

# FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

## *Weekly Announcements 4-28-2019*

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, April 28, 2019

- 9:15 a.m. SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching,  
Learning circle cancelled  
2:30 p.m. Lucas Harnish student recital,  
sanctuary  
4-6 p.m. Moving on a New Path Together, FH

#### April 29-May 4, 2019

- Tuesday (April 30) Morning prayers, 7 a.m.  
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., parlor  
Wednesday (May 1) Cherubs, 6 p.m.  
Jubilate, 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday (May 5) SS, coffee time, 9:15 a.m.  
Worship, Carrie Mast preaching,  
10:30 a.m.  
Connections class potluck, 11:30 a.m.  
Learning circle, FH, 5:30 p.m.  
Learning circle, MC, 6:30 p.m.

**Bulletin cover coloring page: If you'd like to color the bulletin cover, colored pencils are available in baskets near the entrances to the sanctuary.**

### Happy birthday!!

- |          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| April 29 | Kari Diller         |
| April 30 | Amy Blount          |
| April 30 | Christopher Harnish |
| May 1    | Pat Althaus         |
| May 1    | Adam Phillips       |
| May 1    | Sue Schaaf          |
| May 4    | Ray Raeburn         |

**Thank you to all those who planned and led worship in various ways this Lenten season. We were challenged by the stories of Jesus' teachings, life, death, and resurrection that reframe what it means to be alive in God's kingdom.**

**The Lent Planning Team included Carrie Mast, Mark Suderman, Beth Boehr, Kevin and Shelby Cluts, Linda Headings, Jeff Boehr, Theda Good, Wanda Stopher.**

### **Wanted: Summer musicians**

Pianists, organists, song leaders, musicians of all ages and types: There are again opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer (June-August.)

Opportunities include:

- Lead the singing for "opening songs"
- Play piano or organ
- Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

Please contact our Director of Music, Mark Suderman, at 419.230.5368 or [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu). If you have specific dates in mind when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know. Thank you!

**Kevin Cluts' mother, Ellen Henriott**, died April 25 from a sudden stroke. She was 75 years old. A small private service will be planned for a later time. The Cluts family appreciates your thoughts and prayers.

**The beautiful quilt Sarah Basinger is sending** to the 2019 Black Swamp Benefit is hanging in the fellowship hall today only. The benefit, a fundraiser for MCC and Sunshine Homes, will be held June 15 at Archbold High School (new location.)

**Have you left an item at FMC?** If so, check our lost and found box next to the kitchen. We'll donate whatever is left to Et Cetera on Friday, May 3.

**New in the literature rack:** Mennonite Mission Network's "Prayer Vine."

## **REMINDERS**

**Check your mailbox** for a document providing information on Pastor Wanda's sabbatical and outlining coverage while she's gone.



Join us in "Moving on the Path Together" today 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. You'll also find 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, but there will be snacks. If you need childcare, please contact Elizabeth Kelly at [ekelly.2018@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**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 April 30. Extra flyers are available next to the church office.

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

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

**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 28	Spring Fling concert, 2:30 p.m., Yoder Recital Hall
May 3-4	"Guys and Dolls," 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall, tickets required
May 4	May Day
May 5	Baccalaureate, 10:30 a.m., Founders Hall
May 5	Commencement, 2 p.m., Sommer Center