

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 1-17-2021

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, Jan. 17, 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=NG1UcWlyOVJ6RUg4TUdHTe5Wa0kZz09>

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

SHY, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Rich Bucher 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>

Jan. 18-23

Monday, Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day, office closed

Tuesday, Jan. 19 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,
<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Zoom

Wednesday, Jan. 20 JHY, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 24, 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, BAMA pulpit exchange, 10:30 a.m.

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Bulletins and announcements for those unable to access the electronic versions: You'll find copies of the weekly bulletin and announcements in the cabinet in the fellowship hall next to the parlor. Copies of the previous three weeks' bulletins and announcements are available there, as well. If you are unable to pick up bulletins, contact Jeff Boehr (jeff@fmcbluffton.org or 419-236-9150) to arrange delivery.

Happy Birthday!

Jan. 18 – Sabrina Longworth
Darryl Nester

Jan. 19 – Don Hooley
Mary Ann Moser

Jan. 21 – Ryan Blount
Kevin King
Todd Rainey

Jan. 22 – Karen Klassen Harder
Amber Shelly

Jan. 23 – John Mackey

Jan. 24 – Ezekiel Coffmann
Jean Novak

As we witness the realities of brokenness around, among, and within us, we recognize the need to find ways to pray and to seek refuge and peace. One way of carving out this time is something we're calling *Meditations* which will be available, one each week until Lent, a total of five weeks. The pre-recorded *Meditations* will include music, a few words, and silence. You'll find the videos on the left side of the home page on our website at <http://fmcbluffton.org/> and at <https://vimeo.com/500299114>. You might return to the weekly *Meditation* at the same time each day or several times a day. *Meditations* are being provided by LuAnn Stuckey and Pastor Wanda. Let us pray together!

Prayer concerns

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of Jo Croft, Bill and their family. Jo died January 13, surrounded by Bill and family. Please continue to remember this family as they grieve their loss and celebrate Jo's life.

Ernie Porzelius was transported to Blanchard Valley Regional Health Center in Findlay. He is being assessed to determine his specific health needs. Your prayers for Ernie are welcomed.

We want to thank everyone for their kindness following Bruce's accident on December 10. Bruce's healing is progressing well and we hope to see you all soon. We're grateful to be part of this loving community.

~ Bruce and Amy Steingass

New news

Sunday's Conversation with Friends mentions the work of Carolyn Olson, an artist from Duluth, MN, who created a series of unique pastel paintings that feature essential workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic. You can see her paintings at: <http://carolynolson.net/current-work-2020-2024/essential-workers-covid-19-virus/>.

Have you wondered how the Bible was translated into English? See a reenactment of Bible scribes at work amid the darkness of international politics, subversion, lust, and bloodshed on a DVD titled *Fires of Faith: The Coming Forth of the King James Bible*. The DVD is on the desk in the church library. If it is not available, please sign your name so when it is, you can be contacted. (*This is being made available in conjunction with our Bible Scribe project.*)

Reminders

Group subscription to Anabaptist World: The First Mennonite group subscription for Anabaptist World will expire in April. New subscribers may join our group subscription at that time. The cost for one year is \$39. If you wish to join FMC's group as a new subscriber, please notify Mary Pannabecker Steiner at fmc@fmcbluffton.org.

Race and Ethnicity in Ohio: a Brief History – Led by Perry Bush, this class meets Sundays 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. Join at <https://zoom.us/j/92632252996> or call +1 646 558 8656. Contact Pastor Wanda at wanda@fmcbluffton.org to request access to recordings of the sessions.

Our 2021 Bible Scribe project of handwriting the texts for our upcoming Lent worship and the Gospel of John is underway. The purpose is to join in a project that encourages us to experience the healing, comforting power of God's word. Handwritten texts may also be illuminated: embellished, illustrated, or decorated. Let us know what you choose to scribe. Sign up at this [link](#) or on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or by contacting Carrie Mast at 419.230.1568 or mastc@bluffton.edu. Place completed work in Pastor Wanda's mailbox. If you have questions, contact Carrie Mast, Carolyn Rich, Anne Marie Spelman, or Pastor Wanda.

Join the Racial Justice Ministry Monday, Jan. 25, at 7 p.m. to learn about the injustices of the bail system, how it disproportionately punishes people of color, and statewide and local efforts to bring about reform. The Zoom link is: <https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>.

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

Our connections

Bluffton Ten Thousand Villages needs your support, especially now with the pandemic. Store manager Marcie Allen has announced special options for fair trade coffee, tea, and chocolate. Customers should complete the form attached to this email and drop it at the store by Saturday, Feb. 6 with payment. Store hours are: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon-Fri, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday. We will also have a few hard copies of the form available in the fellowship hall.