

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 10-18-2020

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
- 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, Oct. 18, 2020

Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/342273765>

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

SHY, SHY room, 9:30 a.m., WEAR MASKS

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>

Oct. 19-24

Monday (Oct. 19) Racial Justice Ministry session on anti-racism training, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Bible study, Zoom, 8-9 p.m.

Tuesday (Oct. 20) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday (Oct. 21) JHY, JHY room, 7-8:30 p.m.,
WEAR MASKS

Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020

Sojourners & Taste and See, 9:15 a.m.; Faithful Living,

9:30 a.m. SHY, classroom, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Gerald Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

All Saints Day is one of the oldest feast days of the Christian Church Year. This festival day reminds us, not only of the “cloud of witnesses” named in Hebrews 11, but also of all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the body of Christ. This year we will observe All Saints Day in the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 1. The service offers a time of recognizing and remembering both those connected to our faith community who died in the year since the last All Saints service and those who have experienced personal loss of loved ones during the past year. So, the service is an opportunity to be present to the loss we have experienced individually and collectively in moving toward healing.

Because we continue to worship virtually, this offers some unique challenges and opportunities. Those lighting candles and remembering people will gather at two different times. Those who are remembering loved ones connected to First Mennonite Church will gather and record from 6:30-6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28 in the sanctuary. Then, from 6:45-7:15 the same evening, any persons who have experienced personal loss are invited to gather, name their loved one and their relationship, light a candle and give thanks.

We want to do this in a way that is as safe as possible. We ask that everyone participating wear masks during the service. There is hand sanitizer at each building entrance and at the entrances to the sanctuary. Please use it when entering and exiting. Please sit around the sanctuary at least six feet from others. Please contact Pastor Jeff or Pastor Wanda for details.

Happy Birthday!!

Oct. 21 Joyce Hostetler
Alison King

Oct. 23 Ethan Nickel

Oct. 24 Rodney Dyck
Mark Suderman

Oct. 25 Ariana Goings
Mary Ramsey

Pastoral concerns

Marilyn Schroeder, mother of Bill Schroeder, died October 12 at St. Rita's Medical Center. Private family services were held Oct. 16 at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, Columbus Grove. Bill and Janet and their family greatly appreciate your prayers.

From the FMC office

Weekly announcements: Items for the weekly announcements must be submitted to the church office by 9 a.m. Thursday, unless otherwise noted.

Directory: The (password protected) church directory may be accessed on our website. Request the password from the church office. We will share it with you verbally or by text. Send any updates for the directory to fmc@fmcbluffton.org.

Reminders

You're invited to help sew 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.

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.

Consider joining 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. The weekly study will be a time to think intentionally and deeply together about our worship. To learn more, contact Pastor Wanda.

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. 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 with questions and to request access to the training. **The Racial Justice Ministry will host Zoom meetings** to work through and discuss some of the anti-racism material Oct. 19 and 26, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Even if you have not completed all the modules, this provides 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

Are you new to First Mennonite Church or interested in exploring or refreshing your memory of what it means to be a member of this congregation? You're invited to join a membership class this fall. We'll decide together how to gather on Sundays from 9-10 a.m. Proposed dates are October 25, November 1, 8 and 15. Contact Pastor Wanda if you have questions or to express interest.

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 meets from 8-9 p.m. at <https://zoom.us/j/92088366545> (+1-646-558-8656.) If you have questions, contact Ray at r-person@onu.edu.

Our Connections

The Swiss Speak meeting will be held at St. John's Mennonite Church on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 3 p.m. Come and enjoy speaking and listening to the Swiss language. Masks are mandatory!

From Camp Friedenswald: Your recent gift was received with gratitude and as an encouragement in these days! Thank you for giving generously and sharing with us the funds set aside for helping campers from the congregation attend camp. Your support means so much and is truly sustaining! Hope to see some more of you in the months ahead in the peaceful woods.
~ Jenna Liechty Martin

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 Churches United Pantry in

Lima, Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.bluffton.edu/harvestdinner. The meal costs \$50 and serves four. The menu includes beef pot roast, homemade gravy, mashed potatoes, roasted winter vegetables, Suters' corn, homemade rolls, and caramel and pecan cake. For more, see www.bluffton.edu/harvestdinner.

Bluffton University's fall instrumental concert featuring concert band ensembles will be streamed for viewing at www.bluffton.edu/mus at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18. At 2 p.m., Dr. Roy Couch, conductor, will give a pre-concert talk with audience members via Zoom. Visit www.bluffton.edu/mus for more information and access to the Zoom meeting. The concert will feature folksong and sacred music arrangements as well as recent original pieces. A free-will offering for music scholarships will be taken at www.bluffton.edu/givetomusic