

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 11-3-2019

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; 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, 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@fmcbluffton.org
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, M-F, weekends as needed

Sunday, Nov. 3, 2019

8:30 a.m. Youth choir
9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon Connections potluck, AR
2 p.m. Mary Boyer memorial service, visitation and meal to follow
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle

Nov. 4-9

Monday (Nov. 4) Adriel exec. board, 1 p.m., parlor
Tuesday (Nov. 5) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Wednesday (Nov. 6) **No Cherub or Jubilate choir tonight**
Adult bells, 6 p.m.
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (Nov. 7) Deadline to submit bulletin info, 9 a.m.
Sunday (Nov. 10) Youth choir, 8:30 a.m.
SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Theda Good preaching, 10:30 a.m.
Congregational meeting, 11:45 a.m.
Freudige/Sojourners potlucks, Noon
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m.

Happy birthday!!

Nov. 5 Everett Collier

Nov. 8 Fran Core

Nov. 8 John Paul Yoder

Nov. 9 Fred Steiner

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 11:45 a.m. following worship to approve the 2020 spending plan and to hear an update on governance task force progress. The new spending plan incorporates some revisions to methods of reporting and distributing funds, which were the focus of an informational meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 30. A video explaining these revisions can be viewed here: <https://zoom.us/recording/share/pF1ID1ZB9hau5WemiTptobsBe5F5JwgDOGHlyLTRu3ewlumekTziMw?startTime=1571872641000>

Brave Space, the student group to support the LGBTQ community at Bluffton University will hold a Transgender Day of Remembrance event on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. It will begin at the Lion and Lamb Peace Center, then progress in a silent candle walk to First Mennonite, where there will be a service to remember those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. If you are unable to participate in the walk, you are welcome to attend the church service at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. ~Pastor Theda

All are welcome to join Mennonite Women for comforter knotting Monday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. Knotting will continue Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 9 a.m.-noon. A soup lunch will be available. Bring a salad or dessert to share. Frame-loading will begin at 10 a.m. Monday; help is welcome! Two of Geneva Shetler's quilting frames -- a lap/table model and a floor model for narrow spaces will be offered to anyone who wants them.

PRAYER CONCERNS

A memorial service will be held for Mary Boyer in the sanctuary today at 2 p.m. Visitation and a meal will follow in the fellowship hall.

Laurence Burkhalter died October 15 at Willow Ridge. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Maple Crest. Memories may be shared at www.caringbridge.org/visit/laurenceburkhalter. Memorials may be directed to the Mennonite Disaster Service.

On behalf of my mom and my family, thank you, community, for your prayers and care for all us during Mom's recent health crisis. While she is currently home, the challenges continue, and your persistent care is humbling and appreciated. You are church. ~ Kathy Dickson and family

A big thank you to my church family for your prayers, visits, cards and notes of encouragement. My physical therapy is going well and I pray that all will continue to improve. ~ Mary Amstutz

REMINDERS

Melissa Florer-Bixler, pastor at Raleigh (NC) Mennonite, the Spiritual Life speaker at Bluffton University, will meet with any FMC individuals interested in exploring the language we use for God in our conversations, prayers, and worship service at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5. Bring a brown bag supper and meet in the fellowship hall. ~ Pastor Theda

There will be an all-church potluck after worship Sunday, Nov. 17, in celebration of the years of casket making and its conclusion. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. A short program will highlight the work and those involved over the many years the caskets were produced.

You're invited to meet Glen Guyton, Executive Director of Mennonite Church USA, on Sunday, Nov. 24. Glen will offer the sermon based on John 17:20-23 at First Mennonite Church. At 6:30 p.m. **(note time change)** Nov. 24, Glen will share his vision for the denomination at a reception in the fellowship hall. All are invited to attend.

BHS fall play: "Jookalorum," a collection of stories from O. Henry, will be performed Nov. 15-16 at 7:30 p.m. in the middle school cafeteria. Tickets available at the door. Cost is adult \$3, student \$1. FMC youth with parts in the play include Sophia Gott, Ana Neufeld Weaver, and Patrick Estell.

We've heard stories of immigration, the US/Mexico border and the challenges of people fleeing from violence and poverty. If you might be interested in participating in a tour from First Mennonite to experience the border first hand, please sign up on the sheet by the office. This is not a commitment. Before we begin planning, we want to gauge interest in such a trip during the first week of March or in May, 2020.

~ Jan Wiebe, Laurel Neufeld Weaver, Lynda Nyce and Pastor Theda

OUR CONNECTIONS

Grace Mennonite Church sewing group, Threads of Grace, invites you to their comforter blitz Nov. 14-15 in celebration of MCC's 100th birthday in 2020. Comforters will be set up from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Nov. 14, and 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 15. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP to Cindy Luginbill at lugc@watchtv.net.

BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY

Nov. 5 "Becoming Atheists: Worship Among the Gods," Spiritual Life Week Forum, Melissa Florer Bixler, Raleigh Mennonite Church, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Nov. 5 "From Bluffton to Honolulu: My Astronomy Research Experience on Oahu," First Tuesday in the Library student Forum presentation by April Horton, 11 a.m., Musselman Library

Nov. 5 "Discovery: A Comic Lament," Ted and Company, 7 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Nov. 6 Steve Smith, BU alum, speaking about Potters for Peace, 7 p.m., Mac Lab, Sauder Arts Center

Nov. 8 "Apprenticeship at Chef and the Farmer," colloquium, Jeanna Haggard, 4 p.m., Centennial Hall

Nov. 9 Fall Gospel/Jazz Ensemble Concert, 6 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

Nov. 10 Reception for "Anthropographies" exhibit, John Sabraw, 1-3 p.m., Sauder Arts Center