

First Mennonite Church

February 21, 2021

Lent 1 Deep in the sea: Deeper relationship

Welcome and announcements Elizabeth Kelly

Prelude *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*  
arr. L. Trapp (based on VT 48)  
LuAnn Stuckey

Call to Worship

One: God, we are here at the water's edge, casting off from shore

**Many: into unknown waters.**

One: With fear and trembling, we drop our oars,

**Many: letting them go, trusting the sea.**

One: God, we trust the signs of your covenant: the ark through the water, the waters of baptism,

**Many: the bow in the clouds and the dove from the heavens.**

**All: We call to you as you called us deeper into steadfast love.**

Invocation

VT 154 *What Can I Leave Behind*  
Quartet – Elaine Suderman, Carrie Phillips  
Mark Suderman, Steve Phillips

Community Prayer Wanda Stopher

VT 678 *Kyrie eleison* (sing twice)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance

**Many: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts.**

One: We confess when we have stayed too close to the surface, avoiding you, avoiding our neighbors. We confess when we have felt in over our heads. Needing you, needing our neighbors.

*(Silence. Or name the forces that keep us from deep relationship.)*

Deep calls to deep. You call to us from the depth of your love.

**Many: Calling us to deep relationship. We come to you, God.**

Conversation with Friends Carrie and Jorian Mast  
Scripture Genesis 9:8-17; Mark 1:9-15

Message *Alive to the Deep*  
Jeff Boehr

HWB 483 *O God, who gives us life*

Response Ritual – Silent Reflection

Dedication Prayer

Offertory *Andante*  
F. Liszt

HWB 430 *God be with you*

Benediction

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

Video editor: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Chris Moser

Camera: Glen Buller

Chancel: Anita Lehman

*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.*

