

**First Mennonite Church
The Gospel According to Trees
August 22, 2021**

Welcome and announcements Victoria Woods-Yee

Prelude Laura Hartzler

Invocation

*Opening Hymn HWB 509 The tree of life

Tree Reflection Monica Harnish

*Responsive Reading selected verses from Psalm 104

One: May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—

**Many: who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.**

One: The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

**Many: In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees.**

**All: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

Conversation with Friends

Carrie Mast

Special Music

The Ash Grove
Wendy Chappell-Dick

Community Prayer

Gloria Hernandez Bucher

Scripture Genesis 1:1, 2:9, 16-17; Psalm 1; Revelation 22:1-7
Mary Ina Hooley

Message

Tree Love Song
Wanda Stopher

*Hymn of Response

VT 514 I Saw a Tree by the Riverside

Dedication Prayer

Offertory

Laura Hartzler

*Hymn of Sending

VT 847 You Shall Go Out with Joy

*Benediction

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

HWB - Hymnal: A Worship Book

STJ - Sing the Journey

STS - Sing the Story

VT - Voices Together

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**

Church Staff

- **Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, off Friday;
419-551-1079; wanda@fmcbluffton.org**
- **Pastor Jeff Boehr – Tuesday & Friday; 419-236-9150;
jeff@fmcbluffton.org**
- **Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568,
mastc@bluffton.edu**
- **Director of Music – Mark Suderman, WFH 419-230-5368;
sudermanme@bluffton.edu**
- **Administrative Asst. – Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766;
fmc@fmcbluffton.org**

Streaming editor: Ray Raeburn

Camera: Glen Buller

Sound: Melissa Friesen

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.

