

**On the road to repentance**  
**Advent 2**  
**First Mennonite Church**  
**December 6, 2020**

Prelude *Savior of the Nations, Come* (Based on HBW 173)  
plainsong/arr. A.N. Vetter  
LuAnn Stuckey

Welcome Walt Paquin

Call to Worship  
(Adapted from Isaiah 40:3-5)

Leader: Listen! A voice cries out in the wilderness:

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Leader: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low.

**People: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Leader: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

**All: Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Advent Candle Lighting George and Anita Lehman

STS 10 *Come! Walk in the light*

Wendy Chappell-Dick: Refrain / Verse 2 / Refrain

Conversation with Friends Anne Marie Spelman

**Confession and words of assurance**

(Adapted from Psalm 85:8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a)

Leader: We hear John the Baptist's cry in the desert and are called to repentance.

**People: We will hear what God the Lord will say:**

Leader: The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, but is patient, not wanting anyone to perish.

**People: Revive us again, that we may rejoice in you. Show us your unfailing love, and grant us your salvation.**

Leader: Salvation is near to those who fear God.

**All: We receive this gift. Help us to walk in your way.**

Community Prayer Jeff Boehr

II Peter 3:8-15a Ana Neufeld Weaver

Mark 1:1-8 Patrick Estell

Message *Gift of repentance* Wanda Stopher

STS 8 *Wild and lone the prophet's voice*

Dedication Prayer

Offertory *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* (Based on HBW 176)  
L. Bourgeois/arr. K. T. Kosche

HWB 211 *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Benediction

Postlude *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*  
J Cruger/arr. K. T. Kosche

*HWB – Hymnal: A Worship Book; STJ – Sing the Journey;*

*STS – Sing the Story; VT -- Voices Together*

*Parts of our service were pre-recorded. Participants are following safe-distancing practices.*

*In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.*

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson St., Bluffton, Ohio 45817  
419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Office open 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F

#### Church Staff

- Pastor Wanda Stopher – WFH Monday-Thursday, off Friday; 419-551-1079; [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org)
- Pastor Jeff Boehr – WFH Tuesday & Friday; 419-236-9150; [jeff@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:jeff@fmcbluffton.org)
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, Zooming M-F, 419-230-1568, [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, WFH 419-230-5368; [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)
- Administrative Asst. – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, WFH M-F, 9-4, [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)

Video editor: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Kevin Cluts

Camera: Glen Buller

Chancel: Carrie Phillips

#### Our stewardship

Total spending plan giving November 2020 to date      \$26,427

Avg monthly offering needed to meet 2020 spending plan      \$37,136

*First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.*

