

**On the road to restoration
Advent 3
First Mennonite Church
December 13, 2020**

Prelude Laura Hartzler
Welcome Walt Paquin

Call to Worship

(Adapted from Psalm 126:2-6)

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us, and so we rejoice!

People: Our mouths are filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy.

Leader: Those who sow in tears will reap shouts of joy.

People: Those who go out weeping will come home with shouts of joy.

All: The Lord has done great things for us— we rejoice!

Advent Candle Lighting Adam, Sarah & Carter Phillips

STS 10 *Come! Walk in the light*
Hartzler family: Refrain / Verse 5 / Refrain

Conversation with Friends Anne Marie Spelman

Confession and words of assurance

Leader: God, we confess we do not always recognize you.

People: We confess that when we do, we do not always receive you.

All: Open our eyes to see you and our hearts to receive you.

Community Prayer

Wanda Stopher

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Gary Wetherill

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Ben Hartzler

Message *Journeying toward wholeness* Louise Matthews

HWB 323

Beyond a dying sun

Dedication Prayer

Offertory

HWB 184

Hark! The glad sound!

Benediction

Postlude

*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 | 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
- Pastor Jeff Boehr – WFH Tuesday & Friday; 419-236-9150; jeff@fmcbluffton.org
- Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, Zooming M-F, 419-230-1568, mastc@bluffton.edu
- Director of Music – Mark Suderman, WFH 419-230-5368; sudermanme@bluffton.edu
- Administrative Asst. – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, WFH M-F, 9-4, fmc@fmcbluffton.org

Video editor: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Art Shelly

Camera: Glen Buller

Chancel: Carrie Phillips

Our stewardship

Total spending plan giving December 2020 to date \$16,250

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.

