

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 8-30-2020

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, August 30, 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, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>,

contact Carrie Mast for password

August 31-Sept. 5

Tuesday (Sept. 1) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 6, 2020

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

Worship, Theda Good preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy birthday

Sept. 2 – Elysia Bush

Sept. 3 – Ruth Naylor

Jon Rockhold

Sept. 4 – Paul Neufeld Weaver

Sept. 5 – Wendell Miller

Elam Suter

This fall, we will focus our worship on the theme of *Voices Together*. You will find copies of the fall worship brochure in your FMC mailboxes.

With the theme of *Voices Together* this fall and lack of music ensemble gatherings due to COVID-19, plan to highlight special music by individuals, small groups, or families within the congregation using hymns from our current collection (HWB, STJ, STS) or from previous hymnals or from the new *Voices Together* hymnal when it arrives. We hope a broad spectrum of our congregation from old to young, from musically gifted to musically challenged, from family to individuals will be involved. Each Sunday a hymn will be presented in whatever way you choose: talk about its history, what the text is about, what the hymn means to you, a memory about singing it, or even what singing in general means for you. Then the hymn will be presented by solo, quartet, piano playing it, playing a video of it if we have it in our files, or Mark will figure out a way to present it. Please contact Mark Suderman if you would like to participate. We will need 10-12 individuals or groups.

Reminders

Save the date: A Zoom gathering of thanks and best wishes for Pastor Theda will be held Sunday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. Many individuals will participate in this FMC farewell event of celebration and fellowship to share memories and honor Theda. Prior to the event, we will provide the Zoom link. Plan to join us!

GTF is looking for individuals who know the First Mennonite congregation well and can identify strengths, skills and other gifts in others. If you are interested in serving on the Gifts Discovery ministry this fall and possibly beyond, please contact Gerald Mast, Greg Hartzler, Elizabeth Kelly or Pastor Wanda. You will help identify people with the gifts to serve as our first Ministry Circle Leaders, other Leadership Circle positions, and to help envision ways we can discover gifts that exist in the congregation as we move forward on our path together.

The Racial Justice Ministry has identified ideas the congregation could act on to work toward racial justice, as well as resources to help support this work. Conversations will continue and all will be invited to offer feedback. Others may be called on to provide expertise. See a condensed version of the list at: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ch4QZkMSpfoXb8LDiOnIzZsrrgewkibP4y4dBlxnd1Y/edit?usp=sharing>. If you'd like to receive a printed copy via your church mailbox, please email Brent Schroeder at brentrschroeder@gmail.com or Jan Wiebe at wiebe.jan@gmail.com.

Starting in September, the Taste and See Sunday school class will explore The Book of Creation: An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality by J. Philip Newell, practicing the suggested meditations during class. Celtic spirituality draws on the beauty and wildness of creation, and the correlating beauty and wildness in God and ourselves. All are welcome. We meet at 9:15 a.m. Sundays at <https://zoom.us/j/342273765>

~ Anne Marie Spelman

Our Connections

The CDC August Focus highlights two Conference webinars. The first gives an overview of the work of the Missional Church Committee in helping us take next steps in countering racism and white privilege. The second explores work of creation care and sustainability. [Learn more here](#).

Habitat for Humanity - Lima Area is currently selecting a family for the home they will build in Delphos this fall. Check the Habitat website for updates on when they will need construction volunteers. The ReStore remains open Thursday-Saturday for shopping and donation drop off. COVID-19 protocols continue for the protection of staff, volunteers, and customers. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are also available for volunteer help, but without customers so they can clean the facility more thoroughly and offer a safer work environment for at-risk volunteers. There is a need for volunteers at the ReStore; consider volunteering as an individual or as a group. Funds are still being collected for the build in Delphos (every \$62 buys a square foot of a Habitat house). Please contact Habitat to volunteer or donate: 419-222-4937, www.habitatlima.org, or habitatlima@habitatlima.org.

The Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service is working on houses in Dayton that were damaged in the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes. Currently, only local, day-only volunteers who commit to following COVID-19 guidelines are involved. Lynn Miller is project director and Lawrence Matthews is the WOU chairperson. Others from FMC may also be involved. Please keep this work, volunteers, and Dayton homeowners in your thoughts and prayers.

~ Lawrence Matthews

Are you in need of a retreat? Consider a getaway to the peaceful woods this fall. Let Camp Friedenswald provide a comfortable cabin, hot meals delivered to your doorstep, trails to explore, and the shores of Shavehead Lake by which to be renewed. Take your family, a friend, or simply go on your own. For more information and to inquire, visit the camp [website](#). In addition to providing your family with a retreat, your getaway also supports Camp Friedenswald during this challenging time.