

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 6-6-2021**  
First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817  
419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org)

- **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, June 6, 2021**

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

Taste and See, 9:15 a.m., Room 104

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

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

**June 7-12**

Monday, June 7 SHY, MennoCon21 prep, FMC lawn, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,  
Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, June 9 JHY SS, FMC lawn, 3 p.m.

**Sunday, June 13, 2021**

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

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

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

**Happy Birthday!**

**June 8 – Kaye Phillips**

**June 11 – Carlin Carpenter**

**June 12 – Marie Dyck**

**Wanda Stopher**

**June 13 – Joan Dailey**

**Judy Diller**

**Dennis Sheidler**

**We will return to in-person worship**

Sunday, June 13. Copies of details are in the fellowship hall. When attending, wear a mask and maintain a six-foot distance. Bottled water will be available, but we encourage you to bring your own water.

**June 1, 2021** marked the five-year anniversary of Pastor Steve Yoder's death. As a congregation we will take note of some of the ways his life and ministry continue to impact our life together in a brief ceremony immediately following worship on Sunday, June 13.

**The church directory** is available on our website; it may be accessed using a password, which you may request from the church office. If you are unable to access the website, request a hard copy from the office. Also, if your contact information has changed, please notify the church office.

**A congregational meeting** with updates for our pastoral transition and to approve the 2021 second-half spending plan will be held Sunday, June 20, immediately following the worship service. Spending plan updates and information will be coming over the next two weeks in preparation of the meeting.

**VBS volunteers are needed July 18-22!** If interested in helping with walking small groups from station to station on M, T, or W, assisting with games S-Th, or baking cookies for VBS for Thursday evening, contact Carrie Mast at [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu) or 419.230.1568.

**The family of Marilyn Diller** is holding a card shower for Marilyn, who will observe her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 21. Please send cards to Marilyn at 700 Maple Crest Ct., Bluffton.

**Volunteers from First Mennonite** who served with the Mennonite Disaster Service, Western Ohio project in Dayton this past week were Ev Collier, Rodney Dyck, Mitch Kingsley, John Mackey, Wendell Miller, and Dennis Sheidler. To learn more about this ongoing project, contact Lawrence Matthews, MDS' church contact for FMC.

**Volunteers are again needed** to serve lunch at Our Daily Bread in Lima on the last Monday of each month. It's a great way to get to know our friends in Lima. We carpool monthly from the church parking lot at 9:45 a.m. The next volunteer opportunity is June 28. For more information, contact John or Carolyn Rich at 419-358-5405.

**The Central District Conference Annual Meeting** will be held online Saturday, June 26. Delegates representing First Mennonite include Ray Person, Wanda Stopher, Carrie Mast, Gerald Mast, Walt Paquin, and Lori Nester. Learn about the Annual Meeting in the May issue of *The Reporter* and share the information to encourage others to join the "Building Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive Congregations" afternoon session. This issue also continues to share stories of how congregations are working to address injustices and be more inclusive. [Read more](#) here or pick up a hard copy in the fellowship hall.

### **Reminders**

**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.

**Our worship services are in need of musicians:** 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. If you are willing to offer your musical gifts or have questions, please contact Mark Suderman at 419.358.5368 or [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu).

**Church Custodian needed:** FMC is in need of a custodian. If interested, email [fmc@fmcbluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmcbluffton.org) and provide your name and contact information. An application and job description will be sent to you.

~ Staff Relations

### **Our Connections**

**On Tuesday, June 8,** J. Denny Weaver, author of *Nonviolent Atonement*, will present *Why did Jesus have to die?* in the first of six webinars in Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's SHALOM series. All webinars in the series will run from 10:30 am to noon CDT. See a detailed list of dates, topics, and presenters at <https://Impeacecenter.org/all-events/#webinars>.

**Anabaptist Disabilities Network and Church of the Brethren Discipleship Ministries** will sponsor a webinar, *Providing Mutual Support When People Experience Mental Illness* Thursday, June 17, at 2 p.m. EDT with Janelle Bitikofer. Become more aware of the prevalence of mental illnesses in our congregations and communities, their causes and symptoms, and some keys to providing mutual support. Use this link to register in advance: <http://bit.ly/MISupportWebinar> -- you will receive a confirmation email with information about joining the webinar. Bitikofer is executive director of We Rise International, lead mental health trainer for Churches Care, and author of *Streetlights: Empowering Christians to Respond to Mental Illnesses and Addictions*. For more information, contact Jeanne Davies at [jeanned@adnetonline.org](mailto:jeanned@adnetonline.org) or 574-343-1362.