

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 3-14-2021

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

419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | Office closed due to Covid; staff working from home

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, off Friday, 419-551-1079, wanda@fmcbluffton.org
- Pastor Jeff Boehr – T, F; 419-236-9150, jeff@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, March 14, 2021

Children's Zoom, 9 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/93359681335>

Sojourners, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>

Faithful Living, Zoom, 9:30 a.m., <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85741872049?pwd=NG1UcWlyOVJ6RUg4TUdHTE5Wa0lKZz09>

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

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

SHY, SHY room, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Mark Suderman preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Virtual fellowship hall conversation, Zoom, 11:30-12:15,

<https://zoom.us/j/93482279238>

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>

March 15-20

Tuesday, March 16 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, March 17 JHY, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 18 Deadline to submit items for the weekly announcements, 9 a.m.

Sunday, March 21, 2021

Children's Zoom, 9 a.m.; Sojourners 9:15 a.m.; Faithful Living, 9:30 a.m.; Race and Ethnicity, 9:15 a.m.; SHY, 9:30 a.m.; Taste and See, 9:15 a.m.

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

Virtual FH conversation, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

This year our Easter service will be live streamed by Zoom on Easter Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. Connect to the service at <https://zoom.us/j/94268295805> or +1 646 558 8656.

Happy Birthday!

March 14 – Jonathan Andreas

Louise Matthews

March 19 – Xavier Diller

Elizabeth Kelly

Mitch Kingsley

We welcome Dr. Mark Suderman as our preacher today. Mark has lived in Bluffton since 2000. He taught choral music at Bluffton University for 17 years (taught music education for a total of 35 years) before working at the Lima Area Habitat for Humanity for three years. He is now semi-retired, but still greatly enjoys his other two jobs as Director of Music at First Mennonite Church and as Lima Symphony Chorus Director. Mark is married to Elaine Suderman. They have two sons, Ryan and Matthew. Ryan is married to Erin (Diller) Suderman and they live in Pittsburgh, PA with their children, Luke (6) and Mara (3). Matthew lives in Winston-Salem, NC.

Plan to attend and participate in our Maundy Thursday service on April 1 at 6:30 p.m. This service will be held by Zoom and will include faith statements by youths who are participating in catechism and anticipating baptism. In keeping with our theme for Lent, *Deep Calls to Deep*, all are invited to reflect on their personal journey of faith and to share a brief statement of faith with the gathered congregation on Maundy Thursday. A link will be provided soon. See Pastor Wanda if you have questions.

We welcome Natilee Grover, a Bluffton University intern at FMC through the end of April. She will be commissioned during the March 21 worship service. As a senior Bible and Theology major with psychology and education studies minors, this practicum will provide a context in which Natilee will integrate and apply what she's been learning at Bluffton University. Natilee will focus on worship leading and vocational discernment with site supervision being provided by Pastor Wanda.

The community Good Friday cross walk will take place outdoors and in socially distanced fashion. To participate, gather at St. John's United Church of Christ on Friday, April 2, at 11:30 a.m. There will be no indoor service to follow the cross walk, due to COVID. The cross walk is an ecumenical service of prayer and worship led by Bluffton Area Ministerial Association.

Reminders

Especially for kids: Each week's Conversation with Friends can be viewed on a private YouTube channel especially for FMC kids. Check them out here:

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

Corrinne Boehr has moved to Betty House, Willow Ridge, and is turning 90 on March 23! Her family would love to have anyone who can, send her a card, greeting, note, well-wishes to shower her with love for this transition. Send to: Corrinne Boehr, Betty House, 101 Willow Ridge Dr., Bluffton, Oh 45817.

We are very happy to welcome Carmen Ordonez Moser as she joins the church staff as Bookkeeper this month, and Don Hooley as he begins volunteering to assist in preparing the monthly financial reports and other analysis of our church finances. They join the treasurer team comprised of Rita Dietrich, Carrie Mast, and Lowell Hostetler in tending to the financial matters of the church. This new collaborative approach to the treasurer work is moving us toward sustainable governing structures in our church life.

All are invited to attend the Central District Conference Board of Directors' next mid-year gathering via Zoom Saturday, March 27, from 9:30-11:45 a.m. ET. Register [here for the meeting](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Our connections

The 2021 Climate Ride, an initiative of the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, will pass through Bluffton on July 17 and has expressed an interest in connecting with First Mennonite. The Climate Ride is part of the CSCS' effort to engage Anabaptist congregations in conversations about climate change. Additionally, they are looking for accommodations while in Bluffton. The group will travel with camping and cooking gear. **If anyone in the congregation is interested in connecting with the group and helping to arrange a local overnight stay, please contact Joanna Friesen at joanna.friesen@emu.edu.** For more information about the CSCS and the Climate Ride, go to <https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/>.

Those who shop at Kroger can now support Crime Victim Services through the Kroger Plus Card Community Rewards program. Your support helps Crime Victim Services lead the way in education, advocacy, and outreach, helping victims prevail over the trauma of a victimization through safety, healing, justice and restitution. To sign up, go online to www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com or sign into your Kroger app. Select Crime Victim Services as the charity you'd like Kroger to donate to. ~ Elysia Bush, Crime Victim Services