

**Wintercount**  
**First Mennonite Church**  
**December 27, 2020**

Prelude Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

Welcome Walt Paquin

Call to Worship

*Adapted from Psalm 89:1-2, 26*

Leader: We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

**People: we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

Leader: We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

**People: your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

**All: You are our Father, our God, and the Rock of our salvation!**

Advent Candle Lighting

STS 10 *Come! Walk in the light*  
Harnish family Refrain/vs 3/Refrain

Conversation with Friends Anne Marie Spelman

**Confession and words of assurance**

*Adapted from Luke 1:26-38*

Leader: God, you come to us with the words "Do not be afraid."

**People: Yet we cower and live in anxiety and fear.**

Leader: We lack faith and trust in your ways.

**People: We want to respond like Mary, "I am your servant."**

**All: Give us humble, willing hearts to follow your call**

Community Prayer

Wanda Stopher

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Kathy Dickson

Luke 2:22-40

Darryl Nester

Wintercount

- o Introduction: Gary Wetherill
- o Personal perspective: Phyllis Bixler
- o Congregational perspective: Gerald Mast
- o Community perspective: Elizabeth Kelly

STS 28 *Holy Child within the manger, vv 1 & 3*

Dedication Prayer

Offertory Jackie Wyse-Rhodes

HWB 638 *God is working his purpose out*

Benediction

Postlude

*HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book; STJ – Sing the Journey;*

*STS – Sing the Story; VT -- Voices Together*

*Parts of our service were pre-recorded. Participants are following safe-distancing practices.*

*In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.*

**First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson St., Bluffton, Ohio 45817  
419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F**

**Church Staff**

- **Pastor Wanda Stopher** – WFH Monday-Thursday, off Friday; 419-551-1079; [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org)
- **Pastor Jeff Boehr** – WFH Tuesday & Friday; 419-236-9150; [jeff@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:jeff@fmcbluffton.org)
- **Children and Youth Ministry Director** – Carrie Mast, Zooming M-F, 419-230-1568, [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)
- **Director of Music** – Mark Suderman, WFH 419-230-5368; [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)
- **Administrative Asst.** – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, WFH M-F, 9-4, [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)

**Video editor:** Ray Raeburn

**Sound:** Chris Moser

**Camera:** Glen Buller

**Chancel:** Carrie Phillips

**Our stewardship**

Total spending plan giving December 2020 to date      \$50,222

Avg monthly offering needed to meet 2020 spending plan      \$37,136

*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.*

