

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 3-3-2019

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 (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

Calendar

Sunday, March 3, 2019

- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching
Noon Connections potluck
1:30 p.m. SHY, board games,
4 p.m. “Conscience, Scripture and Patriotism: The Church of the Brethren and the Crisis of the Great War,” William Kostlevy, Kreider Room, Marbeck Center, (Voices of Conscience)
5:30 p.m. Learning circle, supper provided, FH
6:30 p.m. Learning circle, Maple Crest

March 3-10, 2019

- Tuesday (Mar 5) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
Financial Peace U, 6:30 p.m., FH
Stewardship financial review, 7:30 p.m., sanctuary
Wednesday (Mar 6) Adult bells, Cherubs, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Ash Wednesday service, 8 p.m.
Thursday (Mar 7) Community dinner, Senior Center, 6 p.m.
Worship commission canceled
Saturday (March 9) CDC Regional Gathering, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sunday (Mar 10) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Theda Good preaching, 10:30 a.m.
SHY, 1:30 p.m.
Learning circle, supper provided, FH, 5:30 p.m.

Happy birthday!!

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| LuAnn Stuckey | March 1 |
| Dave Moser | March 6 |
| Mary Boyer | March 8 |
| Shelby Cluts | March 9 |
| Anna Hartzler | March 9 |

FMC youth sing in choir festival

Many of our children in grades 3-9 are participating in the 2019 Mennonite Youth Choir Festival, which culminates in a concert today at 2 p.m. in Sauder Concert Hall of Goshen (Ind.) College.

FMC children participating include: Ellie and Ethan Nickel, John Paul Yoder, Ben and Ellie Hartzler, Kaleigh Coffman, Rebecca Estell and Ethan Blount.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday service is at 8 p.m. March 6. We begin each season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, remembering that we are made of dust. The ashes that remain in the wake of pain and destruction remind us of our failures and our frailty. Yet, this day reminds us that God knows what to do with ashes. God knows what to do with our sin and God knows what may yet become of us. So we will gather together again this year, to remember and look forward with hope.

Thank you to all who provided feedback on our bulletin format. In response, the weekly announcement sheet, including the weekly calendar and birthdays, is now inserted in the bulletin. However, we will continue to e-mail the announcement sheet on Friday afternoon as some prefer to read it electronically. As always, please recycle your bulletins at home or place them in our recycling

Bluffton area pastors introduce “Ashes to Go”

On the morning of Ash Wednesday, March 6, a group of Bluffton area pastors will be offering “Ashes to Go,” a new approach to a centuries-old Christian tradition. Ashes to Go is offered because reminders of need, humility and healing shouldn’t be confined to church buildings. The ashes remind us of our need for God, and of God’s call to us. There is much more to the beginning of Lent than ashes alone, and people are still encouraged to make time for worship with a community of faith. A handout with an explanation and information on local Ash Wednesday services will be given to those who participate. Ashes to Go will be offered from 7-9 a.m. at the corner of Main and Cherry Streets. Pedestrians, drivers and passengers of vehicles who pull over are invited to participate. More information about the Ashes to Go movement can be found at ashestogo.org.

REMINDERS

Easter flower orders due March 17: Easter flower order forms are inside today’s bulletin. An assortment of flowers are available through K&J Greenhouse. Orders must be submitted to the church office by Sunday, March 17.

Time and location changes for financial review: Stewardship commission invites the congregation to attend a meeting to review the 2018 financial year Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is not an official congregational meeting as no decision-making is scheduled, but all are welcome to attend, reflect, and ask questions.

Lent brochures in mailboxes: Continuing to “make our way by walking,” we will focus in worship on Jesus’ teachings in the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5, 6 and 7. How will you observe Lent this year? What is the Spirit stirring within you? How will you make room for the teachings of Jesus to take hold? What action will you take? What practice will you add? What behavior will you cease? If you want to talk about this, please see Pastor Theda or Pastor Wanda.

Learn more about Central District Conference by attending Regional Gathering from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at First Mennonite. You’ll hear updates about CDC, get acquainted with others and join in some singing. *Lunch will be available; please bring a donation to help cover the costs. Register on the sign-up sheet on a table near the office or by contacting the office. FMC will provide the lunch; if you can provide food or help with serving and clean up, please sign up in the fellowship hall. For information, contact Lori Nester at nesterl@bluffton.edu or 419-358-9650. *Child care will be available. You **must** pre-register your child with Carrie Mast at mastc@bluffton.edu or 419.230.1568.

OUR CONNECTIONS

The “Voices of Conscience” exhibit in Musselman Library at Bluffton University, is open now through March 31. Library hours are 8:30 a.m.-10 p.m. M-Th; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. F; 1-4 p.m. Saturday, 4-10 p.m. Sunday.

University events:

March 3: “Conscience, Scripture and Patriotism: The Church of the Brethren and the Crisis of the Great War,” William Kostlevy, Brethren Historical Library and Archives, 4 p.m., Kreider Room, Marbeck Center

March 4-8: Spring break

March 10: Senior art exhibition, Rebecca Baden, Becky Boban, Brista Drake, Cara Echols, Emily Griffioen, Elizabeth Luersman, 1-3 p.m., Grace Albrecht Gallery, Sauder Art Center

March 10: “We Are Still Compelled: Artifacts of Bluffton’s World War I Experience,” Carrie Phillips, Bluffton University archives, 4 p.m., Kreider Room, Marbeck Center