

## FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH

First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817

419-358-5766 | [fmcbluffton.org](http://fmcbluffton.org)

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

### Sunday, November 28, 2021

Youth Choir 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Gerald Mast 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.

### November 29 – December 4, 2021

Tuesday, Nov 30 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,  
Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec 1 Cherub Choir 6 p.m. Children's choir room  
Jubilate 6:30 p.m.  
Adult Bells 6 p.m. Assembly room  
Youth Bells 7 p.m.

Chancel Choir 7 p.m. Sanctuary

Thursday, Dec 2 Deadline to submit announcements 9 a.m.

### Sunday, Dec 5, 2021

Worship – Kathy Dickson preaching

Lectionary: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

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

**WHAT:** Library Work Session

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 2

**WHO:** Anyone interested in helping with the library

**TIME:** Come and go between 5 and 7 p.m as your schedule allows

**WHAT IS HAPPENING:** How-to session with hands-on work, Q&A, etc

**WHAT:** American Red Cross Blood Drive

**WHEN:** December 2, 2021

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m – 6:00 p.m

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter fmenncbl to schedule an appointment.

**Volunteer sheet in the Fellowship Hall.**

### Happy Birthday!

**Nov. 29 – Thomas Schaaf**

**Nov. 30 – Esther Strahan  
Beverly Simon**

**Dec. 1 – Grace Paquin**

**Dec. 3 – Carrie Phillips  
Sarah Phillips**

**Donations needed for the Food Pantry.** The need is especially for meat products, tuna, chefboyardee products, chunky soups, spaghetti, spaghetti and sauce, pet food, canned fruits, cereals, macaroni products, chili, and soups (cream of mushroom, cream of chicken and tomato). Puddings, jello, cake mixes and cookie mixes have been popular too.

**Save the Date! Children's Christmas program on December 19.**

**As we at First Mennonite Church** continue to take seriously the pandemic of COVID-19, we also realize that life has changed around us. We are grateful for the strong fully vaccinated rate in our church, and now we have boosters and pediatric vaccines that will only help with better protection. We believe that the safety precautions taken within the church body, especially with large group gatherings, have worked well for us in the past and we want to continue much of that. Therefore, we will continue masking and social distancing for worship, Sunday School, and music ensembles. However, we will leave it to small groups to discern other practices when they meet. And, if various groups, including Sunday School classes, are in agreement, eating meals together is fine. The drinking fountains are now available to all, but people are also welcome to bring bottled water. We will continue to encourage outside groups, who use our building, to mask and take similar safety precautions.

**Thank you for your generosity!** Our church finances are the healthiest they've been in many years as we move into the last giving weeks of 2021. At the end of October, we were experiencing a surplus of over \$30,000, partly due to our much-reduced spending plan for 2020. However, we also have set a new record in total giving for this point in the year: \$314,000. Your early and ongoing contributions help the Treasurer team sleep better at night! In this season of gratitude, thank you for your strong and continued financial support as we hope to end the year on a positive financial note.

### **Announcements**

**Tomorrow morning** is your opportunity to serve at Our Daily Bread in Lima. We leave from the church at 10:45 a.m. Questions? Contact John or Carolyn Rich 419-358-5405.

**Christmas & Pizza!** Join the youth group on December 5<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Everyone is welcome! All decorators are welcome to fellowship over a pizza lunch provided by the youth when the decorating is complete, or feel free to take a few slices home to enjoy.

**St. John's United Church of Christ** will be holding a Blue Christmas Service on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. All are welcome. Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) is a service in the Advent season marking the long dark nights of the season and is often held on the Winter solstice. The service is designed to offer hope to people who may be experiencing grief or loss during this time.

**Are you interested** in sharing your gifts of scripture reading with the congregation? We are planning to include readers theatre arrangements of scripture passages for multiple voices (LOGOS-style), as well as opportunities for solo readers, during the season of Advent. We will hold a brief mid-week evening rehearsal for each week's readers. Readers are welcome for just one Sunday, or for multiple Sundays. If you are interested in being a reader or have any questions, please contact Melissa Friesen at [friesenm@bluffton.edu](mailto:friesenm@bluffton.edu) or 419-408-8189.

### **Reminders**

**Thank you** to those who have already written a draft testimony to support the bipartisan bills for bail reform in Ohio. For those who haven't yet, there is still time! It is likely that the next hearing on the bail bills will be in early 2022. Contact Jan Wiebe for more information [wiebe.jan@gmail.com](mailto:wiebe.jan@gmail.com).

**Join us for a 'Trunk Sale' Sunday, December 5,** following worship! This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of what would become MCC's Self-Help Crafts/Ten Thousand Villages. It all began with Edna Ruth Byler, MCC worker based in Akron, Pa. After visiting Puerto Rico, she returned with needlework items and sold them from the trunk of her car. This project grew as she added goods from other countries and expanded her "trunk sales" across the United States. Early connections with First Mennonite include Dick and Margaret Weaver, who were serving in Puerto Rico around the same time. Our committee plans to display examples from these early sales. Please contact one of us if you have items you are willing to lend. If anyone has memories/stories from relatives about the early trunk sales, we welcome those as well. For our trunk sale, cash or check only. Donations are welcome. If you wish to order directly from Ten Thousand Villages online, please use the link [tenthousandvillages.com/bluffton](http://tenthousandvillages.com/bluffton). That way your purchase will allow our local store to receive a percentage of your purchase. *Susan Gratz, Linda Headings, Bill Suter, Lori Nester, Mitch Kingsley*

### **Our Connections**

**Volunteer opportunities** at MHCO. Persons interested may contact Chris Moser at [cmoser@mhcoliving.org](mailto:cmoser@mhcoliving.org), 419-358-1015 ext 263. *See Mission, Peace and Service Bulletin Board.*

