

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

### Weekly Announcements 10-25-2020

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, Oct. 25, 2020

Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., (new link below)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82762539465>

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

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

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

#### Oct. 25-Nov. 1

**Monday (Oct. 25)** Racial Justice Ministry session on anti-racism training, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday (Oct. 26)** Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

**Wednesday (Oct. 28)** Staff retreat, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, Nov 1, 2020

Sojourners & Taste and See, 9:15 a.m.; Faithful Living, 9:30 a.m.; SHY, classroom, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, All Saints Day, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

**Today we welcome Dr. Gerald Mast** as our guest preacher. He is Professor of Communication at Bluffton University and the congregational moderator of First Mennonite Church. He is married to Carrie Mast and is the father of Anna Biesecker-Mast, Jacob Biesecker-Mast, and Jorian Mast.

**All Saints Day** is one of the oldest feast days of the Christian Church Year. This festival day reminds us of the “cloud of witnesses” in Hebrews 11, and all people of God, living and dead, who together form the body of Christ. This year we will observe All Saints Day in worship Sunday, Nov. 1. The service allows us to remember 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. It is an opportunity to be present to the loss we have experienced individually and collectively in moving toward healing.

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, those 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 sanctuary entrances. Please use it when entering and exiting. Please sit around the sanctuary at least six feet from others. Contact Pastor Jeff or Pastor Wanda for details.

#### Happy Birthday!

Oct. 25 Ariana Goings

Mary Ramseyer

Oct. 26 Wendy Chappell-Dick

Oct. 27 Jacob Suter

Oct. 28 Mark Novak

Oct. 29 Lynda Nyce

Oct. 30 Kylie Longworth

**Our giving has remained incredibly stable** over the last seven months at just over \$25,000 per month, which is amazing during this pandemic. Thank you. The unfortunate truth is that we need closer to \$37,000 per month to meet our spending plan in 2020, so the gap is widening as we find ourselves in the last quarter. Our spending at the end of September exceeds our giving by more than \$43,000. We will need a strong finish in these next couple of months to meet our expenses. Thank you for your continued support of the life and ministries of our church.

~ Carrie Mast, Treasurer

**Do you miss those serendipitous conversations in the fellowship hall after church?** Are you ready to try about anything for a little informal, unstructured fun time together with others of our faith community? If so try this starting Sunday, Oct. 25. Join the FMC Virtual Fellowship Hall Zoom Room any time between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Sunday mornings at <https://zoom.us/j/95068494755>. You will need to update your Zoom account to 5.3.0 or later for the best results. To download and update follow this link: <https://zoom.us/download>. The only other thing you need is your flexibility and patience as we try this unique way of being church in coronavirus time! If you need help or have questions contact Pastor Wanda.

**Menno-Life update:** Prior to the March shutdown, we were publishing the Menno-Life on a bimonthly basis. However, with everyone spending significant periods of time at home, we tried to create more connections by producing the M-L on a monthly basis. We now return to the bimonthly schedule, with our next issue in December 2020. The deadline for that issue is Thursday, Nov. 19. We appreciate the many interesting contributions we've received for recent issues and look forward to furthering our connections and getting to know each other better.

~ Mary Pannabecker Steiner

### **Reminders**

**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](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org).

**You're invited to help sew** comforter tops for a future knotting event. Fabrics are set out on tables in the fellowship hall, along with a few kits in progress. You may do one or all of the jobs. Please return your work to the proper category on the tables. Donations of yardage for backings are also welcome!

**The Racial Justice Ministry** invites you to participate in a self-paced, online anti-racism training provided by MCUSA in partnership with Widerstand Consulting. Contact Jan Wiebe at [wiebe.jan@gmail.com](mailto:wiebe.jan@gmail.com) or 419-236-6327 with questions or to request access to the training. The RJM will host a Zoom meeting to work through some of the anti-racism material together, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26. Even if you are unable to do all the modules, these sessions will help give you an overview of the material. The link to the meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>.

### **Our Connections**

**Bluffton University theatre** will present five short plays virtually, collectively titled *Alone, Together*, Oct. 29-Nov. 1. The plays explore the challenges and surprises of social distancing during the pandemic, and include *Looking Back*, *All the Cranes in the World*, and *Neither Here Nor There* by Arlene Hutton; *Rosebud* by Dan Castellaneta and Deb Lacusta; and *Pandemic Therapy* by Jami Brandli. Performed and recorded by student actors in separate locations, these plays explore our current realities of feeling alone, together. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 29; 7:30 p.m. Oct. 30 and 2:30 p.m. Nov. 1. Ticket prices are \$5 plus streaming fees for general admission (single device); \$15 plus streaming fees for group viewing (single device); and free for Bluffton University students, faculty and staff. Tickets are available at [www.bluffton.edu/fallplay](http://www.bluffton.edu/fallplay).

**Bluffton University's** fall choral concert featuring Camerata Singers and University Chorale will be streamed for viewing at [www.bluffton.edu/mus](http://www.bluffton.edu/mus) at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25. At 2 p.m., Dr. Bo Young Kang, director of choral

activities, will hold a pre-concert talk via Zoom. Visit [www.bluffton.edu/mus](http://www.bluffton.edu/mus) for more information and access to the Zoom meeting. Offerings may be donated at [www.bluffton.edu/givetomusic](http://www.bluffton.edu/givetomusic).

**Volunteer cashiers needed** at Ten Thousand Villages M-S (store hours 11 to 5 M-F and 9-3 S) with flexible hours. Regular weekly commitment preferred but other schedules can be arranged. Call Suzann Bauman at 491.303.1375.