

First Mennonite Church  
February 28, 2021

Lent 2 Deep in the woods: Deeper commitment

Welcome and announcements Elizabeth Kelly

Prelude Laura Hartzler

Call to Worship

One: God, you ask us to set our minds on you, to walk before you and be blameless. You teach us what matters, and you do not hide your face from us.

**Many: With each step along the path, we are transformed into who you made and called us to be.**

One: God, you teach us that when we lose our life, we save it.

**Many: With each step along the path, we hope against hope in your promises.**

One: God, you say you will make us exceedingly fruitful, that you will bless us.

**Many: With each step along the path, we take up our cross and follow you.**

**All: We believe your everlasting covenant is to be God to us, and that we will live forever. We call out to you, as you call us deeper into this covenant.**

VT 589 *In Lonely Mountain Ways*  
(vs. 1 in Japanese and vs. 1-3 in English)  
Ellie Hartzler, Ellie Nickel, Ben Hartzler, Ken Shenk

Community Prayer Steve Harnish

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 on the edges. Not listening to each other. Not taking the path you show. We confess when we have strayed from the way. Silencing suffering. Forfeiting life.

*(Silence)*

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

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

Conversation with Friends Glenn and Judy Buller  
Scripture Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38

Message *Deep in the woods*  
Wanda Stopher

VT 576/HWB 535 *Who Now Would Follow Christ*

Response Ritual – Silent Reflection

Dedication Prayer

Offertory Laura Hartzler

HWB 415 *Forth In Thy Name*

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 closed due to coronavirus,  
staff working from home

#### 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: Melissa Friesen

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.*

