

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 5-9-2021

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org | 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, May 9, 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>
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, livestream via Zoom, 10:30 a.m.
Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>

May 10-15

Tuesday, May 11 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,
<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>
Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, May 12 JHY, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 13, Trustees, 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 15 SHY, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Children's Zoom, 9 a.m.; Sojourners 9:15 a.m.; Faithful Living, 9:30 a.m.; Taste and See, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, livestream via Zoom, 10:30 a.m.
Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

We will continue to livestream our worship service by Zoom. Please join us at <https://zoom.us/j/94268295805> or by calling: +1 646 558 8656. Although we will not yet gather in person as a congregation, this move positions us to add the congregation in person as soon as possible. As in the past, a video recording of each service will be posted on the website.

Happy Birthday!

May 9 – Simon Phillips

May 11 – Stan Clemens

Ruth Early

Mary Ann Suter

May 13 – Judy Steiner

May 15 – Evan Blount

Lori Nester

May 16 – Ellie Hartzler

Thank you to Carter Dyar who served as part-time custodian at FMC for nearly a year. His attention to details has been greatly appreciated.

Church Custodian wanted: First Mennonite Church is in search of a church custodian. Duties include: routine cleaning of the building, light maintenance, set-up for events, outside lawn mowing and snow removal, other duties as agreed upon. Hourly wage, up to twenty hours per week. Contact FMC at fmc@fmcbluffton.org. Please provide your name and best contact information. An application and job description will be sent to you.

Instrumentalists and singers, musicians of all ages and types: there are opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer (and throughout the year.)

Opportunities include:

- Play an instrument for the prelude, postlude, offertory, or as an obligato instrument with hymns or ensembles
- Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

During this time of COVID-19, whether we are gathered in person or recording a service, we will take safety precautions for your music presentation. Special thought to placement in the sanctuary, especially for wind instruments and singing, will be implemented.

If you are willing to offer your musical gifts or have any questions, please contact our Director of Music, Mark Suderman, at 419.358.5368 or sudermanme@bluffton.edu. If you have some specific dates when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know.

Graduates: Our apologies to any high school or college graduates who were not included in the May Menno-Life. As schools no longer send us lists, we rely on your notification. If you or one of your children is graduating this spring, please let the church office at fmc@fmcbluffton.org. Please also include an email address so that we may request information and a photo.

The Central District Conference annual meeting will be held via Zoom on June 26, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET. Participants may also join Mennonite Women at 4:45 p.m. to hear Melissa Florer-Bixler speak about her new book, *Have an Enemy: Righteous anger & the work of peace*. Click [here](#) for registration and information about worship, seminars, and delegate sessions.

Reminders

You're invited to send messages of welcome to a new incoming church, Grand Rapids (MI) Mennonite Fellowship. Each of us is encouraged to write a message of welcome -- a poem, a prayer, a work of visual art or a sentence of good wishes. Welcome messages may be placed in Pastor Jeff's mailbox or contact him to pick it up by May 26. Thank you for being a part of this broader act of hospitality! Anabaptist World recently published an article about Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship. [Read it here](#). **Note:** *Two members of the new Grand Rapids Fellowship regularly watch our Sunday worship services and have communicated their appreciation to the First Mennonite congregation.*

Racial Justice Ministry update: The Jubilee Fund committee approved a \$1,000 Jubilee Fund contribution to the Ann Arbor (MI) Shalom Community Church Reparative Act, which is designed to make a grant to a group led by longtime leader within the Mennonite Church, John Powell, to use as it sees fit. The fund was intentionally designed to allow African-Americans to determine the use of the funds rather than having a primarily white group of donors specify uses of the money. Anyone who wishes to add to FMC's gift may make a contribution through the church fund, labeled "Reparative Act." Gifts should be made by May 15. **Additionally**, the RJM will hold a meeting on May 17 at 7 p.m., when Gary Wetherill will talk about what is known about the native peoples who lived in or close to Bluffton prior to white settlements in the region, and will talk about the small remnants of tribes in Ohio who were not forced to move west in what is often called "the second trail of tears." Join the meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>.

Youth Sunday is slated for May 23, Pentecost. Join the SHY and the Spirit as music, scriptures, and stories are shared, and seniors are honored. May we welcome the gifts of the youth as the fire and breath of the Spirit inspire their worship leading.

SHY attending youth convention of Menno-Con in Cincinnati July 6-10 include Theo Andreas, Kendra Gott, Ben Hartzler, Ellie Nickel, Ethan Nickel, and John-Paul Yoder. Their sponsors are Chris Gott and Carrie Mast.

The Reopening Task Force continues to work on protocols for returning to worship based on our Reopening Guidelines. In the meantime, because COVID vaccines are safe and effective and will help us more quickly to return to in-person worship, the RTF is encouraging all ages 16 and older to get the vaccine. Allen County vaccine providers are listed on the Allen County Public Health website. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Wanda or Rita Dietrich, RTF chair.

Our Connections

To donors to the International Student Aid Fund: Thank you for your support for Bluffton's international students. In response to the CARES ACT 2 from the US Federal Government which provided stimulus monies for our domestic students, Bluffton alumni and friends...made monetary contributions to an emergency aid fund for all of Bluffton's international students enrolled this academic year. Due to your support, we were able to raise \$5,400 for our international students. This is truly incredible and I thank you for your contributions! This week, each international student will receive \$257.14 in Bluffton Stimulus Aid for International Students as a credit on their University account. I also wanted to share the following response from one of the students who received aid thanks to your support: *"Thank you and everyone who donated for your support! It means a lot to us."* (Sarah Rivera Rios) Bluffton alumni and friends are generous and care deeply about student success. Thank you for all your support and prayers. ~ Jessi Samuels, annual fund manager

Mennonite Mission Network exists to equip and empower the church while partnering in God's mission around the globe. Thank you, First Mennonite, for your gift of \$18,900 in 2020! Your prayers, participation, and generous financial support empower us to bring inspiration and innovation to the church and our partners across the street and around the world, so that people may be transformed by Jesus Christ. ~Mike Sherrill