

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 8-9-2020

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, August 9, 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, Pamela Short preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>,

contact Carrie Mast for password

August 10-15

Tuesday (Aug. 11) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Thursday (Aug. 13) Trustees, 7 p.m.

Sunday, August 16, 2020

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

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy birthday

Aug. 9 – Levi Schumacher

Jan Wiebe

Aug. 10 – Ron Lora

Aug. 11 – Mary Pannabecker Steiner

Aug. 12 – Dick Boehr

Jan Emmert

Dorothy Houts

Aug. 13 – Don Pannabecker

Aug. 15 – Barb Stettler

In-person pastoral visits are being scheduled on porches, patios, or pavements. Please contact Pastor Theda by email or text to get on her program.

Today we welcome Rev. Pamela Short as our guest preacher. She comes from a farm community in Fulton County. She was surrounded by generations of people who lived in love and gratitude to Jesus, as well as neighbors who understood the value of fellowship, kindness and laughter. She has had a diverse vocational history, with the privilege of practicing nursing, teaching world religions, and serving three churches in pastoral ministry: Tedrow Mennonite, Lockport Mennonite and Tontogany Presbyterian.

“I grew up as an Anabaptist and was baptized at the Evangelical Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio at the age of 12. Because of the Christian education I received there, as well as excellent teaching from the committed professors of the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, I am without excuse should my preaching stray from the Good News of God’s love.”

Pamela lives in Bowling Green with her husband, Peter. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Samuel and Isaac live in Perrysburg and Jaden is in Glory with Christ Jesus.

Because of your generous donations to the First Mennonite Church scholarship fund, nine students will receive \$1,000 scholarships to attend Mennonite colleges during the 2020-21 school year, \$500/semester which will be matched by the colleges. Students include Christopher Harnish and Ana Neufeld Weaver attending Goshen College; Isaac Andreas, Seth Andreas, Cassidy Bush, Sophia Gott and Douglas Nester attending Eastern Mennonite University; and Nthati Phetlhu and Therisanyo Phetlhu attending Bluffton University. Thank you to those who have contributed financially to this scholarship program. Your continued assistance makes it possible to provide annual scholarships to sustain this ongoing ministry of FMC. If you have not yet contributed, now is a great time to consider a financial investment in the lives and education of students from our congregation, supporting Mennonite higher education in the process.

Bobbie Chappell has moved to Frieda House. Her direct phone line is 567-226-4065, and Frieda House general line is 419-358-1015. Her address is 103 Willow Ridge Drive. Terry remains in their new home at 216 W. Elm. His cell phone is 419-296-6695 and his landline is 567-226-1080. Contact through cards and phone are especially appreciated during this difficult transition. Let us remember the entire family in our prayers.

We want to thank everyone who supported us in the events surrounding the death of our mother, Anne Buller, with spoken word, thoughts, prayers, cards, memorial donations, and attending the virtual memorial service. Mom very much appreciated the community of First Mennonite Church during her time here in Bluffton.
~ Glenn and Judy and the extended Buller family

Reminders

The Reopening Task Force continues to meet and discuss the ever-changing Covid-19 events and guidelines as they pertain to churches. We are presently developing a detailed plan for FMC with guidelines for a safe return to face-to-face gatherings. We are calling it *Covid-19 Guidelines for Gathering* which will outline four levels of distancing with respect to facilities, worship, programs and fellowship. We will parallel our levels with the state's yellow, orange, red and purple levels. We hope to share this plan with the congregation by the early part of September. In the meantime, any questions, concerns or suggestions may be directed to any member of the task force.
~ Rita Dietrich, Theda Good, Monica Harnish, Carrie Mast, Karen McCullough, Mary Pannabecker Steiner, Wanda Stopher, Mark Suderman, Lois Wetherill

Due to less use of the church, the thermostats have been set higher and we are keeping the fire doors shut. Prior to worship service tapings on Wednesdays, we will prop open the fire doors and close them at the end of each taping. If you visit the church, please do not prop open these doors.

Mennonite Women has postponed the school kit drive, but because MCC is still distributing many types of kits around the world, they encourage monetary contributions through First Mennonite (write school kits on the memo line) or by giving directly to MCC at <https://donate.mcc.org/cause/cash-kits>.

Our Connections

Virtual MCC alumni gatherings: You're invited to MCC-hosted virtual alumni gatherings for four of the world regions where MCC works. Hear updates from Area Directors about current programming, share stories of service experiences and engage in small group discussions. Feel free to join the gathering for the area where you served, your home region or any area of interest! Register at mcc.org/virtual-alumni-gatherings.

- **Latin America and Caribbean:** Monday, August 17 at 8:30 p.m. (EDT)
- **Asia:** Tuesday, August 18 at 8:30 p.m. (EDT)
- **Europe and Middle East:** Saturday, September 12 at 11:00 a.m. (EDT)
- **Africa:** Saturday, September 12 at 1:30 p.m. (EDT)

Christian Peacemakers is offering a free webinar on Indigenous Resistance Thursday, Aug. 13, at 1 p.m. Hear about how colonialism is experienced throughout CP programs and about the nonviolent resistance of the Indigenous communities. Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sB8JHDiAQB6uwM8XhaiY-w