

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

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

**Sunday, August 8, 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 9-13, 2021**

Tuesday, August 10 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,  
Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Thursday, August 12 Deadline to submit announcements, 9 a.m.

Fri/Sat, August 13-14 Church reserved for wedding

**Sunday, August 15, 2021**

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

Worship, Lamar Nisly preaching, 10:30 a.m.

JHY/SHY swim party at Freeman/Steingass pond, 4-6 p.m.

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

**Happy Birthday!**

**Aug. 9 – Jan Wiebe**

**Aug. 10 – Ron Lora**

**Aug. 11 – Mary Pannabecker Steiner**

**Aug. 12 – Dick Boehr**

**Jan Emmert**

**Dorothy Houts**

**Aug. 13 – Don Pannabecker**

**Aug. 15 – Barb Stettler**

**Communion Aug. 15:** Next Sunday, we will observe communion in our worship service. Preparing for communion is to take time to examine one's life and relationships with God and with our sisters and brothers, the body of Christ. Reconciliation with God and others is one of the themes of communion. Another aspect often overlooked is the *giving of alms*. This is done at FMC 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.

**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.

**After suffering a stroke** about a week ago, Wilda Schrag died August 2 at the Flower Hospital Hospice Residence in Toledo. Her funeral will be Wednesday, August 11, at 11 a.m. at West Zion Mennonite Church, Moundridge, KS. She will be buried next to her husband, David Schrag. Please keep Anita and George Lehman and their family in your prayers in this experience of loss.

**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.

### **Reminders**

**Joint SHY & JHY Swim Gathering** Sunday, August 15, at Bruce Steingass and Amy Freeman's, who are hosting the youth for swimming at their house - 3381 Road Q, Pandora - from 4-6 p.m. Bring snacks!

**Welcome to Trustworthy Schumacher and Don Burris**, who have joined us as administrative assistant and custodian, respectively. Trustworthy is a 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 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** temporary address: 9570 North Dixie Highway, Bluffton, OH 45817.

**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**

**Elaine Sommers Rich**, a longtime member of FMC, died Sept. 27, 2020 in North Manchester, IN. Her son, Andy, shared this link to the recording of her memorial service, held June 24 in Silver Lake, IN: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1WE8C8onDB-EVfP3WKsOkLxy0A03NhZJ7/view?ts=6101ba09>. A copy of the bulletin for the service is posted in the fellowship hall.