

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 9-27-2020

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, 419-358-5766; fmc@fmcbluffton.org

Sunday, Sept. 27, 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>

Faithful Living SS, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

For ID and password, contact Greg Ring,

gring@marathonpetroleum.com or

419-379-5310

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

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

contact church office for password

Sept. 28-Oct. 3

Tuesday (Sept. 30) Morning prayers, Zoom,

7 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020

Sojourners SS; Taste and See SS, Zoom, 9:15

a.m.; Faithful Living, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.; SHY,

classroom, 9:30 a.m., wear PJs.

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Welcome to Jeff Boehr who begins his ministry here at First Mennonite Church as Interim Pastor of Pastoral Care on October 1. Jeff is 1/2 time in this role and will continue to serve Lima Mennonite assisting in worship and preaching roles. You may reach Jeff at 419-236-9150. He will observe Mondays off.

Happy birthday

Sept. 27 – Jo Clemens

Sept. 28 – Greg Ring

Sept. 29 – Del Gratz

Sept. 30 – Liana Gott

Oct. 2 – Jeff Strahan

Oct. 4 – Jason Diller

Mary Yoder

Bible and Empire: Ray Person will lead a Bible study on the first and third Mondays at 8 p.m., beginning Oct. 5, with a specific focus of interpreting the Bible from a postcolonial perspective. A postcolonial perspective takes seriously the role of empire in both the writing of the biblical text and its interpretation in contemporary society, so that issues of power play a central role in interpretation. Because of this, interpretations need to take seriously issues concerning gender, race, and class, both on the writers of the Bible but also on us as interpreters. This class will be by Zoom on Monday evenings from 8-9 p.m. Join the class at: <https://zoom.us/j/92088366545> (+1-646-558-8656.) See the FMC Bluffton, Ohio Facebook page for a full description of the study or the document included with the weekly email. Hard copies are also located in the literature rack in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions, contact Ray at r-person@onu.edu.

Pastoral concerns

Our condolences go out to the family of Anna Ruth Reichenbach, who died on Sept. 24. Please remember Mona Reichenbach and the entire family as they grieve their loss and celebrate Anna Ruth's life. Arrangements will be forthcoming.

Karen Klassen Harder's father, Paul Klassen, died on Sept. 9 in Ontario, Canada. Let us remember Karen, Jim, and their family in this loss complicated by the inability to be together with their Canadian family. Let us surround them with our love, care, and prayers.

New news

JHY campfire: Meet at Larry & Judy Diller's farm for a campfire, Saturday, Oct. 3 from 7-8:30 p.m. We'll play some active games first and then gather around the campfire for some storytelling games. Feel free to bring your own snacks if you like and bring a mask!

As is our practice at FMC, we acknowledge the change in the relationship between pastor and congregation when there is a leave-taking. We have established a Parting Agreement between Theda and the congregation that serves as a tangible reminder of our mutual covenant and this change that has occurred. As we have released Theda from her pastoral responsibilities within this congregation, we also pledge to hold her in our memory and prayers, to welcome her to visit with us from time to time, and support her continued discernment and future ministries. Hard copies of the Parting Agreement will be available in the fellowship hall literature rack.

~ Staff Relations Committee -- Annette Heslep & Elizabeth Kelly

Congratulations to Francinny Oliveira and Logan Steingass, who were married in an outdoor ceremony September 6 in Lewis Center. Logan is the son of Amy and Bruce Steingass and Francinny is the daughter of Ana Oliveira and Vianas Carnauba, Bluffton. Greg Ring officiated and Halle Steingass, Lucas Harnish, David Moser, David Hooley, and Matthew Suderman participated in the wedding. Logan and Francinny reside in Columbus. The flowers on the altar, donated by Amy and Bruce, are in honor of the event.

Reminders

Conversations for Kids: You can catch all of the Conversations with Friends all the way back to the beginning of the pandemic in one place now. The following link will take you to a private YouTube channel for FMC children (and anyone who self-identifies as a child at heart.) When you click the following link, you'll have access to all of the stories and conversations shared during worship as standalone videos.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8GP3BoW44SIRI_VMRsBOh8_szrfmDska

At a recent meeting, Stewardship agreed to provide additional financial support to Camp Friedenswald in light of the Covid pandemic. In FMC's scheduled support of Camp in 2020, the spending plan included \$2,800 under Missions, Peace, & Service, as well as \$3,000 for camperships under Christian Education. The \$2,800 is evenly divided over the year and sent monthly. The camperships are typically reimbursed directly to families at a rate of 50% of the cost of camp per child or youth after families have paid for camp. Though all summer camps were canceled this year due to Covid, Stewardship members voted to send the full \$3,000 designated for camperships directly to Camp. FMC will give \$5,800 in total to Camp in 2020. We also supported Camp by taking JHY and SHY to winter retreats in January, and many families attended family winter retreat in February. Additionally, some families have attended the summer and fall getaways. Stewardship encourages you to consider offering additional financial support directly to Camp Friedenswald to ensure its future.

If you missed the farewell for Theda and Dawn, you may watch it at <https://vimeo.com/458333666>. Thanks to Ray Raeburn for recording this!

Our Connections

October 2 marks three years that Edith Espinal has been living in sanctuary with Columbus Mennonite Church. We invite you to honor Edith's perseverance in one or both of these ways: (1) A film company has completed a 20-minute documentary about Edith's attorney Lizbeth and Edith's case, *The Undocumented*

Lawyer, which will air on HBO next spring. We have ticketed access to the documentary from Sept. 29- Oct. 5. Purchase tickets (\$12) at <https://watch.showandtell.film/watch/solidaritywithedith> and watch it any time in that window. All proceeds will support Edith. (2) Join us for a virtual gathering Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Jhi7HQvQqgUxQD42W-ULg (free.) We will have a panel discussion including Edith, Lizbeth, and the film producers. ~ Joel Miller, Columbus Mennonite

Raleigh Mennonite will host a webinar to engage two pastors who are activists in the movement for Black Lives on Monday, Oct. 5, at 8 p.m. EST. Rev. Kaji Dousa, Park Avenue Christian Church, and Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Middle Collegiate Church, are the first black pastors of these historic churches in New York. Register in advance at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xqRllsrySBKH1ryTGTQWew. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.