

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 11-1-2020

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

**It's fall back time! Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov, 1 in Ohio.
Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night before you fall asleep.**

All Saints Day, Sunday, Nov. 1, 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.

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

gring@marathonpetroleum.com

SHY, Mast's backyard, 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>

Nov. 2-7

Monday (Nov. 2) Racial Justice Ministry, virtual discussion of anti-racism training, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>

Tuesday (Nov. 3) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Zoom

Prayer open house, all day, sanctuary

Wednesday (Nov. 4) JHY, Zoom, 7-8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov 8, 2020

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

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.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy Birthday!

Nov. 5 Everett Collier

Nov. 8 Fran Core

John Paul Yoder

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 of all times and all places. Our observance of All Saints Day this year again includes remembrance of those connected to our faith community, our personal losses. This year our remembrance expands to remember the loss of so many who have died of the coronavirus. In this service we will be present to our loss and to one another in spirit as we move collectively toward healing.

FMC children are invited to their own Zoom on Sunday morning from 9-9:15 (ish) a.m. Listen to a Bible story, sing a song, and do what kids do! See you at <https://zoom.us/j/93359681335>.

More new news!

All are invited to an open house of prayer in the First Mennonite Church sanctuary on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Stop by the church to offer prayers for our families, churches, and community; prayers for our country and the world; prayers for all leaders and of course for the outcome of the election. It is an open house of prayer from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pastor Wanda will be available. Masks and hand sanitizer are available at the entrances.

SHY: Meet at the Masts, 177 W. Kibler St., for SS at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. Walk around to the backyard to gather at the fire pit or in the case of rain, to the screened-in porch. Bring *Trouble I've Seen*, wear masks, and dress warmly! Bibles will be provided. To join by Zoom, check your email for a link.

The Reopening Task Force has developed a set of guidelines for use of our church building and the activities that take place there during the coronavirus pandemic. These guidelines are available on the church website in a narrative description and in a brief outline reference form. Currently Allen County is in a state of red alert. Under this level our guidelines suggest that our building is closed to in-person gatherings. Worship is recorded with 10 or fewer persons in attendance and then made available by video. Meetings, ministry, and fellowship happen virtually or outside, distancing with caution. See Rita Dietrich for more information.

Gratitude

Celebrate with JP Schumacher! Her chemotherapy and radiation treatments are now complete. Surgery will take place in December. Please continue to remember JP and Tim in your prayers.

After not feeling well last weekend, Pastor Wanda was tested for COVID and has been hunkered down at home all week. On Thursday morning she received the good news that the test was negative. Please remember in your prayers, all those who are ill, and the additional stress illness carries at this time.

A great big thank you for all your get well cards and wishes, and for the week of provided lunches from church which were all yummy! My recovery is coming along as expected and hopefully I will be back and about soon.

~ Mary Amstutz

Reminders

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. Join the FMC Virtual Fellowship Hall Zoom Room any time between 11:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on Sunday mornings at this **(NEW)** address <https://zoom.us/j/93482279238>. **Please note, this is a new link!** Come and go as you wish. Bring your sense of adventure, your flexibility and patience as we try this additional way of being church in coronavirus time! If you need help or have questions contact Pastor Wanda.

You are invited to help sew comforter tops for a future knotting event. Fabrics are laid out on tables in 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.

The Racial Justice Ministry invites you to participate in an online anti-racism training provided by MCUSA in partnership with Widerstand Consulting, and purchased using Jubilee Funds. Please contact Jan Wiebe at wiebe.jan@gmail.com or 419-236-6327 with questions or to request access to the training. On Monday, Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, the RJM will hold Zoom meetings to discuss the anti-racism material together, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at <https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>.

Our Connections

From the Inclusive Mennonite Pastors: As you know, LGBTQIA persons continue to be considered second-class citizens in Mennonite Church USA, in policy, on paper, and too often in practice. There has been a 40+ year call for justice and equity for our queer kindred. Many of you have stood with marginalized people in the church for decades and continue to do so. Thank you! The Inclusive Mennonite Pastors leadership team has prepared a [Resolution for Repentance and Transformation](#) to be submitted to the MC USA Resolutions

Committee by early November, with the hope of having it considered by delegates to the 2021 [MennoCon21](#) national assembly in Cincinnati, OH. The resolution boldly calls for in part: equity for LGBTQIA persons, for the Membership Guidelines to be *rescinded*, and for the church to step up and actively engage in truth-telling and beginning to repair harms done. First Mennonite Council affirmed supporting this resolution as a congregation. The resolution is now available for individuals to sign onto it. You are invited to read the resolution and then consider supporting this resolution by

- signing it here: <https://inclusivepastors.wordpress.com/resolution/>
- sharing the link with others in MC USA who are allies and encouraging them to sign it

The Executive Board of MC USA is also considering [their own work](#) on "retiring" the Membership Guidelines. The Inclusive Mennonite Pastors team feel that more is needed; that to be a prophetic Church means to name the harms done to LGBTQIA Mennonites and transparently seek healing as the body of Christ. Thank you for considering this. For more information, contact the IMP at inclusivepastors@gmail.com.

Mosaic Health and Healing Arts (Indiana's first LGBTQ-serving family practice) is in need of reusable isolation gowns! Mosaic is taking extra precautions to try to keep their staff and community safe. Mosaic is asking for help in providing cloth gowns. If you can sew, please consider sewing some isolation gowns! Patterns are available through mosaicinfo@mosaichha.org. Donations of breathable cotton fabric for gowns are welcome.