

Who is invited? Everyone! Infants to Elders. Who will participate? Youth to Elders! Please plan to attend January 20 from 4-7 p.m. to participate in *Mapping* ways we live into the 5 Priorities. We will use Open Space Technology, a format which specializes in empowering all attendees to contribute. Curious about OST? Go to the links under the GTF tab on the FMC website or ask a GTF member.

Over the next few weeks, consider the 5 Priorities and think about how First Mennonite Church can best live into them. What ministries do we need? In what ways should we provide oversight and visioning? What are the essentials? What are you/we passionate about? Please have conversations with friends, family, and those among us you may not know well. The 5 Priorities are printed on green paper and copies are in the literature racks in the fellowship hall.

Three hours is a long time! Refreshments and supper will be provided by the youth as a fundraiser. **Childcare will be provided.** Opportunities to participate and refrain from participating are woven into this time. If you need childcare, please email Elizabeth Kelly: ekelly.2018@gmail.com for headcount and age appropriate programming.

**Calendar

Sunday, January 13, 2019**

9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time

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

Noon Freudige/Sojourners potlucks

3 p.m. Mennonite Women music presentation, sanctuary

5:30 p.m. Learning circle, supper provided, FH

**January 14-20, 2019**

Tuesday (Jan.15) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.

Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Trustees, 7 p.m., parlor

Wednesday (Jan. 16) Adult bells, cherubs, 6 p.m.

 Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.

Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.

Thursday (Jan. 17) Community meal, 6 p.m., Bluffton Senior Center

Council, 7 p.m., parlor

Friday (Jan. 18) Menno-Life deadline

Saturday (Jan. 19) Luther Shetler memorial service, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday (Jan. 20) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.

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

 Mapping and Learning Together, congregational meeting, 4-7 p.m.

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
*Weekly Announcements 1-13-2019* 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); fmc.theda@bluffton.edu**
* **Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-10 a.m., mastc@bluffton.edu**
* **Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu**
* **Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, M-F, 9-4,** **fmc@bluffton.edu**
* **Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed**

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**Pastoral concerns
Burton Yost died January 7** at the Mennonite Memorial Home. A memorial service was held January 11. His family held a private burial in Maple Grove Cemetery.

**A memorial service for Luther Shetler** will be held Saturday, January 19, at 10:30 a.m. at First Mennonite. Luther died December 15, 2018 at Mennonite Memorial Home.

**2019 CDC Regional Gatherings**Consider attending one of Central District’s Regional Gatherings. All meet from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and include updates about CDC and provide opportunities to get acquainted. Host congregations provide lunch.

* **Jan. 26, 2019**, CDC Central hosted by Open Table Mennonite Fellowship at Assembly Mennonite Church, 1201 S 11th St., Goshen
* **Feb. 9, 2019**, CDC West hosted by Chicago Community Mennonite Church, 425 S Central Park Blvd., Chicago
* **March 9, 2019**, CDC East hosted by First Mennonite Church, Bluffton
* **March 23, 2019**, CDC South hosted by Berea Mennonite Church, 1088 Bouldercrest Dr., Atlanta

**Financial Peace University**

Planning for the future is hard when you’re still paying for the past. Join Kendra Nickel’s Financial Peace University group to learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future. The group will meet in the fellowship hall beginning Tuesday, Jan. 22. Classes are Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. for 9 weeks. Cost is $109. Childcare is available. Contact Kendra at 419-302-5220 with questions or sign up at <https://fpu.com/1079329>. *~ Kendra Nickel*

**Winter campers**
**Grace Paquin** was not included in the list of senior high youth attending winter camp last weekend.

**Junior high youth** attending winter camp this weekend include Theo Andreas, Kaleigh Coffman, Rebecca Estell, Ben Hartzler, Ethan Nickel, Makayla Suter, and John-Paul Yoder. Sponsors are Greg Hartzler and Carrie Mast.

**Bluffton University calendar**February 15 “Unspeakable”, Sana Musasama exhibit opens, Grace Albrecht Gallery, Sauder Art Center, displayed through Feb. 15

January 11 “An Exploration of Loss, Touch and Memory in the Landscape,” Friday Colloquium, Jim Fultz, assistant professor of art, 4 p.m., Stutzman Hall, Centennial Hall

January 15 “Searching for Koinonia: In Community with Mystics and Misfits," Forum, Christiana Peterson, spiritual writer, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Reminders**

**Mennonite Women:** Stories of MW have been set to music in a review of 100 years of songs that trace our changing culture and evolving theology. Wendy Chappell-Dick will lead a group of women vocalists in a unique presentation today at 3 p.m. in the sanctuary. Men, women and children are invited to attend the celebration. Be prepared to sing along. Refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall.

**Our bulletin now focuses entirely on worship** – it is the reason we are in worship. The “Weekly Announcements” including the week’s calendar, announcements and reminders, is e-mailed to those for whom we have e-mail addresses and paper copies are available on Sunday morning next to the visitor’s attendance book in the fellowship hall. On the first Sunday of each month, this document will also include *The Menno-Life*. At the end of the trial period, we’ll reassess this plan. We welcome your feedback. Write down your suggestions, include your name and date, and drop them in an offering plate or in one of our mailboxes. If you are unable to open the emailed attachments, check your settings. The announcements (and Menno-Life) are also posted on our website (click on Media, then Weekly Announcements and Newsletter.) *~ Pastor Wanda Stopher and Mary Pannabecker Steiner*

**Nurture Commission** will hold a “Guess Who's Coming to Dinner” on Saturday, Feb. 9. You decide whether to host, be a guest, or either.

* Register as a GUEST, indicating the number in your party; or a HOST, indicating the number of people you plan to host) on the table outside the church office by **Friday, Jan.18.**
* Being a GUEST is simple. Sign up, (children are welcome) be willing to bring a side dish or dessert, and arrive on time. Guests will be given directions to the host's home, what to bring, what time to arrive and an emergency-only contact number.
* HOSTS agree to host a meal in their home for a set number of guests (you name the number.) Hosts will be given the number of guests to expect, and will prepare a soup, bread(s) and drinks that adhere to any food allergies or requests passed to you through Nurture. Then wait and see who shows up at the door. It's a great way to get to know others in our church family.
* Suggested reading: Week 23 from “We Make the Road By Walking.” ~ *Nurture Commission*

**Senior high youth and delegates for MennoCon19** invite you to join a learning circle to study the *Journey Forward: Pathways* curriculum created by MCUSA following the convention in Orlando. The circle will meet March 10, April 14, May 12, and June 9 in the SHY room from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

**College-bound students:** If you or your parents are Everence members and you’ll be enrolled as an undergrad next fall, apply now for an Everence college scholarship of $1,000 to $3,000. ***The deadline is February 28, 2019.*** Visit everence.com/college-scholarships for more information.