

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 5-30-2021

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, May 30, 2021

Children's Zoom, 9 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/93359681335>

Sojourners, 9:15 a.m., assembly room

Taste and See, Zoom, 9:15 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/342273765>

Worship, Gerald Mast preaching, 10:30 a.m., livestreaming at <https://www.facebook.com/blufftonfirstmennonitechurch/> or at <https://fb.me/e/1qnlWtZGz>

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

May 31-June 5

Monday, May 31 Memorial Day, office closed

Tuesday, June 1 Morning prayers, Zoom, 7 a.m., <https://zoom.us/j/93803392337>

Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, June 2 Leadership Circle, FH, 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 6, 2021

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

Worship, Wanda Stopher preaching, livestream, 10:30 a.m.

Sermon Discussion Circle, meal, 5:30 p.m.; discussion 6-7 p.m.

Mary Pannabecker Steiner has shared her intention to retire effective August 11, 2021. Mary has served as Administrative Assistant for the past 6 years; a time of significant change at First Mennonite Church. Her skills in journalism and willingness to take on the challenges of transitioning the church into new technologies, systems of organization, and communication have been invaluable. In her retirement letter Mary shared the following, *"Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to continue to learn and grow with the church that I've been a part since 1956. That is a rare opportunity and one that I will always treasure"*. Please join us in thanking Mary for her dedication and commitment to First Mennonite.

~ Staff Relations

(Annette Heslep, Kendra Nickel, Elizabeth Kelly)

Happy Birthday!

May 30 – Chad Paul

May 31 – Bill Croft

Dottie Long

As announced in the mid-week email communication, we will return to in-person worship on **Sunday, June 13**. Hard copies of details are in the fellowship hall. When attending, please wear a mask and maintain a six-foot distance. Bottled water will be available, but we encourage you to bring your own water if possible.

Tuesday Morning Prayers is returning to gathering in person beginning June 1. All are welcome to join together in prayer from 7-7:30 a.m. with a light breakfast to follow.

As we approach the first Sunday of in-person worship, we are in need of volunteers to complete some of the usual custodial duties. Until we hire a new custodian, we have posted a chart of duties on the door to the custodial closet in the fellowship hall (next to the library.) If time allows, please complete any of the duties you are able to, then date and initial those duties. The door to the closet is open and you'll find supplies and equipment inside.

Prayer concerns

E. Stanley Bohn, who pastored First Mennonite Church from 1968-1975, died May 19 at Kidron Bethel Village, North Newton, KS. A Celebration of Life service is planned for 11 a.m. Saturday, June 12, 2021, at Shalom Mennonite Church, Newton. Memorial gifts may be made to Peace Connections, P.O. Box 1147, Newton, KS, 67114 or Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, 67117. His wife, Anita Pannabecker Bohn and their family appreciate your prayers. To read Stan's obituary, see

<http://www.blufftonicon.com/news/2021/05/27/stanley-bohn-was-pastor-first-mennonite-1968-1975>.

Other news

The Bluffton Community VBS will be hosted by St. Mary's Catholic Church July 16-22. Due to the unknowns of COVID 19, VBS will be delivered in a hybrid format. All children and their families are invited to participate in outdoor activity stations on Sunday and Thursday nights. Families are asked to attend in a staggered format to ensure social distancing. Details are included in the registration form and on the Bluffton VBS Facebook page. Children aged 4-7 (preschool-1st grade) are additionally invited to join in person Monday-Wednesday nights in the traditional format, in small groups with volunteer leaders. Children over 7 will use activity packets and supplies they gathered on Sunday night to engage with videos included with the VBS curriculum. All children and families are invited to return on Thursday night in the same staggered patterns to participate in the outdoor activity stations again. **Volunteers are needed** from FMC to assist with the game station S-Th nights, to be walkers accompanying the small groups M-W nights, and to bake and prepackage cookies for Thursday night. Contact Carrie Mast if you are available and willing to help: 419.230.1568 or mastc@bluffton.edu.

Summer SS for children & youth will not be offered on Sunday mornings. Alternate times for youth SS will be arranged similarly to last summer: during weekday afternoons at the church either on the lawn under the tree or in classrooms. Topics will include creation care, climate and social justice. For preschool-Grade 5 children, a variety of creation care activities and lessons from the MennoMedia VBS curriculum *Come to the Table* will be organized during weekday and Saturday mornings. The VBS curriculum includes 5 Bible stories from Luke and John emphasizing hospitality to everyone at God's table. The creation care themes will coincide with Sunday morning worship themes.

Several individuals from First Mennonite will assist this week with the Mennonite Disaster Service Western Ohio project in Dayton, which is part of the Tornado Survivors Pathway to Home Ownership Project following the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes. Follow this [link](#) to a recent article about this project. First Mennonite volunteers will join others from Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship. Leadership for this project is provided by the Western Ohio Unit officers. FMC volunteers will be listed in upcoming announcements, as will ways to support this project. ~ Lawrence Matthews, MDS church contact for FMC

Reminders

The Suter family invites you to celebrate Jacob's graduation from Pandora-Gilboa High School at an open house on Saturday, June 5, from 5-9 p.m. at our home, 17623 Road 4, Pandora. ~ Pete, Kim, Jacob, Elam and Makayla Suter

Instrumentalists and singers, musicians of all ages and types: Our worship services are in great need of your musical gifts this summer! Opportunities include playing an instrument for the prelude, postlude, offertory, or as an obbligato instrument with hymns or ensembles and/or providing special music during the service, vocally or instrumentally, as a soloist or in an ensemble. Whether we are gathered in person or livestreaming a service, we will take safety precautions for your presentation, with special thought to placement in the sanctuary, especially for wind instruments and singing. If you are willing to offer your musical gifts or have questions, please contact Mark Suderman, director of music, at 419.358.5368 or sudermanme@bluffton.edu. If you have specific dates when you will be available, please let Mark know.

Church Custodian needed: FMC is in need of a 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 twenty hours per week. Health insurance available. Contact FMC at fmc@fmclubluffton.org. Please provide your name and best contact information. An application and job description will be sent to you. ~ Staff Relations

Our Connections

Mennonite Church USA has announced a list of in-person and online equipping seminars for youth and adults for the hybrid MennoCon21 convention. Learn more here: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/seminars-mennocon21>.