

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

Weekly Announcements 8-15-2021

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 – Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766, fmc@fmcbluffton.org
- Custodian – Don Burris, 419-788-6157; dcburris58@gmail.com

Sunday, August 15, 2021

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

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

Worship, Lamar Nisly preaching, 10:30 a.m., sanctuary,
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 16-20, 2021

Tuesday, August 17 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,
Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Thursday, August 19 Deadline to submit announcements, 9 a.m.

Sunday, August 22, 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 Lamar Nisly, who is delivering the message today. Lamar has served at Bluffton University for 25 years, currently as vice president of academic affairs. He and Deborah have three children, who have all connected in various ways with youth activities at First Mennonite.

Pastor Wanda is out of the office Wednesday, August 18, through Saturday, August 21. **Pastor Jeff will be traveling starting** Sunday, August 15, and returning Friday, August 20. For pastoral care please call Pastor Wanda.

Happy Birthday!

Aug. 15 – Barb Stettler

Aug. 17 – Lisa Shelly, Kimberly Suter

Aug. 19 - Neil Kehler– Bruce Steingass

Aug. 21 – Mustaq Ahmed, Kay Huber

Invitation to Communion: Welcome to the table of Jesus our Redeemer! Come to the table humbly, not because you have earned a place here, but because you know your need of mercy and help. Come because you love God and want to love God more. Come because Jesus first loved us, and gave himself for us. Come because you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Come, by the mystery of God's grace, One Spirit-filled people of God, the body of Christ present here and now.

Communion and Almsgiving: As part of our receiving this meal together, we at FMC include the giving of alms. We do this by giving to the Deacons' Benevolent Fund. Almsgiving is a way of demonstrating how our life together is energized by the life and ministry of Jesus when he healed the sick, fed the hungry and brought relief to the poor. We seek to live faithfully by using our Deacons Benevolent Fund to assist those who have need within the church and in the community. Baskets are available at the doors. Please note that all the bread used in communion today is gluten free.

Pastor Wanda's official last day is rapidly approaching: August 31! All are invited to celebrate Wanda's ministry with us on her last Sunday, August 29. We will be honoring her throughout the worship service, and everyone is invited to share their gratitude and farewells with Wanda, and Bret, immediately following the worship service in the fellowship hall during a cookie reception.

We want to congratulate Amber Shelly and Evan Steiner who were married yesterday. Please join us in our celebration and pray for this new union.

The next adventure in our life journey is moving to 4060 Peabody Place in Wooster, Ohio, on August 23. Brett and family live in this area along with members of Judy's extended family. We anticipate seeing more of our granddaughters and their activities. For the last 24 years we have enjoyed Bluffton and our First Mennonite Church family and will miss those friendships. Our phone numbers will remain the same and we welcome visitors. We know transitions aren't easy. Our prayers are with our church family, in the staff and leadership changes as we hope your prayers will be with us as we move and continue our journey.

~ Blessings, Glenn and Judy

Reminders

This is an invitation to consider joining the **Caring Connections team** at First Mennonite. Currently this team of 7 persons offers care and creative connection to congregants who are interested in receiving relational support. We are grateful for persons who have served on this team and currently offer this significant care. To be connected, contact Greg Hartzler of the Gifts Discovery ministry. For questions about the team and its ministry, contact Gene Long or Jeff Boehr.

UPDATE: The Reopening Task Force has updated face mask recommendations again based on updated CDC guidelines. Allen County's COVID status jumped from Moderate to High Community Spread - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>, and there is evidence that vaccinated people can acquire and spread the Delta variant. Since the CDC this week added a recommendation for vaccinated people to wear masks in indoor public settings in areas of substantial to high community spread, we will all resume wearing face masks again during worship. 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.

Individuals wishing to alert the congregation about health concerns of another person must contact a pastoral staff person and the office administrator. In order for us to make a public announcement about someone's health, a family representative must give direct permission to a pastoral staff member. For questions about this, contact Walt Paquin, Connecting Ministry Circle Leader and/or a pastoral staff person.

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

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 are also 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 new address: 3095 Blake Rd. Charlevoix, MI 49720

MCC Kit collection will continue through September. Kit lists are available on the bulletin board by the library.

~ Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

Our Connections

The annual women's retreat is back at Camp Friedenswald and registration is now open. Planned by representatives from Central District Conference (Indiana and Ohio) and Camp Friedenswald staff, it promises to be a weekend of retreat and reconnection. Guest Dr. Sibonokuhle Ncube will speak to the theme "Hope for Healing, Hope for the Earth." See [this link](#) for a full schedule, COVID-19 precautions, and registration information.