

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 12-6-2020

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

The definition of Advent is literally *arrival*. Our theme for this Advent season is “On the road...” also conveying a sense of movement, of traveling from one point to another. As we travel this season together we celebrate the arrival of the child known as Immanuel, “God with us.” Each step brings us closer to God and to one another. Wherever we find ourselves on the road, this Advent theme reminds us that we are not alone. We travel in good company with others who seek the life that Jesus brings. And it is together, on the way that we are transformed.

Sunday, Dec. 6, 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, 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>

Congregational meeting, 2 p.m., Zoom (link at right)

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

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

Dec. 7-12

Monday (Dec. 7) Bible and Empire, Zoom, 8 p.m.

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

Tuesday (Dec. 8) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, 9 a.m., Zoom

Sunday, Dec. 13, 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, Louise Matthews preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 6 – Doug Luginbill, Natalie Shenk

Dec. 8 – Susie Gratz

Dec. 10 – Danielle Novak, Carolyn Rich

A congregational meeting will be held today at 2 p.m. via Zoom at

<https://zoom.us/j/4193583208>. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a slate of nominees to serve in the Leadership Circle as described in the revised FMC constitution and to approve a spending plan for the first six months of the coming fiscal year. Copies of the annual report and accompanying spending plan are available in the fellowship hall.

Delivery of our order of the new *Voices Together Hymnal* has been delayed by Covid-related temporary shutdowns at the publishing facilities. MennoMedia has not yet provided a delivery date, but when our hymnals arrive, we will notify those who ordered personal copies through First Mennonite.

Today's organ selections are based on Advent hymns with historical significance in Christian hymnody. The music of the prelude, *Savior of the Nations, Come*, is based on plainsong found in manuscript from the 12th century. Its original Latin text is attributed to Ambrose of Milan (4th century.) Refer to HWB 173 for an English translation. Composer Andreas N. Vetter's 17th century setting states the melody of the hymn's first phrase 8 times in imitative style. The text of the Offertory, *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*, is based on Isaiah 40: 1-5. The hymn text addresses not only our anticipation of Advent, but also the importance of preparing ourselves for the season. Refer to HWB 176. The tune and text of today's postlude, *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*, are rooted in the 17th century Lutheran tradition. Composer Johann Crüger wrote the tune specifically for Paul Gerhardt's German text. The text of stanza 3 joyfully anticipates the Lord's arrival: "You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation, we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display." The organ setting by contemporary Lutheran composer Kenneth Kosche intersperses the hymn tune's 4 phrases with buoyant, energetic music. (Sources: [Hymnal Companion](#) (for HWB) and [hymnary.org](#)) ~ *LuAnn Stuckey*

Reminders

Unsigned notes: The church office and/or a staff member sometimes receive unsigned notes and/or news clippings that refer to a concern regarding First Mennonite or the Bluffton community. When we don't know who's delivering a message, we are unable to ask questions or to follow up. Therefore, please understand that we will not act on anonymous notes. We do, however, appreciate your concerns in writing with your signature or shared in person. ~ *First Mennonite Church Staff*

Calling all doodlers, designers, creators, and artists of any age! Help us visualize our advent theme by creating a perspective drawing as though you're standing "On the Road." A perspective drawing, or "vanishing point" drawing, shows parallel lines appearing to come together at a single point in the distance...the way that a straight road appears to disappear into the horizon. Kids – ask your grownups to draw, color, or paint with you. Please sign your work and place in Mary Steiner's mailbox in the fellowship hall between now and December 16. Send digital photos to crp4225@gmail.com. Original artwork will be available for pickup/return in January. *Please use extreme caution while using a camera near or on a roadway or in a vehicle. The world is already too risky right now! ~ *Carrie Phillips, Advent visuals*

Our connections

The Voices Together hymnal dedication launch celebration will be held via Zoom from 5-7 p.m. ET, Sunday, Dec. 13. It will include a time to worship with new songs and resources, hear stories, and offer blessings for *Voices Together* and all who receive it. After this time of worship there will be an overview of the process of creating *Voices Together* and a time for questions with committee members. This event is free but registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Register at http://voicestogetherhymnal.org/digital-launch-registration/?fbclid=IwAR2vtbraAbCDQa9kRAEHt6HMmVeJ1hQFcf8a6361euxcJA7oA9_H56TBuk.

Bluffton University's Holiday Collage Concert will be streamed for viewing at www.bluffton.edu/mus at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. The concert will feature small groups of the concert band performing traditional Christmas carols and hymns that were originally arranged for the Salvation Army band. Since the concert is being held virtually, free-will offerings will be taken for music scholarships at www.bluffton.edu/givetomusic.

Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services will hold a virtual Tree of Remembrance memorial service at 3 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 12, for those who have lost a loved one this year or in years past. To locate the service, go to <https://www.chiles-lamanfh.com/> and click the Facebook link at the bottom of the page. One free glass ornament is available per family, personalized with the name and dates of their loved one. Additional ornaments are available for purchase at the cost of \$20 each. To order your ornament(s), call 419-228-5474 by Dec. 4. For more information or to RSVP for the service, call 419-358-2051 or email chilesbl@wcoil.com.