

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 9-12-2021
First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817

- **Director of Music/Interim Church Administrator – Mark Suderman, 419-230-5368 (cell), sudermanme@bluffton.edu 419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org**
- **Pastor Jeff Boehr – 419-236-9150, jeff@fmcbluffton.org**
- **Children and Youth Ministry Director – Carrie Mast, 419-230-1568, mastc@bluffton.edu**
- **Administrative Assistant – Trustworthy Schumacher, 419-358-5766, fmc@fmcbluffton.org**
- **Custodian – Don Burris, 419-788-6157; dcburris58@gmail.com**

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Ray Person preaching, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary, streaming simultaneously at <http://tinyurl.com/FMC-on-FB> and at

<http://tinyurl.com/FMC-zoom> (passcode: 11111).

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

September 13- September 18, 2021

Tuesday, September 14 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,
Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Thursday, September 16 Deadline to submit announcements, 9 a.m

Sunday, September 19

Worship, Gloria Hernandez Bucher preaching, 10:30 a.m

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

Ray Person is Professor of Religion and Director of Interdisciplinary Studies at Ohio Northern University. He earned his PhD in Hebrew Bible from Duke University. He and Elizabeth live on one of the historic Swiss Mennonite farms between Bluffton and Pandora, which is run by a co-op of 21 families. He is Moderator-Elect for FMC and currently chairs the Ministerial Committee of Central District Conference.

Happy Birthday!

**Sept. 14 – Andrea Goings
Tim Schumacher**
Sept. 15 – Kaden Niekamp
**Sept. 17 – Mary Edmiston
Ian Macmaster
Jane Steinmetz**
Sept. 18 – Beth Boehr
Sept. 19 – Lucas Harnish



Music Ensemble Rehearsals 2021

Music Ensemble Rehearsals to begin: note the dates, times, locations, and ages for the church's music ensembles. Please consider offering your musical gifts to this important part of worship for our congregation and encourage others to join. We would gladly welcome new additions to the ensembles and will greatly enjoy the return of former members.

- Chancel Choir (adults of all ages) begins on Wednesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. (Mark Suderman, director) – Sanctuary. All vaccinated singers are welcome to participate.
- Adult (adults of all ages) and Youth (Grades 7-12) Bells - both begin on Wednesday, September 8 at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. respectively (Ray Raeburn, director) – assembly room. Since no singing is involved, ringers will be contacted prior to the first rehearsal to finalize safety protocols.
- Cherub Choir (4yr. olds-2nd graders) begins on Wednesday, September 22 at 6:00pm (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room. Those without vaccinations will need to wear masks.
- Jubilate (3rd-6th graders) begins on Wednesday, September 22 at 6:30pm - (Laura Hartzler, director) – children's choir room. Those without vaccinations will need to wear masks.
- Youth Choir (7th grade and up) will meet on Sunday, September 19 at 8:30a.m. (Laura Hartzler, director) – Children's choir room. Those without vaccinations will need to wear masks.
 - Parents with new choir members are welcome to stay as needed.
 - Protocols for all ensembles are subject to change due to changes in COVID-19 spread.

Ministry Opportunities

~**FILLED!** Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator: Thank you, Heidrun Awad for volunteering!

~Nursery Coordinator: This position is responsible for scheduling nursery volunteers during both the SS hour and the worship hour, overseeing that snacks are stocked, and the nursery, toys, and equipment are well-maintained. Occasional recruitment of new volunteers is needed. If interested, contact Carrie Mast.

~Greeters & Hosts Coordinator: This position schedules greeters and hosts each Sunday. If interested, contact the church office.

~Weekday Christian Education (WCE) Coordinator: This position serves as contact for the community WCE program that brings K-6th grade children to our building for class once a week to study the Bible. The coordinator schedules volunteer walkers from FMC to walk children back and forth from their classrooms to the church.

JHY & SHY are invited across the street to the Methodist Church for Faithline, Sunday evening 6:30 – 8pm. What is Faithline?? ... It's a monthly gathering of youth for dinner, a message and Christian fellowship. It's for all students (6th-12th grades) who want an evening of sharing with their peers of ALL churches and denominations. There will be speakers who share their hearts and their love of the Lord and worship leaders who share their music ministries! Meet in the fellowship hall at 6:20 to walk across the street together!

The Leadership Circle and Staff Relations is pleased to announce that the following have agreed to serve on the Search Committee: Rhonda Winstead (chair), Gloria Bucher, Gerald Mast, Ellie Nickel, Adam Phillips, Greg Ring, and Victoria Woods-Yee.

Mark Suderman will be out of the office from September 10 -20. Please contact the church office for any administrative issues you may have during this time or Pastor Jeff for any Pastoral needs.

Terry Chappell had an accident on his bike and broke three bones in his foot. He had surgery at Blanchard Valley Regional Hospital in Findlay on Monday the 6th. A location for his rehab therapy is yet to be determined. Prayers for Terry in his healing and recovery process over the next several weeks are welcome.

Sojourners Sunday School class is an intergenerational group that utilizes the denominational Adult Bible Study materials in class. We meet in the Assembly Room at the bottom of the stairs in the basement. Visitors and new members always welcome. Contact person for the class is Lori Nester (NesterL@Bluffton.edu - 419-358-9650).

We are planning a church membership class this fall, probably just four sessions, to discuss various aspects of our church, our denomination, and our faith. Jeff Boehr, Pastor of Pastoral Care is excited about leading this group. Then later this fall, for those interested in joining the church, we will have a Sunday morning official welcome and installation of new members. Committing to the class does not mean you have to commit to membership. If you are interested in being a part of this process, please contact Pastor Jeff Boehr.

Life and Faith SS Class will meet starting on Sunday Sept. 19th. I'm excited that Alex Sider will be our teacher this Fall. We will meet in the Parlor. Time 9:15 – 10:15. More info will be coming. Any questions, call Mary Amstutz.

Reminders

UPDATE: Recommendations from the Reopening Task Force focus on the safety and comfort of our church family. As we move forward, the safety and comfort of all continues to be our prime concern. Due to high community spread and evidence that the vaccinated can acquire and spread the disease, we will continue to require masking in all indoor settings, for all, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, and regardless of the size of the group. We recommend bringing your own water to services and meetings. 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. As usual, we will continue to monitor the situation and update as needed.

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

~ Sue Schaaf and Jean Miller

DID YOU KNOW???

Trusty and JP Schumacher baked 180 cookies to hand out to college students at the Bluffton University Church Fair Thursday. Carrie Mast helped Trusty set up the display that offered a glimpse into life at First Mennonite Church. The remaining cookies were donated to Maple Crest.