

Dare To Imagine God's Goodness

Advent 1

First Mennonite Church
November 28, 2021

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements Laurel Neufeld Weaver
Prelude Laura Hartzler
Invocation

*Opening Hymn VT 210 *O Come, O come, Immanuel* (verses 1, 3, 4, 7)

* Confession and Assurance

One: A friend once said children grow taller at night—
while at rest—bones quietly stretch, and bit by bit
their bodies grow.
Trees grow silently, too—from deep inside energy
is released.

Branches reach for the light.

People can grow silently, too.

**Many: We confess that all too often we stifle the
growth God inspires deep inside of us, preferring
the immediate, the good enough, the
comfortable.**

One: In Advent—O God—cause us to get up on our
tiptoes, lean forward, and extend our gaze.

**Many: Surely God, who caused the righteous Branch to
spring up, will enliven our imaginations in this
season of hope.**

(silence)

Words of Assurance

Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Amy Shadbolt

Hymn VT 510 *Today Earth Is Singing* (sing as children come
forward and return to their seats – use “children” in the blank text)

Candle Litany

One: We light a candle of hope. And we
imagine:

**Many: God's righteousness, God's steadfast
love, God's justice.**

One: We light the candle to see God's goodness
in us, among us.

**Many: Imagine that...we are God's wonders,
blessed wonders.**

Scripture Jeremiah 33:14-16 LOGOS

Community Prayer Adam Phillips

Scripture Luke 21:25-36 LOGOS

Message *Living in the End Times* Gerald Mast

Living God's Story

*Hymn of Response VT 407 *View the Present*

Offering

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Dedication Prayer

Sending

*Hymn of Sending VT 215 *Oh, How Shall I Receive Thee*

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please rise in body or in spirit.*

VT - Voices Together (Purple Bound Book)

HWB - Hymnal: A Worship Book (Blue Bound Book)

STJ - Sing the Journey (Green Spiral Book)

STS - Sing the Story (Purple Spiral Book)

In response to God's unconditional love for all people, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome you to join us on our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. We are committed to breaking down dividing walls and building community where all are loved and accepted. We believe in active inclusion and invite each one to participate in the life and ministry of our congregation.

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

Church Staff

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

Office Hours

- **Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9:00am-3:30pm**
- **Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-4:30pm**

Pastor Jeff Boehr

- **Wednesday 9:00am-12:00pm**

Video: Ray Raeburn

Sound: Melissa Friesen

Chancel: Carolyn Rich

Nursery Care: Cheri Slotter

First Mennonite Church is affiliated with the Central District Conference of Mennonite Church USA. The Mennonites are named after Menno Simons, one of our early church leaders, and are rooted historically in the "Anabaptist" movement, which began in 1525, with origins in Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands now reaching around the world. Some primary Anabaptist convictions then and now are following Jesus Christ in service to others, rejection of violence and war, and joyful community life.

Reported Volunteer hours: 46

11/14/21 - 11/21/21

