

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 2-23-2020**

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., 419-230-1568, [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)

**Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020**

9:15 a.m. Sunday school, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching  
1:30 p.m. SHY/JHY working on peace packets, FH  
5:30 p.m. FMC learning circle, FH

**Feb. 24-March 1**

Monday (Feb. 24) Stewardship, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday (Feb. 25) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
MPS, 7 p.m., parlor  
Wednesday (Feb. 26) Cherubs, Adult bells, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel choir, youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday service, 8 p.m., FH  
Thursday (Feb. 27) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.  
Council, 7 p.m., AR  
Sunday (March 1) Sunday school, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Theda Good preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
Connections potluck, 11:30 a.m.  
FMC learning circle, 5:30 p.m., FH

**Happy birthday!**

2-26 Andy Chappell Dick  
2-28 Ethan Blount  
3-1 LuAnn Stuckey

**Thank you to Lois Wetherill**, for creating the pulpit cloth used in worship throughout Epiphanytide season.

**You are invited to attend** the CDC East Regional Gathering Saturday, March 14, 9:45 a.m.-3 p.m. at Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship. There will be updates about CDC, and Cincinnati Mennonite will host and share their story. The Cincinnati congregation will provide lunch; donations are suggested to help cover lunch costs. ***To help them plan for the amount of food needed, notify our church office by March 3 if you plan to attend.***

**FMC is the host church** for Bluffton Community VBS this year. We will need many volunteers leading up to the week of VBS June 7-11, preparing decorations and name tags, baking cookies, and preparing spaces in the church for our guests. We will also need many volunteers during the week greeting guests, checking them in, handing out name tags, walking groups of children between stations, playing music, and leading worship. We are using MennoMedia curriculum: *Who Is My Neighbor?* If you are interested in volunteering, contact co-organizers Amber Shelly ([arshelly11@gmail.com](mailto:arshelly11@gmail.com)) or Carrie Mast.

**Interested in climate change** and sustainability practices? Join a multiage First Mennonite Green Team. We will kick things off with a Camp Friedenswald weekend event, Climate & Community, April 17-19. All ages are welcome for the weekend which includes child care during workshops (all the way up to 12 years.) FMC has 12 spots available for the trip to camp, and transportation is arranged through the church. See the Camp Friedenswald pillar in the fellowship hall for a schedule, speakers, and other details about the weekend. Wendy Chappell-Dick will provide music. Let Carrie Mast know if you are interested in being a part of the Green Team and in attending the weekend retreat.

### Prayer request

**Kendra Nickel** was admitted to the hospital after a colonoscopy for further testing and treatment. She is in good spirits and looking forward to returning home sometime this week.

**Easter flower order forms are in today's bulletins.** The flowers will decorate the chancel on Easter; those who have ordered flowers may retrieve them after worship on Easter. If you wish to order flowers, place your payment/form in the offering plate or deliver payment/form to the church office by Monday, March 9.

**Thank you to all who supported Et Cetera Shop** in renovating and moving in to the old glove factory. The donated money allowed the project to move ahead when the store really needed the support for a necessary loan. As the new year starts, we have some numbers to share: Last year, thrift shop sales averaged \$12,568 per month for January-August 2019. After the move, average sales for September-December 2019 rose to \$21,331. The store is thriving under direction of Chrissy Lugibihl and volunteers. The renovation loan is now about \$450,000. As a result of increased sales, the board is making payments earlier and larger than required. There is much for which to be thankful.

~ Bill Suter, FMC rep to Et Cetera

### Reminders

**Save the date:** The 2019 Financial Review will be Monday, March 2 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary.

**Nurture Commission** plans a *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* on Saturday, March 14. Here's how it works:

- **Register as a host or guest** on the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall **BEFORE** Sunday, March 1.
- **Being a guest** is simple:
  - Indicate the number in your party and any food restrictions, plan to bring a side dish or dessert. You will be contacted with directions to your host's home, what to bring, arrival time, and an emergency contact number.
- **Hosting** requires a little more effort:
  - Indicate the number of guests you are willing to host. You will be contacted with the number of guests to expect, any food allergies or special requests.
  - Prepare a soup, bread(s) and drinks.

*Questions may be directed to Rita Dietrich, 419-303-1102 or ritad4248@gmail.com.*

**Hygiene and relief kit\* drive:** Lists for both kits are on the bulletin board at the collection area near the library.

Hygiene kits include the following (new items, in original packaging.)

- 1 adult-size toothbrush (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 1 large bar bath soap (leave in wrapper)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 hand towel (medium weight, dark or bright colors, approx. 16 in. x 26 in.)
- 1 wide-toothed comb (6-8 inches)

**\*Relief Kits:** Pack items into a box labeled relief kit and place near the kit collection area. MCC will repack these. If you'd like to sew bags, there are sewing directions cards on the bulletin board in the kit collection area. Some precut bags and cords are also there and we are accepting donated fabric.

**The Jubilee Fund Administrators** are processing Jubilee Fund requests. Forms are available from the church office or on the GTF page on the church website: <http://fmcbluffton.org/gtf/>. Fund administrators include Kendra Nickel, Greg Hartzler, and Mary Pannabecker Steiner. Please allow at least one week for requests to be processed.

**Taste and See: A Sampling of Contemplative Prayer Practices**, an experiential elective prayer class will meet during Sunday school March 8-April 5 upstairs in room 301. Each week will focus on a different practice and practice in a facilitated experience. Topics include centering prayer, imaginative prayer with the Gospels, praying with art, the examen as a form of discernment, and *Lectio Divina*. Whether these are familiar prayer forms for you or you've never heard of them, you may attend any or all of the classes. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Anne Marie Spelman, 309-830-6975 or [spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com](mailto:spelman.anne.marie@gmail.com).

**FMC's address/phone directory** is now available on the church website. It is password protected and you may request the password from the church office -- you may choose to receive the password verbally or via text.

### Bluffton University

Feb. 23 Reception for *Human Targets* exhibit, George Cooley, Margaret Brostrom, 1-3 p.m., Sauder Art Center

Feb. 25 Student Senate Presidential Debate, 11 a.m., Yoder

Feb. 27 Faculty recital, Dr. Da Eun Choi, pianist, 7 p.m., Yoder