

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 8-22-2021

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 22, 2021

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

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

Worship, Wanda Stopher 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 23-27, 2021

Tuesday, August 24 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,
Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Thursday, August 26 Deadline to submit announcements, 9 a.m.

Sunday, August 29, 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.

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.

Our Daily Bread is in need of servers this Monday morning, Aug. 23. The work is easy and the experience is rewarding. We leave the church at 10:45 a.m. Please contact John Rich if you can help.

Happy Birthday!

Aug. 23 – Jeff Boehr

Aug. 25 – Heidrum Awad

Aug. 26 – Jane Weaver

Aug. 27 – Gary Wetherill

Aug. 28 – Perry Bush

Aug. 28 – Jerry Tripp

Aug. 29 – Cassidy Bush

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.

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.

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 Black 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

You can provide relief in Haiti: The people of Haiti need our help. Families who have already suffered so much have been hit once again. The 7.2 magnitude earthquake killed at least 1,300 people and injured many more. Thousands are sleeping outside, with little food and no protection from the elements. With your help, we can reach the people most affected by this tragic event. Your gifts will provide emergency support. Donate today at mcc.org/haiti-earthquake.

See bulletin board

This fall Mennonite Men is partnering with AMBS (including the Church Leadership Center and the Institute of Mennonite Studies) to hold a three-part series of events in which participants will share their own personal narratives, identify the ways they've been shaped by masculine messaging, and reframe their own masculine identity so it's more inclusive and holistic. The series will be composed of two webinars and one on-campus event, facilitated by Ben Tapper with the Kindred Collective. Prior to the event, it is recommended that participants read *The Will to Change* by bell hooks. You can find out more information and register at ambs.edu/narrative.

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.

New curriculum now available from MCC! Conflict is a normal part of life. It arises in our workplaces, in our churches and with our families. To help people learn to work through divisive issues, Mennonite Central Committee has produced a new adult Sunday school curriculum, *Peaceful Practices: A guide to healthy communication in conflict*. It invites churchgoers to follow Jesus' call to peacemaking through dialogue with each other in nine sessions. The curriculum is available to download for free, or in print for a suggested \$5 donation. More information and download available at mcc.org/peaceful-practices.