aug. 25

Sunday School 2019-20

Preschool	
Teachers:	Alison King, Kathy Dickson, Mary Pannabecker Steiner
Room:	102 (adjoining the nursery)
Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades	
Teachers:	Judy Steiner, Karen McCullough, Linda Headings
Helpers:	Victoria Woods-Yee, Judy Diller, Lauren Roberts, Paula Luginbill
Room:	108 (around the corner from the ViP room)
3rd & 4th Grades (no 5th graders)	
Teachers:	Jan Wiebe, Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Carrie Mast
Room:	103 (the ViP room)
*All children will gather in the ViP room from 9:15-9:30 for singing before going to their classrooms.	
Junior High	
Teachers:	JP & Tim Schumacher
Subs:	Bruce Steingass, Rich Bucher, Lori Nester, Carrie Mast
Room:	JHY Room
Senior High	
Teachers:	Amber Shelly, Paul Neufeld Weaver
Subs:	Carrie Mast
Room:	SHY Room

Menno-Life update:

Beginning with our next issue of Menno-Life in October 2019, we will publish a M-L every other month (October, December, February, April, June, August.) In the October issue, we'll examine the purpose of the Menno-Life and how we see its usefulness as a way to get to know each other, to learn who is doing what, and what/who the church is. Let's tell some stories! At the end of one year, we will evaluate this schedule. ***The deadline for submitting items for the October issue is Friday, Sept. 20.***

Items needed for "Pack the Pews"

- Laundry detergent
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Canned meat
- Canned fruit
- Cereal
- Boxed meals
- Instant potatoes

Sunday school updates:

Children will meet in the ViP room today to craft a biblical Lego scene together. Youth are encouraged to attend Douglas Nester's presentation in the fellowship hall, chronicling his journey on the El Camino with his grandfather, Lynn Miller.

Sunday, Sept. 1 marks the first day of the fall quarter for SS. **Children** will gather in the ViP room and will remain there during the hour to sing and hear Warigia (Alice) Hinga, Joyce Hostetler's friend from Kenya, who operates Tumaini Brooks Centre, a children's center. FMC children's offering collected throughout the fall quarter will be sent to this children's center. **Youth** will return to their classrooms to begin studying MennoMedia's Shine and Generation Why curriculum.

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear friends, Thank you for your uplifting care and concern during our recent journey with Bruce's heart issues. His heart is now happily beating in rhythm. The healing process is underway. We appreciate you all.

~ Amy Freeman and Bruce Steingass

Thank you for all the kindnesses shown to me and my family during the time of Eileen's funeral. *~ Neil Kehler*

OUR CONNECTIONS

You're invited to attend a Concert on the Lawn today at 6 p.m. at Mennonite Memorial Home. The AI Best Band will perform. The MHCO service group will serve ice cream, and popcorn and ice water will be available. Those attending are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and dress for the weather. In case of heavy rain, the concert will be cancelled. Visit the MHCO Facebook page the day of the concert for updated information.

REMINDERS

Music rehearsals begin: Please consider joining one of our musical ensembles!

- Chancel Choir (**adults**) begins Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7-8 p.m., sanctuary, Mark Suderman, director
- Adult and Youth (**Grades 7-12**) Bells - both begin Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. respectively, assembly room, Ray Raeburn, director
- Cherub Choir (**ages 3-grade 1**) begins Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6-6:30 p.m., children's choir room. Parents of 3 year olds are encouraged to attend the first few rehearsals. Laura Hartzler, director
- Jubilate (**Grades 2 - 5**) begins Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6:30-7:15 p.m., children's choir room, Laura Hartzler, director
- Youth choir (**Grades 6-12**) begins Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30-9:15 a.m. children's choir room, Laura Hartzler, director

The Advent Planning/Leading Team is forming now. Typically including several staff members, as well as someone to lead worship, someone to lead the Conversation with Friends, someone to create visuals, and someone to arrange scripture reading. *Leader*, a denominational magazine that provides worship resources, offers "What Are You Waiting For?" as this year's theme. Contact Pastor Wanda if you're interested.

For the upcoming school year, \$17,182 was available in our Mennonite college scholarship, allowing us to increase the amount per student to \$1,500 this year. Eight students will attend Mennonite schools this year and receive \$750/semester from FMC to be matched by their attending institution. One non-traditional student will receive \$500 for the year. Current students include Christopher Harnish, Goshen; Isaac Andreas, Seth Andreas, Cassidy Bush, Douglas Nester and Elizabeth Nisly, Eastern Mennonite; Nthathi Phetlhu and Therisanyo Phetlhu, Bluffton; and JP Schumacher, AMBS. Please consider making a financial contribution to the scholarship fund.

~ Church College Relations

Book Study Opportunity: *Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well*

Living Thoughtfully, Dying Well (Miller) will be used for book study prior to the workshop November 16. Book study will meet weekly, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up for a book by September 3; a sign-up sheet is on the table outside the office. The book costs \$13. If you have questions, contact Judy Diller at 419-303-4341.