

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 9-13-2020

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, Sept. 13, 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.

Farewell for Theda and Dawn, Zoom, 2 p.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

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

contact Carrie Mast for password

Sept. 14-19

Tuesday (Sept. 15) Morning prayers, Zoom,

7 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Thursday (Sept. 17) Deacons, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Trustees, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020

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

Worship, Alex Sider preaching, 10:30 a.m.

(You may wish to read Joshua 7 in preparation.)

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Pastor Wanda is out of the office September 11-16. For pastoral care needs please contact Pastor Theda.

Pastor Theda is now through her period of quarantine and free to move about town again. There are still two and a half weeks left and she would love to connect with folks in whatever setting feels good and safe to you. Please contact her by email or text or phone.

Happy birthday

Sept. 14 – Andrea Goings

Sept. 14 – Tim Schumacher

Sept. 15 – Kaden Niekamp

Sept. 17 – Mary Edmiston

Jane Steinmetz

Sept. 18 – Beth Boehr

Sept. 19 – Sam Diller

Lucas Harnish

Please join a farewell event for Theda and Dawn to be held via Zoom on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 2 p.m. Persons from the congregation and university will share memories and thanks for Theda's ministry and their connections with us. The link to the event is

<https://zoom.us/j/91292863769>.

Dial in with phone: +1 646 558 8656

Many of us have been trying new recipes and resurrecting old favorites in recent months. We want to highlight your quarantine recipes in the October Menno-Life. We hope you'll share them! If you have photos to accompany them, please share them. Email recipes to fmc@fmcbluffton.org by Thursday, Sept. 23.

New news

From Brent and Leah Schroeder: Recently, Brent resigned from his position at Bluffton University and accepted a role at a nonprofit in Camden, NJ called UrbanPromise. We are expecting to move the week of September 21. Between work transitions, selling our home, packing, and Brent's family claiming various evenings and weekends to get together one last time, it is difficult to imagine that we will have a lot of opportunities to connect with people individually before we leave. However, we want to make space for members of our FMC family to say goodbye to us in person one last time (socially distanced!) for those who are interested. You are invited to stop by the house (115 E. Kibler St.) any time from 10 a.m.-noon on Saturday, Sept. 12, if you want to say farewell in person. We will be on our back deck, so feel free to walk around the west side of the house or come through the alley.

Congratulations to Miev and Kan Chan who became grandparents again on September 1. Andrew Ryan Rossi was born to Tracy and Phillip in Pittsburgh. He joins two older sisters.

Reminders

When we began meeting virtually last March, we had no idea how long it would last or how our worship would evolve. In March, we kept the order of worship as close to what it had been in person, in part because we were just figuring out how to transfer it to a virtual platform. But keeping things as close as possible to what we had experienced in person was comforting. Along the way, we have adapted and made small changes. Now you may notice some changes that are part of an effort to move forward with a plan that we hope will help us when we begin to transition from virtual worship back to gathering in person. We already know we're not likely returning to the way it was in worship or in any aspect of our lives. But we do look forward to the new day when we will gather and worship together. We welcome and appreciate your feedback as we navigate this transition. ~ Mark Suderman, Director of Music, and Pastor Wanda

FMC's Reopening Task Force has developed a comprehensive guide for present and future gatherings throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Two documents have been developed, the first a spreadsheet outlining our planned response to the various levels in the Ohio Public Health Advisory System, and the second a more detailed explanation. As new information emerges about the virus and as new treatments and vaccines become available, the guidelines may be revised. The two documents may be accessed at www.fmc@fmclubluffton.org. Click on the "Reopening Guidelines" tab at the top of the home page, then follow the links on that page. Paper copies are available in the literature rack in the fellowship hall.

This fall's theme is *Voices Together* and we are highlighting music by individuals, small groups, and families using hymns from our current collection, previous hymnals, or the new *Voices Together* hymnal. Each Sunday a hymn will be presented in the way you choose. Then the hymn will be presented by solo, quartet, piano, video or another way. Please contact Mark Suderman if you would like to participate.

Our Connections

MCHO Service Group will hold a chicken barbecue fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 26, from 4-6 p.m. with curbside pick-up at Bubba C BBQ, 158 N. Jackson St. Tickets are \$8 from service group members, by emailing lvike4850@yahoo.com or at 576-204-9232. Proceeds will go toward a new van for MMH.

The MCUSA colleges and universities will be hosting a series of virtual Family Nights in conjunction with their Mennonite College Days schedule. Due to COVID-19, the in-person travel schedule is not possible so the reps will "visit" each chapel service virtually, with a pre-recorded video, and host Instagram raffles and virtual visits to their respective campuses. There will be a Family Night information session, over Zoom. To view the schedule and to register, follow this link: <https://www.mennoniteeducation.org/mcd>.

Mennonite Central Committee invites you join Celebration 2020: MCC at 100, a livestreamed event commemorating a century of MCC Oct. 17, at 6:50 p.m. (EDT). The event will feature music, photos, videos and storytelling that highlight MCC's work. See more information at mcc.org/celebration-2020.

The Anabaptism as Spiritual Practice webinar with Jamie Pitts will be held Saturday, Sept. 22, at 6:30 p.m. (ET). This webinar introduces Anabaptist history as a Spirit-oriented tradition and the difference that might make for our lives and congregations. Join by Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/91785893004>, Meeting ID: 917 8589 3004, or by Skype for Business at <https://zoom.us/skype/91785893004>

Ministry Opportunities

Mennonite Disaster Service, Dayton update: Residents in the Dayton area continue to deal with home damage from the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes. MDS needs day volunteers for the next few weeks (M-Sa) to help with work. Scheduling is flexible. Work includes siding, roofing, windows, drywall, etc. Lynn Miller is project director and Mitch Kingsley is a crew leader. If you are able to volunteer, contact Lynn at 419.274.9704 or lynnamiller@protonmail.com or Mitch at 419.236.7106. ~ Lawrence Matthews

Habitat for Humanity - Lima Area plans to build a home in Delphos this fall. See the Habitat website for updates on when they will need construction volunteers. Funds are also needed. The ReStore is 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 open only for volunteers working. To volunteer or donate, contact Habitat at 419-222-4937, www.habitatlima.org or habitatlima@habitatlima.org.

Elder Victim Ministry, a program of Crime Victim Services, seeks volunteers interested in checking on the well-being of elders and persons with special needs who live alone and have been a victim of crime. To learn more, contact Elysia Bush at 419-302-2857 or ebush@crimevictimservices.org.