

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 12-27-2020

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, Dec. 27, 2020

Children's Zoom, 9 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/93359681335>

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., <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85741872049?pwd=NG1UcWlyOVJ6RUg4TUdHTE5Wa0lKZz09>

SHY, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Wintercount, 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>

Dec. 28-Jan. 2

Tuesday (Dec. 29) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Zoom

Wednesday (Dec. 30) **Deadline for bulletin/announcements**

Friday (Jan. 1) Happy 2021! Office closed

Sunday, Jan. 3, 2020

Children's Zoom, 9 a.m.; Sojourners & Taste and See, 9:15 a.m.;

Faithful Living, 9:30 a.m.; SHY, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 27 – Micah Hartzler

Linda Houshower

Dec. 28 – Hans Houshower

Madelyn King

Joe Werling

Dec. 29 – Barrett Benroth

Ann Shumaker

Jan. 1 – Cheryl Treece

Jim Weaver

Wintercount is a tool used by Native American communities to aid in remembering and recounting their complex histories. Each year a symbol was chosen to represent an important event or to represent the entire previous year. The symbol was recorded by painting it on a buffalo hide or on paper or cloth. The symbol added each year became part of the record and part of the people's story. Similarly, we have chosen the last Sunday of the year to reflect on our life together in the previous year. Gary Wetherill will provide some background and introduction to Wintercount. Phyllis Bixler will reflect from a personal perspective, Gerald Mast, as outgoing moderator from a congregational perspective, and Elizabeth Kelly from a broader community perspective. May the intentionality of our reflection enrich the story of our life together.

Bulletin cover: This is the view from the surface of the footbridge which crosses the Blanchard River in Gilboa. This Sunday's theme is rejoicing, which for many of us, has perhaps been a rare and elusive emotion during this strange year. For us, then, a bridge is the perfect symbol: it leads us more easily across a way which is otherwise difficult to pass, it protects us during that crossing, and it focuses our energy and motion forward toward safety on the other side. Some bridges are sleek and efficient at this task. Others are narrow and wobble or sway at the vibration of our steps. Some, like this one, have seen many a traveler and bear the marks of time's passing. Bridges help us get to a place of rejoicing, glad for the journey, and grateful for safe passage.

More new news

New Sunday school class at FMC: *Race and Ethnicity in Ohio: a Brief History* - Led by Perry Bush, this class will meet Sunday from 9:15 -10:15 a.m., beginning January 3, 2021 and will run at least five weeks. 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 to prod as grist for theological and spiritual discussion by class members, which is the central goal of the class. Join at <https://zoom.us/j/92632252996> or call +1 646 558 8656.

2021 contribution envelopes: Our contribution envelopes for 2021 are on order but may not arrive before Jan. 3. Until we receive the new envelopes, you may take a few from the box of envelopes located on the table in front of the Camp Friedenswald pillar in the fellowship hall. Dates and numbers have been blacked out on these envelopes. **Additional note:** The new envelopes for 2021 will differ from the past in that they are not dated, allowing us to order in bulk and to use for multiple years. Please contact the church office at fmc@fmcbluffton.org or 419.358.5766 and let us know how many envelopes you would like for the coming year.

If you subscribed to The Mennonite through the First Mennonite subscription, by now your subscription should have rolled over to the new Anabaptist World. Our subscription is not up for renewal until April so you need not do anything at this time. In early 2021, we will contact you about whether you wish to continue to subscribe to Anabaptist World through the church.

Reminders

Looking for contact information of someone listed in our directory? We regularly update the directory, which is accessible from the church website. It is password protected so if you don't have the password you may request it from the church office at fmc@fmcbluffton.org or 419.358.5766 (leave a message, please.) We can provide it verbally or by text to your phone. If you are unable to access the online directory, we can provide a print copy.

Our connections

Camp Friedenswald has announced new Winter Getaway dates. Camp will provide a cozy cabin, hiking trails, winter activities (tubing hill, cross country skiing), hot meals delivered to your door, and your own campfire. It's a great way to spend time with family or to simply retreat on your own. Learn more at <https://friedenswald.org/camp-getaways/> or (269) 476-9744.

