

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 7-11-2021**

**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, July 11, 2021**

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

Taste and See, 9:15 a.m., 301

Worship, Ray Person preaching, 10:30 a.m., (in sanctuary and streaming at <https://fb.me/e/1qnlWtZGz>)

Congregational information meeting, 3:30 p.m., FH (childcare provided)

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

**July 12-17, 2021**

Tuesday, July 13 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,

Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

**Sunday, July 18, 2021**

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

Worship, Jeff Boehr preaching, 10:30 a.m.

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

**Happy Birthday!**

**July 12 Peter DeMeo**

**July 13 Braylon Goings**

**July 14 Bill Schroeder**

**July 15 Darby Benroth**

**Jonathan Spelman**

**Jackie Wyse Rhodes**

**July 18 Kevin Nickel**

**When we communicate via email**, we're able to reach our congregants in a timely way. However, we recognize that not everyone is able to receive email communication and/or has simply missed a message. When we send documents such as the Menno-Life, Central District Reporter, or documents such as the script used in Ray Person's video regarding this afternoon's informational meeting, we make hard copies available in the fellowship hall. You'll find new documents on a table in the fellowship hall; after several weeks, they are moved to the literature rack. If you're unable to locate a specific document, please ask us to provide you with a copy.

**During this time** of transition, the Leadership Circle is meeting with Staff Relations to address future staffing needs for the congregation. We want to provide an opportunity for input from the congregation so will hold an informational meeting and discussion for Sunday, July 11, from 3:30-5 p.m., in the fellowship hall. Childcare will be provided. If possible, please let Ray Person ([r-person@onu.edu](mailto:r-person@onu.edu)) know that you will need childcare. If you are unable to attend in person, you may attend virtually (it will probably be just audio) at <https://zoom.us/j/94799064218> or call +1 646 558 8656.

**On Sunday, July 11, we welcome Ray Person to the pulpit.** Ray is a professor at Ohio Northern University, where he teaches classes in Bible and oversees various interdisciplinary programs, including environmental studies. He and Elizabeth live on one of the area's historical Swiss Mennonite farms, which they run as a farm co-op with 20 other families to produce meat, eggs, and veggies.

**The Reopening Task Force** continues to focus on protocols that we believe will help keep us safe, paying special attention to the most vulnerable among us. Therefore, we ask that those who gather for worship wear masks through the end of July in solidarity with our children who are not yet eligible to receive the vaccine. We will reconsider this request again at the end of July. Please contact Rita Dietrich or Pastor Wanda if you have questions.

### **Reminders**

**Bluffton Community VBS** registration forms are available on the table in the FH. The week will be in a hybrid format. Family nights are Sunday, July 18, and Thursday, July 22, from 5:30-8 p.m. (arrive no later than 7:25 to begin stations). For kids ages 4-7, in-person VBS is scheduled Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in groups of 8 with adult walkers. For kids over 8 years old, packets will be available for pick up on Sunday night to complete at home Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Families return Thursday to complete stations together.

**VBS walkers needed:** Due to the hybrid format, groups consist of only 8 children each, aged 4-7. If you are able to help out Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evening, July 19, 20, or 21, contact Carrie Mast at 419.230.1568 or [mastc@bluffton.edu](mailto:mastc@bluffton.edu).

**Pastor Jeff** is in the office for consultation or visits on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Feel free to stop in or make an appointment. Appointment times may be planned for other days except Sundays and Mondays.

### **Our Connections**

**Peter Eash-Scott (Milwaukee Mennonite) and his son John** have created a 5-part, online video series for young children, [Video Neighbors](#). Episodes consider the world around us and explore feelings. You'll see similarities to Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. In light of the pandemic and all that is going on in our world today, this seemed like a good time to engage impressionable young people on these issues in ways that are helpful and healthy for them. And while many in our society are moving on as vaccinations become more common, families with younger children don't have that luxury yet. So a lot of these themes and subjects are still pertinent.

**You are invited to join *Brazo en Brazo*** Sunday, July 11, at 3 p.m. for a Spanish language worship service at Lima Mennonite church. Virgelino "Lino" Córdoba, from Cali, Colombia, will bring the message. Lino and his wife, Carolina, and children, Danna and Joshua, are here for the summer exploring opportunities to serve with Brazo en Brazo, a ministry to Spanish-speaking people in Allen and surrounding counties sponsored by First, Grace, Lima, Salem, and Pike Mennonite Churches as well as the Ohio Mennonite Conference. Marti Meza serves as the part-time staff person for Brazo en Brazo providing assistance to about 30-40 area families in translation, transportation, school enrollment, tax preparation and immigration assistance. Contact Paul Neufeld Weaver for more information.

**Your help is needed 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. Leadership for this project is provided by the Western Ohio Unit officers. The first of two homes have been framed/roofed/sided and windows/doors installed. Tasks yet to be completed include: siding on the unattached garage, interior painting, vinyl flooring, installing kitchen cabinets and bath vanities. We need a group of individuals with at least one experienced leader to volunteer for one of these tasks. The timeframe is roughly the third week of July into August, until completed. To learn more about how you can support this project, contact Lawrence Matthews at [matthewsL@bluffton.edu](mailto:matthewsL@bluffton.edu).