

**FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH**  
**Weekly Announcements 8-1-2021**

**First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817**  
**419-358-5766 | [fmclubluffton.org](http://fmclubluffton.org)**

- **Pastor Wanda Stopher – Monday-Thursday, off Friday, 419-551-1079, [wanda@fmclubluffton.org](mailto:wanda@fmclubluffton.org)**
- **Pastor Jeff Boehr – T, F; 419-236-9150, [jeff@fmclubluffton.org](mailto:jeff@fmclubluffton.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, [sudermanme@bluffton.edu](mailto:sudermanme@bluffton.edu)**
- **Administrative Assistant – Mary Pannabecker Steiner, 419-358-5766, [fmc@fmclubluffton.org](mailto:fmc@fmclubluffton.org)**
- **Custodian – Don Burris, 419-788-6157, [dcburris58@gmail.com](mailto:dcburris58@gmail.com)**

**Sunday, August 1, 2021**

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

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

Worship, Doug Luginbill preaching, 10:30 a.m., in sanctuary and streaming simultaneously at

<https://www.facebook.com/blufftonfirstmennonitechurch> and at

<https://zoom.us/j/94268295805?pwd=cmtUVnVnbkhkRytNU1U2Yy83Z0wwUT09> (passcode: 11111)

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

**August 2-7, 2021**

Tuesday, August 3 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,  
Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Thursday, August 5 Deadline to submit announcements, 9 a.m.

**Sunday, August 8, 2021**

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

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

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

**We welcome Doug Luginbill** as our preacher today. Doug is married to Paula and they have two adult children: Jonathan, married to Kara Marang, and Carissa. He is the conference minister of the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA of which First Mennonite is a member congregation. Doug served as associate pastor at First Mennonite, from 1996-2002. In his spare time he loves long walks with Paula and watching the miracle of seemingly dead fruit bushes spring to life, come to bloom, and offer their ripe and delicious fruit to others. He is also seeking to make peace with the squirrels who also enjoy the fruit in his backyard.

**Happy Birthday!**

**August 1 Isaac Strahan**

**August 3 Carter Phillips**

**Bob Suter**

**August 4 Virginia Theis**

**August 5 Steve Phillips**

**August 7 Jeff Gundy**

**Lowell Hostetler**

**Pastor Wanda is on vacation**

through Friday, August 6. Please contact Jeff Boehr for pastoral care.

**The Reopening Task Force** has updated face mask recommendations based on current CDC guidelines and the high vaccination rate in our congregation. Those who are vaccinated need not wear a mask but may wear one if they are more comfortable doing so. Those who are not vaccinated should continue wearing a face mask. We recommend bringing your own water to services. Please understand that these recommendations are subject to change, and that hospitality to all is a priority as we continue to navigate through these uncertain times. Also, additional work is being done to make electronic participation more accessible for those who are not comfortable attending in person. ~ RTF

**Joint SHY & JHY Swim Gathering** Sunday, August 15, at Bruce Steingass and Amy Freeman's - Bruce and Amy are hosting the youth for swimming at their house - 3381 Road Q, Pandora - from 3-5 p.m. Bring snacks!

**The deadline to submit announcements** for the Sunday announcements document is 9 a.m. Thursday, unless otherwise noted.

### Reminders

**Welcome to Trustworthy Schumacher and Don Burris**, who have joined us as administrative assistant and custodian, respectively. Trusty is Bluffton University graduate and has recently returned to Bluffton with her husband, Isaac, and son, Keagan. Don is a longtime Bluffton resident, father of two adult daughters. He is now retired from construction management. Please give them a warm welcome in their new roles.

~ Staff Relations

**The church has purchased** and installed a new video recording system in the sanctuary. There are many advantages this system will offer, both now and in the future. We are now streaming to both Facebook and Zoom simultaneously. We will also be able to live stream on either platform from anywhere in the church building. Any questions may be directed to Ray Raeburn.

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

**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

**MCC Kit collection has begun** and will continue through September. The kit supply list is below; kit lists are also 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. Metal sharpeners can be purchased 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. If you cannot find all metal sharpeners please pack the kits without them and we will add the sharpeners.

~ Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

### Our Connections

**The July edition of On the Level** is now available from Mennonite Disaster Service. This issue highlights MDS volunteers celebrating creativity during the pandemic, how the Covid Relief Fund kept church doors open, and what hope looks like in small town Texas. Click on this link to read more: <https://conta.cc/3emcUFF>. Hard copies are also available in the fellowship hall.

**MCC urgently needs sewing kits.** In many places where MCC works, sewing skills open doors to additional income that can help a family make ends meet. These kits are often given through MCC-supported programs that teach sewing or tailoring and provide the tools to make and mend clothing or to begin a business. For more information, including a list of kit contents, visit [mcc.org/kits/sewing](https://mcc.org/kits/sewing). Completed kits may be dropped off or mailed to the Goshen Material Resources Center at The Depot (1013 Division Street, Goshen, IN 46528) or the Kidron Material Resources Center at MCC Connections (4080 Kidron Rd, Dalton, OH 44618). Contact the MCC Great Lakes office at 574-534-4071 or [GreatLakes@mcc.org](mailto:GreatLakes@mcc.org) with questions.