

history to use in a tabletop display at the event. Please contact wendy@mennofolk.org if you wish to lend items for the display and/or if you are willing to help.

-- Wendy Chappell-Dick

Mennonite Disaster Service has an on-going need in Detroit, Mich. In August 2014, six inches of rain fell in Detroit and the surrounding area in a short time, flooding primarily basements in tens of thousands of homes. MDS and other volunteer agencies have cleaned out hundreds of basements. Yet even now there are still homes that have not been cleaned; homes of elderly, disabled, those with special needs and without resources. Volunteers are invited to work two or more days at a time (Mon to Sat.) Recently the binational office in Lititz, Pa., posted an announcement on their homepage (www.mds.mennonite.net) "Cleanup Volunteers needed in Detroit," which includes a link to a short video of the MDS response in Detroit. E-mail Lawrence Matthews at Detroit@mds.mennonite.net or call 419-303-8056 to schedule.

The Bluffton Area Ministerial Association and the Bluffton Area Community Assistance Program will again provide free school supplies to children who are on the free and/or reduced lunch program in the Bluffton school district. The supplies will be provided from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 1, at St. John's United Church of Christ. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to call the church to enroll a child in this program. Call 419-358-5641 for more information.

Mennonite Memorial Home is seeking to increase its pool of volunteer drivers, specifically for medical trips for elders of Mennonite Memorial Home, Willow Ridge, and Maple Crest. Volunteer drivers will not be asked to transfer or lift an elder, assist an elder in the restroom, nor go into the exam room. Please see Pastor Gloria to volunteer or for more information.

GRATITUDE AND PRAYERS

Happy Birthday to Sam Diller, 81, July 29; Kenneth Parish, 83, August 1.

Happy Anniversary to Joan and Sam Diller, 56, August 2; Don and Romaine Pannabecker, 57, August 2.

Please keep Ann Shumaker in your prayers, as she was hospitalized early in the week and is now recuperating in the rehab unit at Mennonite Memorial Home.

First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.

TODAY, July 26, 2015

9:00 a.m. Community Worship Service, Presbyterian Church lawn -- bring chairs and blankets

THIS WEEK

Monday (27) Our Daily Bread, leave FMC at 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday (28) Morning prayers, 7 a.m., Sanctuary
Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Parlor
Swiss Historical Society, 7 p.m. AR
MC USA delegate meeting, 8 p.m., FH
Wednesday (29) Main kitchen in use, 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
Fuller Bicycle presentation, 7 p.m., FH

NEXT WEEK

9:00 a.m. Coffee Time, FH
9:15 a.m. Sunday school classes for children and youth, adult Bible study (AR), fellowship time (FH)
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Steven Yoder preaching
Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a, Psalm 51:1-12, Ephesians 4:1-16, John 6:24-35

Welcome to our worship service today. Please sign and pass the friendship pads in the pews. Wireless hearing aids are available. If you would like your children watched over while you worship, our staff will care for them in the nursery available downstairs. Worship activity bags for children are available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will provide the evening meal and housing for the Fuller Center Bike Adventure group on Wednesday, July 29. There will be 20-30 bicyclists from all over the United States. This is the same group Everett Collier joined last summer and he plans to join them for the remaining journey to Portland, ME. The bicyclists will present a program at 7 p.m. **All are invited to attend this presentation.** To donate to Everett's fundraising efforts, visit this link on the Fuller Center website: www.fullercenterbikeadventure.org/summer/theriders/ and click on "Everett Collier." He has designated two housing sites they worked on last year. **Thank you to Janet Yoder and Judy Buller for preparing the meal for the group.**

The congregation is invited to share in an international breakfast potluck on Sunday, Aug. 9, at 9:15 a.m. to celebrate our international Sunday school theme and Mennonite World Conference. Please bring a main dish, fruits, breads or cheeses from other countries, as well as your own table service. The recipe book "Extending the Table" has many international recipes. Traditional American breakfast foods and gluten free foods are also welcome. Coffee, tea and juice will be provided. We encourage you to wear clothing from other countries for this event. -- *Christian Education Commission*

The Nurture Commission reports that the supply of quilts, comforters, and afghans needed for baby and child dedications must be replenished. Anyone interested in knitting, crocheting, or quilting is welcome to make or contribute an item. Suggested ranges for these items are 32 to 38 inches in width by 38 to 44 inches in length. Some common sizes seen in catalogs and kits are 32 inches by 38 inches and 34 inches by 40 inches. A small supply of woven cotton and flannel suitable for baby quilt backings can be found in the quilt room in a box labeled Fabrics for Baby Quilts. Quilts may be machine- or hand-quilted. For knotted comforters, using two "down-ups" with the needle before knotting the ends results in a more secure knot. Finished items should be put back in the quilt room in the box labeled Child Dedication Items. Any questions can be directed to Sarah Basinger. Thank you in advance for any contributions!

First Mennonite Church is committed to supporting our young adults who commit to spend at least 10 months to a Voluntary Service assignment. Our financial support is available to those who choose an Anabaptist/Mennonite based organization. This year we have three and

potentially four Voluntary Service workers. Jackson Bush will serve with the Pittsburgh PULSE program, Jennifer Steinmetz- Mennonite Voluntary Service (Seattle), and David Hooley (MCC SALT program- Kenya). Lily Schumacher is still waiting to be confirmed with Mennonite Voluntary Service. Funds available in the MVS Fund are not sufficient to cover their costs of participation (\$1,500 each). Please consider whether you can contribute financially to this program. We have a wonderful problem with our youth showing interest in Voluntary Service. If you are able, make your check out to *First Mennonite Church* with *VS Fund* written on the memo line. Thank you for your support.

On behalf of the Christian Education Commission, thanks to the following members of the congregation who presented to the preschool and elementary children during Sunday school this summer: Mary Ina Hooley, India; Karen and Tig Intigliata, Bolivia; Elysia & Perry Bush, Karen McCullough and Steve Yoder, Poland; Tim & Jo Pannabecker, New Zealand; Nancy Frey Yoder, Burkina Faso; Mustaq Ahmed, Bangladesh; Heidrun Awad, Middle East; Chris & Carmen Ordonez Moser, El Salvador and Kevin & Alison King, Honduras; Steve & Monica Harnish, China; and Bob & Alice Ruth Ramseyer and Ken & Natalie Shenk, Japan. We appreciate your time and dedication in sharing your experiences around the world.

Copies of the June/July Central District Conference Focus are available on the bulletin table. Many of you have received this via e-mail. If you would like to be added to the church e-mail list, please contact the church office.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brazo en Brazo: Fiesta Familiar (Family Festival) is returning, slightly altered, on Sunday September 20. It will be from 4-7 p.m. at Lima Mennonite Church. Cornelio and Armando are willing to grill the meat. They have one grill and need another, a good/sized gas grill. If you have one that could be used, accompanied by its owner, that Sunday from 2-6 p.m. at the church, call Marti Meza at 419-296-9574. Also, it was nice to have a low 8' x 16' trailer for a stage at the last fiesta. If anyone has one available, please call Marti at the same number. ¡Muchas gracias! Mark your calendar, more details to follow.
-- *Paul and Ann Conrad*

The Swiss Community Historical Society is planning a celebration of the first church in the Swiss Community, 175 years ago. We are working with Ebenezer, St. John, and Grace Mennonite churches to plan a large meal and worship service under tents on the historic site. Each Mennonite church has been asked to provide eight volunteers and 20 pies for the event. We are also looking for items representative of First Mennonite's