**Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020**SS with Dr. Jack Sullivan, 9:15 a.m., Zoom,   
 <https://zoom.us/j/95823789085>, by phone at   
 1-312-626-6799 and ID: 958 2378 908  
Taste and See, canceled to attend Jack Sullivan’s class  
Sojourners, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,   
 <https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>

Faithful Living, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

For login, contact Greg Ring, 419-379-5310 or

[gring@marathonpetroleum.com](mailto:gring@marathonpetroleum.com)

SHY, SS classroom, 9:30 a.m. (wear masks)

Worship, Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,   
 <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>,   
 contact church office for password

**Oct. 12-17**  
**Monday (Oct. 12)** Racial Justice discussion, Zoom, 6:30 p.m. **Tuesday (Oct. 13)** Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,   
 <https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020**   
Sojourners & Taste and See, 9:15 a.m.; Faithful Living, 9:30 a.m. SHY, classroom, 9:30 a.m.  
Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

**Virtual mem**

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH  
Weekly Announcements 10-11-2020  
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**](mailto: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, sudermanme@bluffton.edu**
* **Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, 419-358-5766,** [**fmc@fmcbluffton.org**](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)

**Happy Birthday!!**  
Oct. 11 Laura Strahan  
Oct. 14 Beth Raeburn  
 Mary Ann Ring  
Oct. 16 Judy Buller  
 Sunita Hooley  
 Claire Phillips

**Mah**

**We welcome Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.,** as our guest preacher today. He is an ordained minister in the Protestant Christian denomination known as the Christian Church ([Disciples of Christ](https://disciples.org/)) US and Canada. He serves as executive director of the Columbus-based [Ohio Council of Churches](https://www.ohcouncilchs.org/staff/rev-dr-jack-sullivan-jr/).  
A native of Cleveland, Dr. Sullivan is an internationally-renowned preacher and speaker, justice advocate, ecumenist, journalist, and death penalty abolitionist. In recognition of his work to stop executions, Dr. Sullivan was given the [2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for Social Justice](https://das.ohio.gov/Divisions/Equal-Opportunity/Martin-Luther-King-Jr-Holiday-Commission/mlk-annual-awards) by the State of Ohio’s Dr. MLK, Jr. Holiday Commission.  
Dr. Sullivan holds a bachelor’s degree from Ohio University; a master of divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary; a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary, Dayton; and an honorary doctorate from Bethany (WV) College.

**You’re invited to join a book study** of *Preparing Sunday Dinner: A Collaborative Approach to Worship and Preaching*. See the October Menno-Life to learn more about the book’s use of the metaphor of eating together as a way of exploring and understanding worship. Our study will be a time to think intentionally and deeply together about our worship. The meeting time will be determined by the group, but we’ll meet weekly. There will be lab opportunities for those interested in an experiential component. Looking forward to a bustling kitchen. To learn more contact me. ~ Pastor Wanda

**More new news**

**Sunday school with Jack Sullivan, Jr.:** Today (10-11-20) we observe Mission Sunday with Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., executive director of the Ohio Council of Churches, as our guest preacher. In addition, at 9:15 a.m. we will hold a Sunday school session with Dr. Sullivan, during which he will share the work of the Ohio Council of Churches. We also hope to discuss working to dismantle racism as well as to discuss the death penalty work which is important to Dr. Sullivan and to FMC members. Join this class via Zoom at 9:15 a.m. at <https://zoom.us/j/95823789085>  
or by phone at 1-312-626-6799 and give the meeting ID: 958 2378 9085.

**Pastor Wanda is on vacation** through Tuesday, Oct. 13. Pastor Jeff is available for pastoral care needs during this time.

**You are invited to help with sewing** new comforter tops for a later knotting function. Fabrics are laid out on tables in the fellowship hall, along with a few kits in progress. You may do one or all of the jobs – assembling fabric kits, cutting, laying out, or sewing. Please return your work to the proper category on the tables. Donations of yardage are also welcome, as the backings bin is depleted. Thank you for your contributions.

**Mary Amstutz had successful** knee replacement surgery on October 1. Mary is doing well and recovering at home. Your prayers have been and are appreciated.

**Congratulations to Jean and Wendell Miller** on the birth of their grandson, Luka Robert Miller, born to Nathan and Janelle Miller on Sept. 18.

