

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
Weekly Announcements 9-5-2021
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 5, 2021`

Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Doug Luginbill 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 6- September 10, 2021

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

Thursday, September 8 Deadline to submit announcements, 9 a.m

Sunday, September 12

Worship, Ray Person preaching, 10:30 a.m

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

Ministry Opportunities

~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.

~Red Cross Blood Drive Coordinator: This position oversees the blood drives, coordinates volunteers for the donation days, and serves as a contact for the Red Cross. If interested, contact the church office.

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

Happy Birthday!
Sept. 5 – Wendell Miller
Elam Suter
Sept. 6 – Peter Suter
Sept. 7 – Landon Novak
Sept. 8 – Rachel Diller
Melissa Friesen
Dennis Phillips



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.

The Leadership Circle and Staff Relations met on Tuesday, August 31. At this meeting we finalized the necessary forms for beginning a search and strategized the formation of the search committee. Rhoda Winstead has agreed to chair the search committee and the rest of the search committee will be announced once it is finalized. Look for an email from the church office that will include the necessary forms for your information. If you have any questions, please talk with one of the members of the Leadership Circle or Staff Relations.

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.

Prayers for Elizabeth Raid are welcomed as she receives treatment for pancreatic cancer. Elizabeth lives in Newton, KS and is the daughter of the late Howard Raid who taught at Bluffton University. Her new address is 2121 N. Anderson Ave., Newton, KS 67114.

Joan Dailey is at The Mennonite Home following surgery on her back. Prayers for her in the healing and recovery process are welcome.

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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 Mark Suderman.

The Faithful Living class will start meeting again on September 5 at 9:20. If you are interested in attending, please join as often as possible.....all are welcome! If you have questions, contact Greg Ring at h.greg.ring@gmail.com or by calling: 419-379-5310.

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

Our Connections

Continue to pray for the people of Afghanistan, including vulnerable women and children, and the many partners with whom MCC works. Pray that hope would not be extinguished during this season of uncertainty and fear.

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