

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 5-16-2021**

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

**419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org) | 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, May 16, 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>

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, livestream Facebook Live, 10:30 a.m. (see note below)

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m., <https://zoom.us/j/97864060444>

*(Note that this is a new link.)*

**May 17-22**

Monday, May 17 Racial Justice Ministry, Gary Wetherill, 7 p.m.

*(see note, this page)*

Tuesday, May 18 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m.,

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

Staff meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.

Saturday, May 22, SHY, 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, May 23, 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, Youth Sunday, livestream via Facebook Live, 10:30 a.m.

Learning circle, Zoom, 6 p.m.

**In an effort to improve the quality** and viewing experience of our livestream worship we are switching from the Zoom platform to Facebook Live. You need not have a Facebook account to access the new link. You may access the Live Stream from the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/blufftonfirstmennonitechurch/> or at: <https://fb.me/e/1qnlWtZGz> The video will still be posted on the website following the livestream. If you have questions, contact the office at [fmc@fmcbluffton.edu](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.edu) or 419.358.5766.

**Happy Birthday!**

**May 16 – Ellie Hartzler**

**May 17 – John Templin**

**May 19 – Bodey Benroth**

**Greg Hartzler**

**May 22 – Gayle Trollinger**

**May 23 – Kaleigh Coffman**

**Ann Kingsley**

**We will observe Youth Sunday** on May 23, Pentecost. Join the SHY and the Spirit as music, scriptures, and stories are shared, and seniors are honored. May we welcome the gifts of the youth as the fire and breath of the Spirit inspire their worship leading.

**The Racial Justice Ministry** invites you to a meeting May 17 at 7 p.m. Gary Wetherill will talk about what is known about the native peoples who lived in or close to Bluffton prior to white settlements in the region, and will talk about the small remnants of tribes in Ohio who were not forced to move west in what is often called "the second trail of tears." Join the meeting at:

<https://zoom.us/j/96516134635>.

**Pastor Jeff will be away** May 18-21. For pastoral care emergencies contact Pastor Wanda.

**LuAnn Stuckey is recovering at home** following successful surgery to remove a benign nodule on a salivary gland. She is especially grateful for the surgeon's skill in preserving the branches of the facial nerve. She has appreciated the outpouring of good wishes and kind gestures.

**2021 Camperships:** After registering and paying for Camp Friedenswald summer camps, parents may email their receipts to Carrie Mast at [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu) to be reimbursed for 50% of the registration cost.

### **Reminders**

**Instrumentalists and singers, musicians of all ages and types:** there are opportunities for offering your musical gifts during the worship services this summer (and throughout the year.)

Opportunities include:

- Play an instrument for the prelude, postlude, offertory, or as an obligato instrument with hymns or ensembles
- Provide special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble

During this time of COVID-19, whether we are gathered in person or recording a service, we will take safety precautions for your music presentation. Special thought to placement in the sanctuary, especially for wind instruments and singing, will be implemented. If you are willing to offer your musical gifts or have any questions, please contact Mark Suderman, director of music, at 419.358.5368 or [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu). If you have some specific dates when you could offer your musical gifts, please let Mark know.

**The Central District Conference** annual meeting will be held via Zoom on June 26, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. ET. You may also join Mennonite Women at 4:45 p.m. to hear Melissa Florer-Bixler speak about her book, *Have an Enemy: Righteous anger & the work of peace*. Click [here](#) for registration and information.

**Church Custodian wanted:** First Mennonite Church is in search of a church custodian. Duties include: routine cleaning of the building, light maintenance, set-up for events, lawn mowing and snow removal, other duties as agreed upon. Hourly wage, up to 20 hours per week. Contact FMC at [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org). Provide your name and contact information so we may send an application and job description to you. ~ Staff Relations

**You're encouraged to send welcoming messages** to Grand Rapids (MI) Mennonite Fellowship, a new CDC church. Welcome messages may be placed in Pastor Jeff's mailbox or you may contact him for pick up by May 26. Anabaptist World recently published an article about Grand Rapids Mennonite Fellowship. [Read it here](#).

**The Reopening Task Force** continues to work on protocols for returning to worship based on our Reopening Guidelines. In the meantime, because COVID vaccines are safe and effective and will help us more quickly to return to in-person worship, the RTF encourages all eligible to get the vaccine. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Wanda or Rita Dietrich, RTF chair.

### **Our Connections**

**Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio** has provided contact information for visitation, employment and volunteer opportunities.

- **Visitation:** Call to arrange an appointment for your visit. <https://mhcoliving.org/indoor-visitation-update/>
- **Employment opportunities:** Including positions for Life Enrichment Coordinator, Maintenance, Child Care, Dietary, Home Health and Nursing. <https://mhcoliving.org/careers/>
- **Volunteer Activities:** We are starting indoor volunteering opportunities at all our campuses. More info at: <https://mhcoliving.org/volunteer-opportunities-at-mhco/>

**Join MCC on a virtual learning tour** to the borderlands between Mexico and the U.S. on June 28-July 2 from 3-6 p.m. EST each day. This tour is designed to engage participants with the reality of immigration from a different perspective. Through Zoom video conversations, participants will hear first-hand from folks on the ground about the complexities of the U.S. immigration system, U.S. immigration policies that have worked to dismantle the asylum-seeking process, and the human factor on various sides of the spectrum. The cost of the learning tour is \$75. More information and registration at [mcc.org/gl-virtual-borderlands](http://mcc.org/gl-virtual-borderlands).

**Mennonite Mission Network's** latest issue of *Beyond: Faith in Action* may be read at [Beyond: Faith in Action](#). In it, you will find an stories, opportunities for service, and a printable scripture graphic.

**Mennonite Disaster Service's** *Behind the Hammer* is now available in digital format. You may choose to read BTH in print, on a phone or tablet, or on a computer. Behind the Hammer is the quarterly publication of Mennonite Disaster Service. Click below to select the version that best meets your needs. [Click here to read the digital version.](#)

**Join Mennonite Central Committee** for a free webinar featuring Raymond Chang on Wednesday, May 26, at 1 p.m. EDT. Chang, the president of the Asian American Christian Collaborative, will examine historical and present day examples of how racism impacts Asian Americans in the church. This webinar is part of MCC's yearlong study of *Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby. Register at [mcc.org/webinar-raymond-chang](http://mcc.org/webinar-raymond-chang) to receive the webinar link. For more information and past webinars in the series, visit [mcc.org/color-of-compromise](http://mcc.org/color-of-compromise).