

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 2-21-2021

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, Feb. 21, 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 a.m. this week only**,
<https://zoom.us/j/92632252996>

SHY, Zoom, 9:30 a.m.

Worship, Jeff Boehr 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. 22-27

Tuesday, Feb. 23 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,
<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 25 Deadline to submit items for the weekly
announcements, 9 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 28, 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, Wanda Stopher preaching, 10:30 a.m.

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

Happy Birthday!

Feb. 21 Carrie Mast

Feb. 22 Avila Spelman

Feb. 26 Andy Chappell-Dick

Feb. 28 Ethan Blount

Worship at First Mennonite Church is both the result of careful planning and preparation, and a participatory act of all those who engage in the service. A Worship Planning ministry is now being formed to plan worship in collaboration with the Pastor of Christian Formation and the Music Director.

“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 responses in simple sentence form, please send them by email to Mary Pannabecker Steiner at fmc@fmclubffton.org or call 419.358.5576. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, Feb. 24.

Reminders

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.

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.**

Isaac Villegas, pastor of Chapel Hill (NC) Mennonite Fellowship, will present a free public lecture, “Providing Sanctuary as Witness: Standing in Solidarity with Immigrants,” at Methodist Theological School in Ohio at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23. The free lecture will take place online. [Advance Zoom registration is required and available here.](#) Villegas will tell the story of his church and other activist communities as they engage in tactics of collective solidarity and resistance against mass deportations.

Join MCC for an information session about the Sharing With Appalachian People program on Thursday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m. EST. SWAP is a service and learning program that uses volunteers to address sub-standard housing in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia. This webinar will include a short presentation about SWAP and how you can get involved. Register for the Zoom link at mcc.org/mcc-webinar-series. SWAP summer staff positions for job site coordinators and meal coordinators are now open. Applicants should be at least 19 years old. For more information and to apply, visit mcc.org/swap-summer-staff or contact the MCC Appalachia SWAP office at (606) 633-4008 or AppalachiaAdmin@mcc.org.

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