

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 4-21-2019

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

Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

9:15 a.m. Easter brunch, FH, 9:15 a.m.
No Sunday school
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching,
10:30 a.m.
Easter potluck lunch, 11:30 a.m.
Learning circle cancelled

April 22-28, 2019
Monday (April 22) Church office closed, Easter Monday
Tuesday (April 23) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor
MPS, 7 p.m., parlor
Swiss Historical Soc, 7 p.m., AR
Wednesday (April 24) Adult bells, Cherubs, 6 p.m.
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.
Chancel, youth bells, 7 p.m.
Thursday (April 25) Pastors at Maple Crest, 2:30 p.m.
Council, 7 p.m.
Friday (April 26) Ana Neufeld Weaver, piano recital, 7
p.m., sanctuary
Sunday (April 28) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching,
10:30 a.m.
Learning circle cancelled
Moving on a New Path Together, 4-6
p.m, FH

Happy birthday!!

April 21 Becki Ahmed
April 22 Margie Closson
April 22 Melinda Estell
April 24 Ryan Niekamp
April 27 John Estell
April 27 Anna Reichenbach
April 27 Bill Suter
April 27 JD Yoder

**The church office will be closed on
Easter Monday, April 22. In case of
emergency, please call Wanda Stopher
at 419-551-1079.**

**Next Sunday there will be a sheet in
mailboxes providing more information
on Pastor Wanda's sabbatical and
outlining coverage while she's gone.**



Join us in “Moving on the Path Together” on Sunday, April 28, from 4-6 p.m. We will move forward with new and re-envisioned ministries identified at the April 7 event. These ministry descriptions are located on the GTF page of the First Mennonite Church website: fmcbluffton.org. You may also read hard copies in the New Path Together notebook outside the church office.

As with all long journeys to new places there are unfamiliar territories to move through, toward the intended destination. On April 28 we'll take steps toward a transitional governance structure, allowing us to maintain ministries that are currently working while establishing new models of ministry discernment and action.

No meal will be provided, only snacks. If you need childcare, please contact Elizabeth Kelly at ekelly.2018@gmail.com.

A memorial service for Paul Dyck, who died April 13 at Blanchard Valley Medical Center, will be held Sunday, May 19, at 3 p.m. at First Mennonite. Visitation will be held at the church from 1:30 p.m. until the time of the service. A private burial will take place at Maple Grove Cemetery. Paul's family appreciates your continuing thoughts and prayers.

Update on Nova: Future Leader Dog Nova returned to Leader Dogs for the Blind on March 28 to begin her evaluations and formal training to be a guide dog. Following extensive medical tests including X-rays, the Leader Dog vets determined that Nova has early hip dysplasia. This condition disqualifies Nova from further training for guide work, because the rigor of wearing a guide harness and constantly accompanying a client could lead to physical complications for Nova later in life. We are disappointed that she will not be a guide but agreed to adopt her as a pet and brought her home last week. Since Nova loves to work, Grace will continue training her to be a therapy dog or to do other work within her physical limitations. With the right care and training we hope that Nova can continue to bring joy and comfort to others for many years. We are thankful for the participation of this congregation over the past year as Nova joined us for worship and church activities as part of her early training and appreciate your support. ~ *Grace Paquin, Walt Paquin and Rhonda Winstead*

Nurture Commission is researching small groups meeting regularly within our congregation. If you are a participant in a small group or Sunday school, please complete and return the flyer in mailboxes recently (one per group) to Rita Dietrich's mailbox. Please return the questionnaire by the end of April. Extra flyers are available next to the church office. Thank you!

**** New this week in the literature racks:** Black Swamp Benefit brochures (Saturday, June 15, Archbold) and the spring 2019 issue of "Intersections."

REMINDERS

In observation of National Healthcare Decision Day, local churches and Herb Walker, St. Rita's Medical Center hospice chaplain, invite you to an informational meeting Tuesday April 30, from 2-3:30 p.m., or Thursday, May 9, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Bluffton town hall. Participants will learn more about advance directives and have opportunities to complete the required documents.

Hygiene and relief kit collection continues through April. Kit lists are on the bulletin board by the library. Thank you for your participation in the kit drive.

Dorothy Nickel Friesen will share from her book, "The Pastor Wears a Skirt--Stories of Gender and Ministry," on Saturday, May 4, from 4-4:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. She will sign books until 5:30 p.m. Plan to stop by for a chance to meet and greet with Dorothy and Richard.

OUR CONNECTIONS

Bluffton University

April 23 Academic awards Forum, 11 a.m., Yoder Recital Hall
April 28 Spring Fling concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall

MCC Borderlands Learning Tour: Mennonite Central Committee Great Lakes welcomes you to participate in a learning tour focused on issues caused by the border wall along the Mexico/U.S. border. Participants will increase their understanding and knowledge of the social, economic, political and theological significance of migration in border communities, including advocacy tools and capacity building to engage others on borderlands and migration issues. The learning tour will take place May 22-26 in Arizona and will include crossing the border into Mexico. Attendees will also have the option to participate in the Migrant Trail walk following the tour. For more information visit mcc.org/borderlands-may-2019 or contact Juan Sebastian Pacheco Lozano at JuanPacheco@mcc.org or 574.534.4133.