

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 2-14-2021

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817

419-358-5766 | fmclubluffton.org | Staff working from home

- **Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, off Friday, 419-551-1079, wanda@fmclubluffton.org**
- **Pastor Jeff Boehr – T, F; 419-236-9150, jeff@fmclubluffton.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@fmclubluffton.org**

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2021

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

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>

Race and Ethnicity, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,
<https://zoom.us/j/92632252996>

SHY, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Lynn Miller preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Virtual fellowship hall conversation, Zoom, 11:30-12:15,
<https://zoom.us/j/93482279238>

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m., <https://zoom.us/j/4193585766>

Feb. 15-20

Monday, Feb. 15 Racial Justice Ministry conversation with
Police Chief Ryan Burkholder, Zoom, 7 p.m. **(details page 2)**

Tuesday, Feb. 16 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,
<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday service, Zoom, 8 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 18 Deadline to submit items for the weekly
announcements, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2020

Children's Zoom, 9 a.m.; Sojourners 9:15 a.m.; Faithful
Living, 9:30 a.m.; Race and Ethnicity, 9:15 a.m.; SHY, 9:30
a.m.

Worship, Jeff Boehr preaching, 10:30 a.m.

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

We hope you'll find refuge and peace through the *Meditations* on our website. You'll find the videos on the left side of the home page at <http://fmclubluffton.org/>. *Meditations* are provided by LuAnn Stuckey and Pastor Wanda.

Happy Birthday!

Feb. 16 Mona Reichenbach

Feb. 17 Rich Bucher

Megan Coffman

Feb. 18 Anne Marie Spelman

Feb. 19 Treva Stratton

Feb. 21 Carrie Mast

Ash Wednesday virtual service Feb. 17

Ash Wednesday is a quiet, meditative service of self-reflection and prayer. It is typically held in the fellowship hall with lights dimmed and opportunity for silence, scripture, and reflection about our mortality. Ashes are offered and received on the forehead or hand as a symbol of our mortality as we begin Lent and companion Jesus on his journey to the Cross, death, and Easter Resurrection. This year we will observe Ash Wednesday together virtually by Zoom on February 17 at 8 p.m. Join us at

<https://zoom.us/j/94268295805> or call +1 646 558 8656. Ash Wednesday kits will be available in the fellowship hall for pick up beginning Feb. 12. Each kit contains ashes and other supplies to assist in virtual participation. One kit will supply a household. If you are in need of a kit and unable to pick it up, please arrange for delivery by contacting Elizabeth Kelly at ekelly.2018@gmail.com or 419-348-1886.

“Life is defined not by what we’ve let go, but by what we let in...” In the March Menno-Life, we want to focus not on what we’ve given up during the past year, but rather the gifts we’ve received, such as new connections, kindnesses, new appreciations. What gifts have you received as a result of the pandemic? What has pleasantly surprised you? If you’re willing to share your response in the Menno-Life, please send it by email to Mary Pannabecker Steiner at fmc@fmcbluffton.org or call 419.358.5576. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The Central District Conference Board of Directors will hold two gatherings via Zoom instead of the annual regional gatherings. These meetings will be held March 6 and March 27, from 9:30-11:45 a.m. Eastern time. You are invited to attend your preferred date. [Register here for the March 6 meeting](#) or [here for the March 27 meeting](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Prayers and gratitude

Marilyn Diller was released from the hospital following surgery on her broken hip. She is receiving therapy at Mennonite Memorial Home. Your prayers for her healing process are welcomed.

New this week: We received a thank you card from Theda and Dawn, for the love offering. **We also received a letter of thanks** from MCC for the hygiene and school kits we sent in 2020. Both are posted on the pillar near the office in the fellowship hall.

Reminders

Please empty your mailbox by Monday, Feb. 15, so that we may update all mailbox labels. If you are unable to pick up your mail, please notify the church office. (Note: 2020 contribution statements are in mailboxes.)

On Monday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m., the Racial Justice Ministry will hold a conversation with Bluffton Police Chief Ryan Burkholder about police training and practices, particularly as they relate to issues of racial justice. Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>.

We are using the Voices Together hymnals in worship services so we encourage you to borrow a hymnal from the stack in the fellowship hall; sign your name to the sheet beside the stack. If you are unable to pick up a hymnal, contact Mark Suderman, sudermanme@bluffton.edu or 419.230.5368 or Jeff Boehr, jeff@fmcbluffton.org or 419.236-9150. When we gather for worship again, please return borrowed hymnals.

Our connections

Camp Friedenswald has announced plans for summer camp 2021. Camp is committed to putting the health of staff and campers first. With the guidance of medical professionals, the county health department, and the State of Michigan’s camp licensing body, they are working on a plan to safely welcome campers this summer. Note these adjustments for 2021: Each week of youth camp begins on Sunday afternoon and ends on Thursday evening after supper. (This is 18 hours shorter than past years, and an adjustment in light of COVID.) They will not run Primary Camp (for children grades 1-2) due to constraints and challenges related to COVID. Camp hopes to open registration March 1 and will have more details at that time. More information is available at <https://friedenswald.org/summer-camps/>. **** FMC campers can email receipts to Carrie Mast to receive the 50% campership from FMC.**

Please save this date for a conversation with Anabaptist World leadership: Tuesday, April 20, at 7 p.m. As a board member of Anabaptist World, I invite you to join in a conversation with leadership of the new digital and print publication that results from the merger of The Mennonite, Inc. and Mennonite World Review, Inc. Our executive director, Danielle Klotz and editor, Paul Schrag, will share their vision for Anabaptist World as a source for Mennonite news and inspiring stories. We look forward to hearing your ideas as we shape the voice and impact of this new publication. Details to follow closer to the event. ~ Hans Houshower

The Western Ohio Unit of Mennonite Disaster Service invites you to a Zoom meeting on Thursday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m., when they introduce a project called Pathways to Home Ownership. This project is tied to the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes that devastated the Greater Dayton region. WOU has committed to building two new homes in Trotwood beginning in early to mid-March. Learn how you can support this project. All are welcome and there is no

RSVP. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82928313188>. If you have questions, contact Lawrence Matthews, WOU chairperson, at woumds@gmail.com

MDS will open the Bennettsville, S.C., unit on February 28, with Lynn Miller as project director. Work consists of finishing the repairs in homes that were flooded in hurricanes that struck the east coast. MDS is asking volunteers to commit to staying for two weeks instead of the usual one, and self-isolating for 10 days before going to the project, thereby limiting exposure to infection. Persons interested in this opportunity should contact Lynn for more information, or Deanna Frey at dfrey@mds.mennonite.net.