

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 19, 2021

Youth Choir 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.
Children's Christmas Program 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary
Worship, Janeen Bertsche Johnson 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 20 – December 25, 2021

Tuesday, Dec 21 Morning prayers, Sanctuary, 7 a.m.,
Staff meeting, Parlor, 9 a.m.
Thursday, Dec 23 Deadline to submit announcements 9 a.m.
Friday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 26, 2021

Worship – Doug Luginbill preaching
Lectionary: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17;
Luke 2:41-52
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.

Janeen Bertsche Johnson is Director of Campus Ministries, Alumni Director, Admissions and Development Associate, and Core Adjunct Faculty member at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, where she has worked since 1995. She and her husband Barry are parents to Hannah (Scott) and Aaron (Kim) and grandparents to 18-month-old Byron. The Bertsche Johnson household includes AMBS student Sibonokuhle Ncube and her three daughters (ages 20, 17, and 7) from Zimbabwe. While Janeen was a student at Bluffton College (1982-86), she was very involved at First Mennonite as a youth sponsor, adult choir member, and director of the children's choir and high school choir. She is a niece of Mary Ann Moser and cousin of Dave and Chris.

Children's Christmas Program



9:45 a.m. Sanctuary

Join Sue and Tom Schaaf as they celebrate their 50th **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!!** Your love for each other is an inspiration and great example of commitment for everyone around you.

Happy Birthday!
Dec. 21 – Bobbie Chappell
Dec. 22 – Gene Long
Dec. 23 – Terry Chappell
Sally Roth

SAVE THE DATE! New Pictorial Directory:
Photo Sessions July 8-10, 2022

Announcements

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 27 and Monday, January 3 for staff to observe the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. In addition, the office will be closed at noon on Friday, December 24.

We are grateful for the many prayers and thoughtful encouraging cards received during Sam's hospitalization. Our hearts are filled with God's overflowing love as Sam continues with physical therapy. Thank you, our Church Family!
-Sam and Joan Diller

Reminders

Apply now for a 2022-2023 scholarship. 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.

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.

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.

Call for Artists

We are extending an invitation to artists across Central District Conference to apply to create a work of art representing our new two-year theme of Tending Transformation. We will choose four artists from among the applications we receive. **Please apply by sending your name and contact info (mailing address, email address and phone) to office@mcusacdc.org by December 31, 2021.** We will let you know if your application has been accepted no later than Jan 15. Deadline to complete the piece will be May 15.