**A 7-week grief recovery group** led by Rev. Chris Schilling, is forming and will begin meeting at FMC on Monday from 7-8 p.m. beginning October 26. See the flyer attached to the email with the Oct. 11 announcements for more information.

**Reminders**  
**All are invited to attend an information meeting** today (10-11) at 2 p.m. to learn about a proposed resolution to be brought to the MCUSA convention 2021 that would rescind the membership guidelines related to same-sex marriage. The resolution would also adopt new policies to repair the harm caused by these guidelines. During the information meeting, we will discuss two actions taken recently by church council related to this resolution: 1) joining the Supportive Communities Network; and 2) adding our name to the list of congregations supporting the resolution to rescind the guidelines. We will also invite individuals to add their names to the list of supporters. Read the resolution at: <https://inclusivepastors.wordpress.com/resolution/>. The information meeting will be held by Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/91478303460> or at 646-558-8656.

**The Racial Justice Ministry** invites you to participate in a self-paced, online anti-racism training provided by MCUSA in partnership with Widerstand Consulting, and purchased using Jubilee Funds. The training consists of approx. 10 hours of training on dismantling racism in congregations. A description can be found at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/anti-racism-training-accessible/>. Contact Jan Wiebe at 419-236-6327 or [wiebe.jan@gmail.com](mailto:wiebe.jan@gmail.com)  with questions and to request access to the training.

**On October 12 and 19**, the Racial Justice Ministry will host Zoom meetings to work through and discuss some of the anti-racism material together, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. RSVP to Jan Wiebe to get access to the training. Even if you can’t find time to do all the modules, these sessions will help give you an overview of the material. The Zoom link for the meetings is: <https://zoom.us/j/2192328377>.  
 ~ Racial Justice Co-chairs: Anita and George Lehman, Theo Andreas, Jan Wiebe

**FMC Membership Class:** Are you new to First Mennonite Church? Do you want to know more about the church? Are you interested in exploring or refreshing your memory regarding what it means to be a member of this congregation? You’re invited to attend a membership class this fall. Like everything these days, the format may need to be adapted; attendees will determine this. We’ll plan to gather in one way or another on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. Proposed dates are October 25, November 1, 8 and 15. Please contact Pastor Wanda if you have questions or to express interest.

**Tuesday Morning Prayers** attendees are practicing Dwelling in the Word, an adaptation of the ancient prayer practice of Lectio Divina, Tuesday from 7-7:30 a.m. at <https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>.

**A Bible study** led by Ray Person continues on the first and third Mondays at 8 p.m. with a focus of interpreting the Bible from a postcolonial perspective. This class will be by Zoom from 8-9 p.m. at: <https://zoom.us/j/92088366545> (+1-646- 558-8656.) See the FMC Bluffton, Ohio Facebook page for a full description or pick up a copy from the literature rack in the fellowship hall. If you have questions, contact Ray at [r-person@onu.edu](mailto:r-person@onu.edu).

**Watch Conversations with Friends** videos dating back to March at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8GP3BoW44SIRl_VMRsBOh8_szrfmDska>.

**Our Connections**

**The Bluffton University Nutrition Association** will host its annual Harvest Dinner in a drive-thru format from 4-6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6. It will benefit the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation and the Churches United Pantry in Lima, Tickets must be purchased in advance at [www.bluffton.edu/harvestdinner](http://www.bluffton.edu/harvestdinner) via PayPal or credit card. The meal, which will cost $50 and be packaged to serve a family of four, will feature a farm-to-table concept with much of the produce coming from a garden maintained by dietetics faculty and students. The menu includes beef pot roast, homemade gravy, mashed potatoes, roasted winter vegetables, Suters' corn, homemade rolls, and caramel and pecan cake. The meal will be made from scratch by Bluffton nutrition and dietetics majors. Meals will be ready for drive-thru pickup on Rosenberger Drive by Founders Hall. Vehicles should enter campus from the Elm Street entrance. For more information, visit [www.bluffton.edu/harvestdinner](http://www.bluffton.edu/harvestdinner). Direct questions to Haley Gill at [gilhsa@bluffton.edu](mailto:gilhsa@bluffton.edu).

**Mennonite Central Committee** invites all to join a livestreamed celebration of its 100 years of ministry on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 6:50 p.m. EDT (this is the correct time.) Participants may join the celebration at [mcc.org/celebration-2020](https://mcc.org/get-involved/events/celebration-2020-mcc-100). Video recordings of the event will be posted at the same link after the event.