

FIRST MENNONITE CHURCH
First Mennonite Church, 101 S. Jackson Street, Bluffton, Ohio 45817
419-358-5766 | fmcbluffton.org

- **Pastor Jeff Boehr – 419-236-9150, jeff@fmcbluffton.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@fmcbluffton.org**
- **Custodian – Don Burris - 419-788-6157, dcburris58@gmail.com**

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Youth Choir 8:30 a.m.

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.

December 13 – December 18, 2021

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

Wednesday, Dec 15 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 16 Deadline to submit announcements 9 a.m.

Sunday, Dec 19, 2021

Children's Christmas Program 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Worship – Janeen Bertsche Johnson preaching

Lectionary: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-55

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

Ministry Corner

~Linda Miller and Heidrun Awad are looking for help running the elevator on Sunday mornings. Occasional subs or long term help are both welcome. Please reach out to Linda, Heidrun or Circle Leader Rich Bucher if you are interested in learning a new skill and/or helping support this important service for those in our congregation with limited mobility.

Mark Suderman has been called for jury duty on Monday, December 13. If selected, he will be out of the office for part or all of the week. He will be checking his phone and email as he is able.

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 14 – Diane Reichenbach
Dec. 17 – Ray Person

"Imagine God" ... As a child I imagined a wise old man dwelling in the clouds, but every decade of my life has added new feelings, ideas, and images about the great "I am". How does one show a spirit, beliefs, attitudes, or actions visually? Paper collages offered a way to include a lot of images to spark your thinking and expand your ideas about the greatness of God's goodness, embrace, song, humanity, dwelling and radiance. Weaving together colors, textures and patterns of many scarves seems a fitting way to show God's embrace of all things good and beautiful. -Carolyn Rich

WHAT: Handel's Messiah
WHERE: Bluffton University Yoder Recital Hall
WHEN: Sunday, Dec. 12 at 4pm
The event is free and open to the public but tickets are needed.
<https://www.bluffton.edu/tickets>

The Children's Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 19, at 9:45 am in the sanctuary. Join the FMC kids to see their interpretation of the Nativity!

SAVE THE DATE!

New Pictorial Directory: Photo Sessions July 8-10, 2022

Announcements

Melissa Friesen is delighted to be arranging our scripture passages for multiple readers for this Advent season. Our readers, collectively called LOGOS, include James Gott, Emily Hilty, Alice Lora, Carrie Mast, Ruth Naylor, Ellie Nickel, Carrie Phillips, Pat Sheidler, Gary Wetherill, and Victoria Woods-Yee. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us in worship!

A huge thank you to our congregation for participating in the Trunk Sale last Sunday. We brought in \$392.14 from purchases, plus donations, to total well over \$400. We really appreciate FMC's ongoing support of Ten Thousand Villages. Special thanks to Lowell and Marty Hostetler, Carolyn Rich, Joyce Hostetler, Cheri Slotter, Sally Weaver Sommer, Suzann Bauman, Judy Decker, and Marcie Allen.

Planning committee Mitch Kingsley, Linda Headings, Lori Nester, Bill Suter, and Susie Gratz

MC USA Special Delegate Session

Due to pandemic-related travel concerns, the regular Delegate Assembly connected with MennoCon21 was reduced to a short, online session. So, on May 27-30, 2022, MC USA is holding a special session of the Delegate Assembly.

The session will involve processing:

- [Clarification on Mennonite Church USA Polity and the Role of the Membership Guidelines of Mennonite Church USA](#)
- [MC USA For Justice Resolution](#)
- [MC USA Accessibility Resolution](#)
- [A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation](#)

Please note that our church is a sponsoring member of the last resolution. There will also be information and sessions/materials to engage with before the meeting is held. You can find more information at

<https://www.mennoniteusa.org/resource-portal/resource/delegate-resources-special-session-may-2022/>.

Our church can send up to 5 delegates. To create some continuity, delegates from MennCon21, Gerald Mast and Walt Paquin, have agreed to continue in this role. We are hoping two women will join these men as delegates, plus have our new pastor as a delegate (assuming we have hired someone by then.) The church is planning to pay the expenses for those attending this delegate session. If you are interested in being considered as a delegate, please contact the church office.

Apply now for a 2022-2023 scholarship. Our church's faith-based partner, Everence, wants to help people nurture their talents. If you or your parents are Everence members and you will be enrolled in a college or trade school next fall, apply for an Everence College Scholarship of up to \$3,000 before Feb. 28.

Visit everence.com/college-scholarships now for guidelines and an application.

Reminders

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. Place items on the pew under the quilt in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Connections

Give gifts of comfort and joy with MCC! Delight your loved ones and share God's love with our global neighbors this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, clean water, fruit trees, books and many more. Give at mcc.org/delight or call 888.563.4676.