

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 10-4-2020

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, Oct. 4, 2020

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 ID and password, contact Greg Ring,

gring@marathonpetroleum.com or

419-379-5310

SHY, classroom, 9:30 a.m. (wear masks)

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.,

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

contact church office for password

Oct. 5-10

Monday (Oct. 5) Bible and Empire, 8 p.m., Zoom

Tuesday (Oct. 7) Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Thursday (Oct. 9) Bulletin deadline, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020

Sojourners & Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.; Faithful

Living, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.; SHY, classroom, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. preaching, 10:30

a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Welcome to Jeff Boehr who joined us as Interim Pastor of Pastoral Care Oct. 1. Jeff is 1/2 time in this role and also serves Lima Mennonite assisting in worship and preaching roles. He will work from home or the church office Tuesday and Friday, and available by phone Wednesday and Thursday. He may be contacted at any time in circumstances of a crisis. In the case of Sunday mornings, contact Pastor Wanda. Contact Jeff at jeff@fmcbluffton.org or 419-236-9150.

Happy birthday

Oct. 4 Jason Diller

Mary Yoder

Oct. 5 Kevin Cluts

Elaine Suderman

Oct. 7 Sharon Carpenter

Savannah Werling

Oct. 8 Joan Diller

Oct. 10 Elizabeth Shelly

Oct. 11 Laura Strahan

Tuesday Morning Prayers continue! This fall we are practicing Dwelling in the Word, an adaptation of the ancient prayer practice of Lectio Divina. Join us once or each Tuesday from 7-7:30 a.m. at <https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>. See Pastor Wanda for more details.

Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Day, a day when churches around the world celebrate the Lord's Supper and remember that God's kingdom transcends boundaries and offers love to all. Deacons have decided that while we are unable to meet in person we will also refrain from eating Communion together. It is in part, an act of solidarity with people who are suffering the world over in this time of pandemic. In this way, the broken body of Christ enters into the brokenness of the world and partakes in Christ's and the world's suffering. A longer reflection may be found in the October Menno-Life. Please pray in solidarity for the world's healing and wholeness.

~Pastor Wanda

Additional new news

All are welcome to attend an information meeting on Sunday, October 11 at 2 p.m. to learn about a proposed resolution to be brought to the Mennonite Church USA convention next year that would rescind the membership guidelines related to same-sex marriage. The resolution would also adopt new policies to repair the harm caused by these guidelines. During the information meeting, we will discuss two actions taken recently by church council related to this resolution: 1) joining the Supportive Communities Network; and 2) adding our name to the list of congregations supporting the resolution to rescind the guidelines. We will also invite individuals to add their names to the list of supporters. The resolution can be found at: <https://inclusivepastors.wordpress.com/resolution/>. The information meeting will be held by Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/91478303460> or by phone at 646-558-8656.

October 11 is Mission Sunday and Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. will be our guest pastor. Rev. Sullivan is a nationally known speaker, social justice advocate and death penalty abolitionist, and is executive director of the Ohio Conference of Churches. In conjunction with his visit, the Racial Justice Ministry invites you to participate in a self-paced, online anti-racism training provided by MCUSA in partnership with Widerstand Consulting, and purchased using Jubilee Funds. The training is comprised of 4 modules (approx. 10 hours of total training) on dismantling racism in congregations. See a full description at: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/news/anti-racism-training-accessible/>. Contact Jan Wiebe at 419-236-6327 or wiebe.jan@gmail.com with questions or to request access to the training, and a link will be sent to your email. We plan to have some Zoom working sessions to get started on this material together for those who wish (details to come.)

*~ Mission, Peace and Service and the Racial Justice Co-chairs:
Jan Wiebe, Theo Andreas, Anita Lehman, George Lehman*

FMC Membership Class 2020: Are you new to First Mennonite Church? Do you want to know more about the church? Are you interested in exploring or refreshing your memory regarding what it means to be a member of this congregation? If so, you're invited to attend a membership class this fall. Like everything these days, the format may need to be adapted. Those who express interest will determine exactly how we'll accomplish this. We'll plan to gather in one way or another on Sunday mornings from 9-10 a.m. Proposed dates are October 25, November 1, 8 and 15. Please contact Pastor Wanda if you have questions or to express interest.

Pastoral concerns

Graveside services will be held for Anna Ruth Reichenbach at 11 a.m., Monday, Oct. 5 at Maple Grove Cemetery, Bluffton. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services, Bluffton. Please continue to hold Mona and Anna Ruth's family and friends in your prayers.

Elaine Sommers Rich, longtime FMC member and Bluffton resident, died September 27 in North Manchester, IN. A memorial service will be held at Eel River Church of the Brethren, Silver Lake, IN, at a later date. Please remember her family in your prayers. You may read her obituary at <https://www.mckemortuary.com/obituary/Elaine-Rich>.

Let us remember Mary Amstutz as she recovers from knee replacement surgery which she had on October 1. Prayers for her healing and recovery are greatly appreciated.

Reminders

Bible and Empire: You're invited to join a Bible study led by Ray Person on the first and third Mondays at 8 p.m., beginning Oct. 5, with a specific focus of interpreting the Bible from a postcolonial perspective. A postcolonial perspective 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. This class will be by Zoom from 8-9 p.m. at: <https://zoom.us/j/92088366545> (+1-646- 558-8656.) See the FMC Bluffton, Ohio Facebook page for a full

description of the study or take a copy from the literature rack in the fellowship hall. If you have questions, contact Ray at r-person@onu.edu.

FMC acknowledges the change in the relationship between pastor and congregation when there is a leave-taking. We have established a Parting Agreement between Theda and the congregation that serves as a tangible reminder of our mutual covenant and this change that has occurred. As we have released Theda from her pastoral responsibilities within this congregation, we also pledge to hold her in our memory and prayers, to welcome her to visit with us from time to time, and support her continued discernment and future ministries. Hard copies of the Parting Agreement will be available in the fellowship hall literature rack.

~ Staff Relations Committee -- Annette Heslep & Elizabeth Kelly

Conversations for Kids: You can watch the Conversations with Friends back to March in one place now. Follow this link to a private YouTube channel for FMC children (and anyone who self-identifies as a child at heart.) At this link, you'll have access to the stories and conversations shared during worship, as standalone videos: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8GP3BoW44SIRI_VMRsBOh8_szrfmDska.

Our Connections

Habitat for Humanity – Lima Area is looking for a full-time Volunteer Manager to oversee all aspects of its volunteer program. The volunteer manager helps recruit, organize, educate, and manage volunteers for the Habitat ReStore and Habitat construction projects. Applications are due October 23. Send resume, letter of interest, and contact information for 3 references (phone and email) to habitatlima@habitatlima.org or Habitat for Humanity-Lima Area, 550 W. Elm Street, Lima, OH 45801. For more details, see www.habitatlima.org, email habitatlima@habitatlima.org, or call 419-222-4937.

Raleigh Mennonite will host a webinar to engage two pastors who are activists in the movement for Black Lives on Monday, Oct. 5, at 8 p.m. EST. Rev. Kaji Dousa, Park Avenue Christian Church, and Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Middle Collegiate Church, are the first black pastors of these historic churches in New York. Register in advance at: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xqRllsrySBKH1ryTGTQWew. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Mennonite Economic Development Association Convention 2020: Join MEDA for two days of inspiration, information and networking online November 6-7. The convention is an intersection of faith and business where you can explore what it means to be faithful in daily work and learn about MEDA's business solutions to poverty. Go to www.medaconvention.org for more information.