

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 3-21-2021**

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

419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | Office closed due to Covid; 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, March 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>

Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/342273765>

SHY, 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>

**March 22-27**

Tuesday, March 23 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Thursday, March 24 Deadline to submit items for the weekly announcements, 9 a.m.

**Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021**

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.; Taste and See, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Palm/Passion texts, 10:30 a.m.

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

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

**Happy Birthday!**

March 23 – Corrinne Boehr

Ben Hartzler

Evan Steiner

March 24 – Jim Dillman

March 25 – Anna Biesecker-Mast

March 27 – Tad Steiner

March 28 – Linda Suter

**During worship Sunday, March 21** we will commission Natilee Grover, a Bluffton University student who will intern at FMC through the end of April. As a Bible and Theology major with psychology and education studies minors, this practicum will provide a context in which Natilee will integrate and apply what she's been learning. Natilee will focus on worship leading and vocational discernment with site supervision provided by Pastor Wanda.

**This year, five catechism students** are choosing to be baptized. They are Allison Diller, Ellie Nickel, Landon Novak, Andrew Raeburn, and Elam Suter. You, their church family, are invited to join in this service of worship and celebration on Saturday, April 3, at 8 a.m. The baptism will take place at Mark and Jeanne Novak's pond, 11261 Sugar Creek Rd., Harrod, OH. Please wear a mask and bring a lawn chair. We will distance appropriately, while gathering together warmly for this important event in the life of our congregation.

**This year our Easter service will be live streamed via Zoom on Easter Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Connect to the service at <https://zoom.us/j/94268295805> or +1 646 558 8656.**

**The CDC Board of Directors** will hold a mid-year gathering via Zoom instead of the annual regional gathering Saturday, March 27, from 9:30-11:45 a.m. ET. All are invited to attend. See our FMC Scribe Project presented as one example of the way CDC churches are doing Christian formation right now. Open this link for the morning's schedule: <https://mcusacdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/20210327-Reg-Gathering-Schedule.pdf>.

### **Reminders**

**Plan to attend and participate in our Maundy Thursday** service on April 1 at 6:30 p.m. This service will be held by Zoom and will include faith statements by youths who are participating in catechism and anticipating baptism. Connect to the service at <https://zoom.us/j/94268295805> or +1 646 558 8656. See Pastor Wanda if you have questions. **Note: We will be using *Voices Together* in this service. If you have not already done so, please check out a hymnal in the fellowship hall.**

**The community Good Friday cross walk** will take place outdoors and in socially distanced fashion. To participate, gather at St. John's United Church of Christ on Friday, April 2, at 11:30 a.m. There will be no indoor service to follow the cross walk, due to COVID. The cross walk is an ecumenical service of prayer and worship led by Bluffton Area Ministerial Association.

**Each week's Conversation with Friends** can be viewed on a private YouTube channel especially for FMC kids. Check them out at: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8GP3BoW44SIRI\\_VMRsBOh8\\_szrfmDska](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8GP3BoW44SIRI_VMRsBOh8_szrfmDska).

### **Our connections**

**You're invited to join MCC Great Lakes** for a virtual MCC Alumni & Friends gathering at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 21. Vurayayi Pugini and Thelma Sadzamari, MCC Area Directors for Southern and Central Africa and Nigeria, will share stories about MCC's work there, including how partners have adapted during the pandemic. More information and Zoom registration at: [mcc.org/gl-africa-webinar](http://mcc.org/gl-africa-webinar).

**Senior artists and graphic designers from Bluffton University** will showcase their most prominent work in a combined exhibit called *Uncovered Perspectives*. Berlin Fuqua, Ada; Autumn Graves, Mount Blanchard; and Sarah Heydinger, Tiro; will have work on display. Since campus remains closed to visitors, off-campus guests may watch a pre-recorded artist talk and view the exhibit virtually starting Monday, March 22, at [www.bluffton.edu/artgallery](http://www.bluffton.edu/artgallery).

**The March edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. Articles in this issue focus on volunteers needed to help with plumbing repairs in Texas; the Spirit of MDS Fund is offering another round of funding for congregations in Canada; and the Summer Youth Program is accepting applications from youth volunteers. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3rYxwbR>

**The 2021 Climate Ride**, an initiative of the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, will pass through Bluffton on July 17 and has expressed an interest in connecting with First Mennonite. The Climate Ride is part of the CSCS' effort to engage Anabaptist congregations in conversations about climate change. Additionally, they are looking for accommodations while in Bluffton. The group will travel with camping and cooking gear. **Note: If you are interested in connecting with the group and helping to arrange a local overnight stay, please contact Joanna Friesen at [joanna.friesen@emu.edu](mailto:joanna.friesen@emu.edu).** For more information about the CSCS and the Climate Ride, go to <https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/>.