

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 7-18-2021

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org

- **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, July 18, 2021

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

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

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

VBS begins (see schedule, this page)

July 19-24, 2021

Tuesday, July 20 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,
Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Sunday, July 24, 2021

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

Worship, Virgelino Cordoba preaching, 10:30 a.m.

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

Happy Birthday!

July 18 Kevin Nickel

July 19 Linda Headings

July 21 Kristin Niekamp

Makayla Suter

Brandon Rhodes

July 22 Laurel Neufeld Weaver

JP Schumacher

July 23 Cheri Slotter

Please note Bret and Wanda Stopher's temporary address: 9570 North Dixie Highway, Bluffton, OH 45817.

We are happy to welcome two new staff members to FMC at the end of July. Both are familiar to some of you.

Trustworthy Schumacher will be serving as administrative assistant.

Trustworthy is a Bluffton University graduate and has recently returned to Bluffton with her husband, Isaac, and son, Keagan.

Don Burris will serve as custodian. Don is a longtime Bluffton resident, now retired from construction management.

Both have expressed a familiarity and fondness for FMC. Please give them a warm welcome in their new roles. ~ Staff Relations

Mark Suderman has accepted an interim role as *church administrator* beginning in September through the end of the year. He will supervise staff and oversee worship planning. His responsibilities will not include pastoral work but he will ensure those duties are covered. We thank him for serving us in this role.

~ Shelby Cluts for Leadership Circle and Staff Relations

Bluffton Community Vacation Bible

School begins Sunday, July 18, at St. Mary's Catholic Church. This year's theme is Rocky Railway. Children may register on Sunday night, if they're not pre-registered. The week will be in a hybrid format. Family nights are Sunday, July 18, and Thursday, July 22, from 5:30-8 p.m. 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.

MCC Kits: Back to School sales begin soon and that means the beginning of MCC School Kit collection at FMC. Kit items can be purchased for much less at this time. We will collect kits through September. See below the school kit supply list from the MCC website; kit lists are available on the bulletin board by the library.

- 4 spiral or perforated-pages notebooks (8.5 in x 10.5 in and 70 sheets)
- 8 new unsharpened pencils
- 1 ruler (flat, good quality; must indicate 30 cm.; inch markings optional)
- 12 colored pencils (in packaging)
- 1 large eraser
- 2 new black or blue ballpoint pens
- 1 small all metal pencil sharpener, one or two holes. All metal sharpeners can be found online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Bazic.com](https://www.bazic.com) or in the art supply section of retail stores like Staples. Plastic case pencil sharpeners are not accepted because these are poor quality and do not last as long. If you cannot find all metal sharpeners please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners.

~ Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

Be sure to check the small table in the fellowship hall by the pillar closest to the office, for new items. New this week: July CDC Reporter and brochures with information about the 56th Annual Ohio Mennonite Relief Sale, scheduled for August 6 & 7 at the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Wooster.

Reminders

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.

Our Connections

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.

In his closing message at MennoCon21 on July 10 in Cincinnati, Glen Guyton, executive director of Mennonite Church USA urged the church to *Be Transformed*, revealing the denominational theme for the next biennium. *Be Transformed* will be the theme for MennoCon23, the next church-wide convention in Kansas City, Missouri, July 4-8, 2023. To read more news and daily highlights from MennoCon21, see *The 'Nati News* at <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/mennocon21-newsheet/>.