

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 4-25-2021

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, April 25, 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=NG1UcWlyOVJ6RUUg4TUdHTE5Wa0lKZz09>
Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/342273765>
SHY, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, Music Sunday, 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>

April 26-May 1

Tuesday, April 27 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,
<https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>
Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 1 SHY, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Children's Zoom, 9 a.m.; Sojourners 9:15 a.m.; Faithful Living,
9:30 a.m.; Taste and See, 9:15 a.m.
Worship, Laurel Neufeld Weaver preaching, Zoom, 10:30 a.m.
Virtual FH conversation, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

In the coming months, the Racial Justice Ministry will present several opportunities for financial giving to reparative acts that pursue racial equity. Bluffton University is accepting donations for an urgent need fund for international students. The federal government is providing pandemic relief funds for domestic students this spring and next fall, but international students are excluded. An International Student Urgent Need Fund was established by BU for donors to contribute assistance, to be divided equally among the 20 international students. Checks may be made to FMC by April 25 with "IS Urgent Need" in the memo line, or may be sent directly to the university.

Happy Birthday!

April 27 – John Estell

Bill Suter

JD Yoder

April 29 – Kari Diller

April 30 – Amy Shadbolt

May 1 – Pat Althaus

Adam Phillips

Sue Schaaf

First Mennonite, as well as all Central District churches, is invited to send messages of welcome to new incoming church, Grand Rapids (MI) Mennonite Fellowship. Everyone in our congregation is invited to write a message of welcome -- a poem, a prayer, a work of visual art or a sentence of good wishes. Welcome messages may be placed in Pastor Jeff's mailbox or contact him to pick it up by May 26. Thank you for being a part of this broader act of hospitality! Anabaptist World recently published an article about Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship. [Read it here.](#)

We will observe Music Sunday April 25.

Thank you, Mark Suderman and all of the musicians who are sharing their talents. This is a multi-generational service with vocal and instrumental music.

Reminders

Moving toward in-person worship: As vaccination rates climb, so do our hopes for returning to in-person worship. We have not yet identified a specific date to do so, but we are making adjustments toward that end. Beginning May 2, we will move our worship service back to Sunday morning. At that time we plan to Zoom/livestream. We will not yet gather in person as a congregation, but this move will position us to simply add the congregation in person as soon as possible. The Reopening Task Force is working on protocols to do that safely. As in the past, a video recording of each service will be posted on the website. If you have questions, contact Pastor Wanda or Rita Dietrich, chair of RTF.

Our connections

Thank you for your continued financial support! Your gifts through CDC are particularly encouraging as summer approaches and as we prepare for a return to youth camping. Thank you! In addition to your financial gifts, Camp is fortunate to receive the time, energy, and skills of a variety of people from the congregation as they serve as volunteers. Greg and Ellie Hartzler joined us a few weeks ago to complete a wide variety of tasks across camp. We also look forward to having a number of young adults from the congregation join us this summer as staff. For now, the list includes Douglas Nester, Sophia Gott, Ana Neufeld Weaver, and Patrick Estell. These individuals represent the support that Camp has from you as a congregation and is deeply appreciated. Thank you for being a partner in Camp Friedenswald's ministry! Hope to see some of you this summer.

~ Jenna Liechty Martin, Executive Director

Camp Friedenswald has the following job openings: guest services director, program director, and sustainability assistant (voluntary service position.) See details at <https://friedenswald.org/employment/>.

The 2021 Climate Ride, an initiative of the Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, will pass through Bluffton on July 17 and would like to connect with local persons. The Climate Ride is part of an effort to engage Anabaptist congregations in conversations about climate change. **Additionally, they are looking for accommodations while in Bluffton.** The group travels with camping and cooking gear. If anyone in the congregation is interested in connecting with the group and helping to arrange a local overnight stay, please contact Joanna Friesen at joanna.friesen@emu.edu. More info: <https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/>.

Bluffton University's spring fling choral concert featuring University Chorale, Camerata Singers, Concert Band and several ensembles will be streamed for viewing at www.bluffton.edu/mus at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 25. Free-will offerings will be accepted for music scholarships at www.bluffton.edu/givetomusic.

The Bluffton University art department's 53rd Juried Student Exhibition may be viewed virtually April 25-May 9 at www.bluffton.edu/artgallery. The exhibition will showcase work created this academic year by students in university art classes or supervised independent studies.

The Ohio MCC Comforter Bash originally scheduled for April 2021 has been postponed for one year. In the meantime, all are encouraged to continue making comforters, as well as comforter tops and backs (60" x 80"), and they will be collected at the Material Resources Center in Kidron for the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash in April 2022. Contact Sarah Geiser at SarahGeiser@mcc.org or (330) 201-4515 for more information.

The April edition of On the Level is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. In this issue: MDS is celebrating National Volunteer Week and the Homes of Hope facility in Ephrata, PA, is almost completed. Click here to read: <https://conta.cc/3eLY7dd>.

When God calls someone to leadership, a journey begins. Perhaps you are on that journey or are looking for mentors and companions along the way. Central District Conference invites you to join Journey: A Missional Leadership Development Program. This program is for lay leaders, pastors, church planters, and other emerging leaders who are called without specific training for ministry or who are exploring a call to ministry. The early registration deadline to apply for fall 2021 is July 13; final registration deadline is August 10. For more information, visit www.ambs.edu/journey or contact Doug Luginbill at confmin@mcusacdc.org or [574-534-1485](tel:574-534-1485).