

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## Weekly Announcements 3-31-2019

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 (cell); [fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.wanda@bluffton.edu)
- Pastor Theda Good -- Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417 (cell); [fmc.theda@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc.theda@bluffton.edu)
- Interim Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, M-F, 8-10 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, M-F, 9-4, [fmc@bluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@bluffton.edu)
- Custodian – Mick Hardy, 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., weekends as needed

### Calendar

#### Sunday, March 31, 2019

- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Jeff Boehr preaching,  
10:30 a.m.  
11:30 a.m. Church College potluck  
2-4 p.m. Mentors/mentees, nature walk  
5:30 p.m. Learning circle, FH

#### April 1--6, 2019

- Monday (April 1) Stewardship, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday (April 2) Adriel, 9-3 p.m., FH  
Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Wednesday (April 3) Adult bells, Cherubs, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Chancel, youth bells, 7 p.m.  
Thursday (April 4) Worship, 7 p.m.  
Sunday (April 7) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Theda Good preaching,  
10:30 a.m.  
Connections potluck, FH  
GTF, Making the Path, 4-7 p.m.  
FMC learning circle cancelled

**Announcement deadline: Items for the Sunday announcements must be submitted by 10 a.m. Thursday.**

### Easter brunch April 21

All are invited to attend the Easter brunch at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, April 21, in the fellowship hall. Please bring food to share: breakfast casseroles, fruit, breads, coffee cakes, muffins, etc. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. Please bring your own table service. There will be no Sunday school that morning.

~ Nurture Commission

### Happy birthday!!

- March 31 Paula Luginbill  
April 2 Rita Dietrich  
April 3 Joe Schumacher  
April 4 Lawrence Templin  
April 5 Kendra Gott  
April 5 Jonatan Moser  
April 6 Mike Edmiston  
April 7 Jeff Yoder

### Simple morning prayer

Now I wake to see the light.  
'Tis God who kept me through the night.  
Now I lift my voice to pray  
that God will keep me through the day.  
~ Shared by Wanda Stopher, March 24 sermon

### Many thanks!

Thank you to Beth Boehr who has provided our visual focus as well as our bulletin covers during this season of Lent. The visuals have remained constant this year, accentuating the theme, "Life Reframed." Jesus' teachings in the Sermon on the Mount reframe our lives and practices of faith.

Thank you to Carrie Mast who has led youth, children and adults in presenting the scripture during Lent this year. This is one way we nurture faith inter-generationally and at the same time identify, develop and empower the gifts among us!

**Mentors/Mentees:** Meet Sunday, March 31, at the Nature Preserve main parking lot (Augsburger entrance) at 3 p.m. for a spring walk as pairs. After enjoying a stroll together, we'll return to the church for hot chocolate and conversation with some guests from Camp Friedenswald about a new camp weekend for mentor and mentees, focused on sustainability.

**Thank you to all our FMC family** for the thoughtful words, cards, & other gifts of kindness after the death of my brother, Bob Landes. We are very grateful for the caring support of each of you. ~ *Elfrieda and Dick Ramseyer*

**Last call for delegates** to Central District Conference Annual Meeting. If you would like to serve as a delegate from FMC to CDC Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI, June 20-22, let Gerald Mast know by Sunday, April 3.



**Who is invited? Everyone! Infants to Elders. Who will participate? Youth to Elders!**

Please plan to gather Sunday, April 7, from 4- 7 p.m. to continue living into the 5 Priorities. We will again use the Open Space Technology format which allows all to contribute. To learn about OST and/or refresh your memory about the February event, go to [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) and click on GTF. On April 7 we will use "Making the Path" as a way to infuse our common life with ministry focus. We will temporarily suspend the current commission structure as we explore ministries: re-affirming current ministries, reimagining previously successful ministries and dreaming of new ministries that will help us live out our 5 Priorities. Opportunities to participate and refrain from participating are woven into this time. Refreshments and supper will be provided (donations are welcome.) Childcare will be provided; if you need childcare, notify Elizabeth Kelly at [ekelly.2018@gmail.com](mailto:ekelly.2018@gmail.com) for headcount and age appropriate programming.

**Men, women, and children** are invited to join Mennonite Women in the fellowship hall for the April comforter knotting Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m. and Tuesday, April 9, from 9 a.m.-noon. No prior experience in knotting is required! Monday evening the devotional focus will be "Serve the Lord with Gladness," shared by Fran Core. Jane Weaver and Julie Mackey will provide refreshments. Following knotting on Tuesday, all are invited to stay for lunch. If you are able, bring a salad or dessert and table service. Soup, bread and beverages will be provided. \*Help welcome -- comforter loading will begin Monday, April 8, at 1 p.m.

**Join our first Community Café conversation** on Sunday, April 14 from 1:30-3 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We'll explore a local issue of justice, a small sales tax on the May 7 ballot that will support Allen County Regional Transit Authority. This conversation will invite open conversation about big picture issues for us as Anabaptists around the intersections and boundaries between church, politics, and justice. Childcare will be available; contact Carrie Mast to arrange. See Perry Bush, Mitch Kingsley, or Pastor Wanda with questions.

**FMC youth in high school musical:** Bluffton High School will present the Wizard of Oz April 12-14 in the middle school. This version uses Frank Baum's book – not the MGM film – as its inspiration in a classic stage musical. FMC youth in the cast include Patrick Estell (Scarecrow), Ana Neufeld Weaver (Glinda the Good Witch), Seth Andreas (Mayor of Munchkin City), and Sophia Gott (Farmhand and Oz Girl.) Grace Paquin is a cellist in the pit orchestra. Performances are April 12 and 13 at 7:30 p.m., and April 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available in the middle school office during school hours.

**My Coins Count:** The big jug in the fellowship hall awaits your coins to go to the food and water projects of MCC. Last year we collected \$841.74. Let's set a new record before the June deadline! ~ *John Rich*

### **REMINDER**

**In recognition of FMC's support for education** and learning across all ages and with gratitude for your financial generosity toward the church scholarship program, Church College Relations is holding a congregational potluck following the worship service today. We extend the invitation to include everyone, regardless of whether you brought food to share. All are welcome! ~ *Louise Matthews, Jacob Litwiller, Mona Reichenbach, Theda Good*

### **Bluffton University**

Through March 31 "Voices of Conscience" exhibit, Musselman Library

March 31 Camerata Singers and Masterworks Concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

March 31 "On the Front Line of Conscience: An Account of Four Hutterites Imprisoned at Alcatraz," Dora Maendel and Duane Stoltzfus, 4 p.m., Stutzman Lecture Hall, Centennial

April 1 Juried Student Exhibit, Sauder Art Center, through May 5

April 2 "Using Ancient Wisdom to Stop Destructive Communication in its Tracks: Reining in Gottman's Horsemen," Forum, Marathana Prothro, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall

April 6 Jazz Ensemble and Gospel Choir Concert, 6 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

**Consider volunteering with Habitat of Lima by** 1) Providing a noon meal for 30 volunteers on the last Friday of a month (May-August). 2) Donating funds for the Elida Build (starting this spring) – every \$62 buys a square foot of the house. 3) Volunteering at the Habitat ReStore, 550 W. Elm Street, Lima. Contact information: 419-222-4937, [www.habitatlima.org](http://www.habitatlima.org), or e-mail [habitatlima@habitatlima.org](mailto:habitatlima@habitatlima.org).