

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**

**Weekly Announcements 2-7-2021**

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

**419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Staff working from home**

- **Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, off Friday, 419-551-1079, [wanda@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmcbluffton.org)**
- **Pastor Jeff Boehr – T, F; 419-236-9150, [jeff@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:jeff@fmcbluffton.org)**
- **Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568, [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu)**
- **Director of Music – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell), [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)**
- **Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, 419-358-5766, [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org)**

**Sunday, Feb. 7, 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, Wanda Stopher 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. 8-13**

Tuesday, Feb. 9 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,  
<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>  
Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 14, 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, Lynn Miller preaching, 10:30 a.m.  
Virtual FH conversation, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

**On Monday, Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.,** the Racial Justice Ministry will host 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>.

**Happy Birthday!**

Feb. 7 – Marlyce Gundy  
Chris Moser  
Feb. 11 – Karen McCullough

**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](mailto:ekelly.2018@gmail.com) or 419-348-1886.

### Mailboxes reminders

Please remove all items from your mailbox in the fellowship hall by Monday, Feb. 15, so that we may update all mailbox labels. If you are unable to leave your home to pick up your mail, please notify the church office; we will send your mail to your home. (Note: 2020 contribution statements are in mailboxes.)

### Prayers and gratitude

I want to thank my church community for the love and support given to my family in so many ways these past 10 months. It has been a hard journey but I am happy to report that I have been announced free of disease. I am slowly gaining back my strength from surgery and look forward to a full recovery. ~JP Schumacher

**Marilyn Diller fell Wednesday evening**, breaking her right hip. She had surgery on Thursday morning at St. Rita's Medical Center. Please remember Marilyn and her family in your prayers as she recovers.

### Reminders

**We extend gratitude and peace to Courtney Paul** as she finishes her work as FMC's bookkeeper. Courtney has decided it is time to focus on her full-time day job. She joined staff 1 ½ years ago to partner with the treasurer to keep FMC on track financially. Courtney brought expertise from her bookkeeping work for small organizations for Sielschott, Walsh, Kiefer, Regula, and Sherer, and her calm, good-natured approach to the quirky work of church finances will be missed. Thank you, Courtney!

**WANTED:** Bookkeeper, 2-5 hours per week, compensation available. Contact Carrie Mast if interested.

**Our 2021 Bible Scribe** project of handwriting the texts for the upcoming Lent worship and the Gospel of John continues! The purpose is to join people in a project that encourages us to experience the healing, comforting power of God's word. The invitation is to all -- not only for artists and those with perfect penmanship. Handwritten texts may also be illuminated: embellished, illustrated, or decorated. You choose the passage and decide whether it is a solo project, family project, a couple of friends, or some other arrangement. Everyone, join together with your faith family, in this project. Let us know what you choose to scribe! This [link](#) is one way to sign up on a Google doc. You also may up on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or by contacting Carrie Mast at 419.230.1568 or [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu) to report your choice of scripture. Place completed work in Pastor Wanda's mailbox. If you have questions, please contact Carrie Mast, Carolyn Rich, Anne Marie Spelman, or Pastor Wanda.

**The new Voices Together hymnals have arrived.** We will use the new hymnals in our online worship services even though we will not be together in the sanctuary for the next few months. We encourage you to borrow a hymnal during this time. Once we gather for worship again, you will need to return those borrowed hymnals.

**Instructions:** Take a hymnal from the stack in the fellowship hall and sign your name to the sheet beside the stack so we know who has borrowed hymnals. \*If you are unable to pick up a hymnal, contact Mark Suderman ([sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)/419-230-5368) or Jeff Boehr ([jeff@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:jeff@fmcbluffton.org)/419-236-9150). They will deliver any hymnals needed.

**We hope you'll find refuge and peace** through our *Meditations* which are located on our website. The pre-recorded *Meditations* include music, a few words, and silence. You'll find the videos on the left side of the home page at <http://fmcbluffton.org/>. *Meditations* are provided by LuAnn Stuckey and Pastor Wanda.

### Our connections

**Mennonite Disaster Service** plans to open the Bennettsville, S.C., unit on February 28, after a year's shut down due to the COVID-19 virus. Lynn Miller will be the project director. Work will consist of finishing the repairs in homes that were flooded in hurricanes that struck the east coast. This year 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](mailto:dfrey@mds.mennonite.net).