

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 11-8-2020

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, Nov. 8, 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.

Virtual fellowship hall conversation, Zoom, 11:30 a.m. -

12:15 p.m., <https://zoom.us/j/93482279238>

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

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

Nov. 9-14

Monday (Nov. 9) Ray Person Bible study, Zoom, 8 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/92088366545>

Tuesday (Nov. 10) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Zoom

Sunday, Nov 15, 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, Youth and children will lead, 10:30 a.m.

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy Birthday!

Nov. 8 Fran Core

John Paul Yoder

Nov. 9 Fred Steiner

Nov. 11 Maurice Kauffman

Lynn Miller

Evan Sider

Nov. 12 Kennedy Longworth

Jean Miller

Nov. 13 Carolyn Gratz

If you want a breath of fresh air into how you pray for others, you are invited to join the Taste and See Sunday school class Sunday, Nov. 8, at 9:15 a.m. We'll try out a simple and fun technique of "Praying in Color," based on the book of that name by Sybil MacBeth. With pens, colored pencils or whatever you have around, we will "pray with the right side of the brain," using simple doodling to help us focus and express the prayers of our hearts. You don't need any artistic ability at all and no one will see your paper unless you decide to share it. The class Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/342273765>.

~ Anne Marie Spelman

If you stop by the church, check out the fellowship hall pillar closest to the office. On the side facing the sanctuary we'll post thank you letters from organizations to whom FMC has sent financial contributions. Also, as we print documents (i.e. annual reports) you'll find copies on a table in the fellowship hall. After 2-3 weeks, remaining copies will be moved to the literature racks.

Reminders

Do you miss those serendipitous conversations in the fellowship hall after church? If so, 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/93482279238>. Come and go as you wish. Bring your sense of adventure, flexibility and patience as we try this fun way of being church in coronavirus time! If you need help or have questions contact Pastor Wanda.

Bible and Empire, a Bible study led by Ray Person, will meet from 8-9 p.m. Nov. 9 and 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 4 and 18, and Feb. 1. The class has a specific focus of interpreting the Bible from a postcolonial perspective, which takes seriously the role of empire in both the writing of the biblical text and its interpretation in contemporary society, so that issues of power play a central role in interpretation. Because of this, interpretations need to take seriously issues concerning gender, race, and class, both on the writers of the Bible but also on us as interpreters. All are welcome to join by Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/92088366545> (+1-646- 558-8656.) Direct questions to Ray at r-person@onu.edu.

The Racial Justice Ministry will continue to hold discussions via Zoom from 7-8 p.m. (note time change) on Mondays, Nov. 16 and 30, and Dec.14. All are welcome, even if you haven't joined previous conversations. The Zoom link for the meeting is <https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>

~ RJM Co-chairs Jan Wiebe, Theo Andreas, Anita and George Lehman

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 the church and the activities that take place there during the pandemic. These guidelines are available on the website. 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 available by video. Meetings, ministry, and fellowship happen virtually or outside, distancing with caution. See Rita Dietrich for more information.

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.

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.

