

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 7-12-2020

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817

419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Staff working from home

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, 9-4, off Friday, 419-551-1079; wanda@fmcbluffton.org
- Pastor Theda Good – Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, off Monday; 419-549-2417; theda@fmcbluffton.org
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568, mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell); sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, fmc@fmcbluffton.org, 419-358-5766

Sunday, July 12, 2020

Taste and See SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/342273765>

Sojourners SS, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Virtual memorial service for Anne Buller, 2 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/96436522943>

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>,
contact Carrie Mast for password

July 13-18

Tuesday (July 14) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Thursday (July 16) Deacons, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 19, 2020

Sojourners, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.; Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Darryl Nester preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy birthday

July 12 – Peter DeMeo

July 13 – Braylon Goings

July 14 – Bill Schroeder

July 15 – Darby Benroth

Anne Marie Spelman

July 15 – Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

July 18 – Kevin Nickel

July 19 – Linda Headings

MW encourages donations in lieu of school kits

Since most of us are limiting our time in stores at this time, Mennonite Women has postponed its usual school kit drive. MCC is still distributing many types of kits around the world. Instead of collecting kits this fall, we suggest making a monetary contribution by check or cash through First Mennonite (write school kits on the memo line or include an explanatory note.) Alternately, you may contribute directly to MCC at <https://donate.mcc.org/cause/ca-sh-kits>. MCC explains that you may donate cash to cover shipping and transportation costs of kits but when making your donation online, you may also specify that your donation is to fund a school kit.

Central District Conference will offer a webinar, *Taking Each Next Step: Anti-racism in Our Homes, Churches, and Conference*, Thursday, July 16, at 2 p.m. As followers of Christ, we are all called to work for racial, ethnic, and religious justice in our world. Join members of the CDC Missional Church Committee in taking each next step in our personal, congregational, and conference journeys toward dismantling white supremacy and racial injustice.

Register for the webinar at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SqnsXPnYQkuOtYSQHwNWOQ

Prayers and thank yous

Anne Buller died July 5 at Mennonite Memorial Home. Please pray for Glenn and Judy and the rest of Anne's family and friends as they grieve. You are invited to join a virtual memorial service to remember Anne on Sunday, July 12, at 2 p.m. at <https://zoom.us/j/96436522943>. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Wanda.

Jim Harder continues to be hospitalized at The James Cancer Hospital in Columbus where he received a stem cell transplant July 1. He hopes to return home in mid-July. Continued prayers for Jim and Karen and their family are appreciated.

From Lowell and Marty Hostetler - A note of thankfulness and appreciation for all of you - our church family. One doesn't realize how blessed we are until there is a need and not much "genetic" family around to help. I'm sure you carried out God's will with all your help in many forms. Your cards, prayers, offers of help - transportation for example, company, ample and delicious food were all examples. Theda's visits and phone calls were so looked forward to also. Lowell is doing well - temporarily has phys. therapy, nurse, and occ. therapy to keep him organized and busy. The doctor and therapists all say they feel really good about his progress. May it continue - with help from you again. Healing will be a process which is not done quickly, we now know. He'll be up to limited physical movement soon - within the limitations of life as we now know it. Many thanks again for all your support and prayers. God is smiling on us.

Vincent and Joseph Schumacher are moving to Columbus, OH, this weekend. They appreciate your prayers as they make their ways to finding jobs and starting a new path. Their new address is: 420 N. Garfield Ave., Columbus, OH 43203.

Reminders

This summer, our chancel display is crowd sourced. You're invited to place special items on the table each week, small souvenirs of daily life, travel, and the psalms that accompany our services. The display represents each person's meditative thoughts coming together. It also is a project that invites people to enter the sanctuary even though others are not there. The items that have been used will be placed on the window sills below the big stained-glass windows for owners to retrieve. Thank you! ~ Wendy Chappell-Dick

Food Connections, a newly-formed ministry, provides meals for individuals or families, following birth of a baby, surgery or other medical concerns. At present we are using the list of persons on the memorial meals list. If you are not on this list but would like to be included for Food Connections, send your email address and phone number to Rita Dietrich at ritad4248@gmail.com.

Our Connections

This year marks the 100th anniversary of MCC and you are invited to join the virtual event on Sunday, July 26, at 6:30 p.m. EDT, as to offer thanks to God and pray for the future of MCC's ministry of relief, development and peace in the name of Christ. MCC will broadcast live from Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart, site of an important first meeting in the formation of MCC when representatives of various Mennonite and Mennonite Brethren groups met in July 1920. Join the livestream event at mcc.org/gl-centennial-livestream.

The leadership team of Mennonite Church USA recently led an online panel discussion on *Race, Church and Change*, about the impact of racism on the church and meaningful approaches for dismantling it. View it at: <http://mennoniteusa.org/leadership-development/webinars/> A second webinar, *Race, Church & Change, Part 2* will be Thursday, July 23, at 6:30 p.m. Iris de Leon-Hartshorn is the moderator, and panelists include Glen Guyton, Felipe Hinojosa, Sue Park-Hur, Erica Littlewolf and Tobin Miller Shearer. Register at: https://mcusa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JKz_I1rpS76YxM8QwSvRzg.

Join MCC Great Lakes for a virtual Pipeline to Prison learning tour. Explore the complex dynamics of the U.S. criminal justice system from different perspectives and learn about practical opportunities for engagement and advocacy efforts in your local context. Through five online sessions, participants will explore the

connections between broad systemic issues of racism and incarceration down through the local level, all through the lens of Anabaptist faith. This free virtual learning tour will take place each Monday in August from 2-3:30 p.m. (EST). Registration is limited to 25 participants. The goal is for all participants to commit to attending each virtual session to get the full learning experience. For more information and to register visit mcc.org/gl-pipeline-to-prison-virtual or call 574.534.4133.