

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 1-10-2021**

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

419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Staff working from home

- **Pastor Wanda Stopher** – Monday-Thursday, off Friday, 419-551-1079, [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org)
- **Pastor Jeff Boehr** – T, F; 419-236-9150, [jeff@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:jeff@fmcbluffton.org)
- **Children and Youth Ministry Director** – Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568, [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)
- **Director of Music** – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell), [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)
- **Administrative Assistant** – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, 419-358-5766, [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)

**Sunday, Jan. 10, 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>

Race and Ethnicity, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/92632252996>

SHY, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, David Boshart preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Virtual fellowship hall conversation, Zoom, 11:30-12:15,  
<https://zoom.us/j/93482279238>

Congregational meeting, Zoom, 1 p.m.

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

**Jan. 11-16**

Monday, Jan. 11 Racial Justice Ministry, open conversation, Zoom,  
7 p.m. (see details, p. 2)

Tuesday, Jan. 12 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,  
<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Zoom

**Sunday, Jan. 17, 2020**

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.

Worship, preaching, 10:30 a.m.

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

**A brief congregational meeting** will be held via Zoom on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 1 p.m. to approve the following motion to amend the constitution: *Amend Bylaw IA1 to allow Associate Members to serve in Leadership Circle and as delegates to conference and denominational meetings as follows. In Bylaw I, section A, number 2, strike the following clause from the second sentence: "except they may not become members of Leadership Circle nor represent the church as delegates to Central District Conference or Mennonite Church USA."* Join at <https://zoom.us/j/96805375586> or by phone at +1 646 558 8656.

**Happy Birthday!**

Jan. 10 – Milena King

Jan. 11 – Kan Chan

Jan. 12 – Theo Andreas

Allison Diller

Janet Yoder

Jan. 14 – Mary Amstutz

Don Hostetler

Jan. 15 – Miev Chan

Ron Headings

**Today's sermon** by AMBS President David Boshart is from worship resources available to MC USA congregations. The sermon is based on the encounter of Jesus with temple leaders at age 12 and speaks to the essential work of every congregation to create spaces where faith formation and vocational call of young and old alike are explored. We give thanks for this resource. Boshart brings a variety of administrative and leadership experiences to his role as AMBS's fourth president, which he began in January 2020. He was executive conference minister for Central Plains Mennonite Conference of Mennonite Church USA from 2010–19 and he pastored for more than 25 years in Iowa and Virginia. He has taught at Andrews University School of Education, AMBS and EMU, and has served on the Mennonite Church USA Executive Board and AMBS Board.

### **More new news**

**A Voices Together hymnal launch** will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, at 2 p.m. via Zoom. It will include worship with new songs and resources and explore various components of the collection. This free virtual event is part of the Music & Worship Leaders Retreat at Laurelville Retreat Center, Mt Pleasant, PA. **The event is free but registration is required at this link to receive the Zoom link: [Register here](#).**

**The events of the week** in the U.S. call each of us to recommit to our primary identity found in Jesus Christ and his leadership in our lives. It calls us to remember and recommit to our Vision: Healing and Hope. "God calls us to be followers of Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit" to grow as communities of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to the world." See MC USA executive director, Glen Guyton's *Response to Attack on U.S. Capitol*: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/glens-blog/attack-on-capitol/>

**Our 2021 Bible Scribe project** of handwriting the texts for our upcoming Lent worship and the Gospel of John has begun! The purpose is to join people in a project that encourages us to experience the healing, comforting power of God's word. The invitation is to all -- not only for artists and those with perfect penmanship. The handwritten texts may also be illuminated: embellished, illustrated, or decorated. You choose the passage and decide whether it is a solo project, family project, a couple of friends, or some other arrangement. Everyone, join together with your faith family, in this project. Let us know what you choose to scribe! This [link](#) is one way to sign up on a Google doc. You also may up on a bulletin board in the fellowship hall or by contacting Carrie Mast at 419.230.1568 or [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu) to report your choice of scripture. Place completed work in Pastor Wanda's mailbox. If you have questions, please contact Carrie Mast, Carolyn Rich, Anne Marie Spelman, or Pastor Wanda.

**Group subscription to Anabaptist World:** The First Mennonite group subscription for Anabaptist World will expire 4-16-21. New subscribers may join our group subscription at that time. The cost for 1 year will be \$39. If you wish to join FMC's group as a new subscriber, please notify Mary Pannabecker Steiner at [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org). **Note: If you are currently subscribing via our group, you should have received an email from the church office on Jan. 6.**

**All are invited to attend conversations** hosted by the Racial Justice Ministry. Each session will begin at 7 p.m., using the Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>. If you have questions, call George Lehman at 419-230-0952 or Jan Wiebe at 419-909-0826.

January 11: Hear about experiences Black university students have had in Bluffton. Tyson Goings, BU director of residence life, and Quincy Salcido, admissions counselor, will participate.

January 25: Learn about the injustices of the bail system, how it disproportionately punishes people of color, and statewide and local efforts to bring about reform.

February 8: Join a discussion on police reform. More details to come.

**Please join the family of Mary Amstutz** in a card shower celebration of Mary's 90th birthday on January 14! Send cards to 88 Riley Creek Ct., Bluffton, OH 45817.

**VBS is coming to town** on a train in July! St. Mary's Catholic Church will host Bluffton Community VBS from July 18-22. Using the *Rocky Railway* curriculum, plans are taking a hybrid shape with some in-person gatherings in small groups outdoors under tents in some combination with videos produced by the curriculum creators and viewed at home. You can **support VBS by saving your shoeboxes** and dropping them off in the fellowship hall at church. Children will be using shoeboxes decorated like train cars to gather supplies as they move from station to station.

### **Reminders**

***Race and Ethnicity in Ohio: a Brief History*** – Led by Perry Bush, this class will meet on Sunday from 9:15 -10:15 a.m. Perry will outline the history of African Americans and Latinos/Latinas in Ohio, with a focus on their arrival in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and then developments in these communities since then. He will share insights from his research and writing in these areas, including the African American history of Lima and the development of the Latino farmworker struggle in rural northwest Ohio. The subject matter should serve as grist for theological and spiritual discussion by class members, which is the central goal of the class. The first class met 01-03-21, but if you were unable to attend you are welcome to join in subsequent weeks. Join at <https://zoom.us/j/92632252996> or call +1 646 558 8656. To receive a link to a recording of this first session, please contact Pastor Wanda at [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org).