

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## Weekly Announcements 11-24-2019

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817  
419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday, 419-551-1079; [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org)
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; [theda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:theda@fmcbluffton.org)
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-11 a.m., [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

### Sunday, Nov. 24, 2019

8:30 a.m. Youth choir  
9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Glen Guyton preaching  
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, AR  
6:30 p.m. Reception for Glen Guyton, FH

### Nov. 25-Dec. 1

Monday (Nov. 25) Et Cetera Board, AR, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday (Nov. 26) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m., AR  
Wednesday (Nov. 27) **EARLY DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN, 9 a.m.**  
No choir rehearsals  
No Noodle Night  
Thursday (Nov. 28) Office closed  
Thanksgiving dinner, 12:30 p.m., FH, all are welcome  
Sunday (Dec. 1) Youth choir, 8:30 a.m.  
SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Theda Good preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
Decorating the sanctuary (all invited to help),  
pizza party afterward  
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

### Happy birthday!!

Nov. 25 – Glen Buller  
Nov. 25 – Sophia Gott  
Nov. 29 – Thomas Schaaf  
Nov. 30 – Bev Simon  
Nov. 30 – Esther Strahan  
Dec. 1 – Grace Paquin

### 2019 Spending Plan

Receipts: \$311,281  
Expenses: \$351,607

**2019 Advent brochures are located in a basket on the hearing aid cabinet in the fellowship hall. Please help yourself!**

**Today we welcome Glen Guyton,** Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA since May 2018. Glen is also a speaker, author, and advocate for cultural competency. During a reception with him today at 6:30 p.m., he will share his vision for the denomination and visit with those attending.

**Blood drive:** First Mennonite will hold a Red Cross blood drive Thursday, Dec. 5, from 1-6 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Walk-ins are welcome, but you may schedule a donation at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>.  
**Also, volunteers are needed!** There is a sign-up form in the fellowship hall to help unload/load trucks, register donors, help in the kitchen, provide cookies, etc.

**The contribution statement** in your church mailbox this morning provides you with a look at your annual giving and includes a note of appreciation from the Stewardship Commission. Final signed contribution reports will be distributed in early January.

**For those who attended** the Living Faithfully, Dying Well Workshops there is a PDF of the "Financial Affairs Directory." Please contact Pastor Theda at [theda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:theda@fmcbluffton.org) and she will send it to you.

**Decorating time:** The youth invite everyone to join them in decorating the sanctuary immediately following worship on Sunday, Dec. 1. A pizza lunch will be provided.

**SS Schedule in December:** The primary children's SS classes and the Junior High SS class will meet in the ViP Room December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the Christmas Program to be presented during the SS hour on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Junior High youth not in the program will be assisting with chaos control.

**International Student Assistance Fund:** Periodically, there are Bluffton University international students with extraordinary situations in which they need financial assistance. Often individuals give assistance directly to students in need. The International Student Assistance Fund was established by Paul Neufeld Weaver, Lori Nester and Ivan Friesen to make funds available when needs arise. Carrie Mast has also been involved in assisting with overseeing the fund. Donations may be made by writing a check to First Mennonite Church and designating ISAF. This is not part of FMC's regular spending plan.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

**December 8:** Chiles-Laman Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service at The Centre. See details on bulletin board by Jackson St. door.

**January 25:** Saturday family workshop, 9:30 a.m.-noon. More details soon.

### **REMINDERS**

**All are welcome** to the FMC Thanksgiving meal at noon Thursday, Nov. 28. Traditional Thanksgiving dishes will be on the menu, but anything is welcome. Donations will be accepted to cover the costs of purchased items. RSVP to Lori Nester and sign up to bring something (419.358.9650, [nesterl@bluffton.edu](mailto:nesterl@bluffton.edu)).

**First Mennonite will host** the Bluffton community meal at the Senior Center on Thursday, Dec. 5, and volunteers are needed to provide cookies and bread. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall.

~ Mission, Peace and Service

**College Scholarship Fund:** First Mennonite offers financial assistance to students who attend an Anabaptist/Mennonite college or university. Scholarships are matched dollar-for-dollar by the institutions up to \$1,000, matching 25% above that amount. Scholarships for 2019-20 school year were increased to \$1,500/student/year because funds were available. Eight students are currently receiving FMC scholarships.

\*Students/parents: Students currently attending or considering attending a Mennonite college in 2020-21 should contact Louise Matthews ([matthewsa@bluffton.edu](mailto:matthewsa@bluffton.edu)) by Sunday, Nov. 24. Final college decisions need not be made until spring but Dec. 1 is the deadline to guarantee matching funds.

\*Congregation: The "College Scholarship Fund" is dependent on your generous financial support and contributions may be designated as such. Participating students for 2020-21 will receive \$1,000 from FMC for the year unless sufficient funds are available to again offer \$1,500.

~ Church College Relations: Louise Matthews, Mona Reichenbach, Theda Good

### **BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY**

**Nov. 26** "Living Well. Living My IDEAL Life," Forum, Glen Guyton executive director, MC USA, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Nov. 24** Holiday Collage Concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Nov. 24** Christmas at the Houshower House, tree lighting, carols, hot chocolate, 8 p.m.