

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 5, 2021

Youth Choir 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, Kathy Dickson 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 6 – December 11, 2021

Tuesday, Dec 7 Morning prayers, sanctuary, 7 a.m.,

Wednesday, Dec 8 Staff meeting, parlor, 9 a.m.

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 9 Deadline to submit announcements 9 a.m.

Sunday, Dec 12, 2021

Worship – Ray Person preaching

Lectionary: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

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

Deck the Halls! All are welcome to join the Senior High Youth to **decorate the sanctuary** Sunday immediately following worship. BRIBE: free pizza lunch when the work is complete! Eat in or take out!

“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

Happy Birthday!

**Dec. 6 – Doug Luginbill
Natalie Shenk**

Dec. 8 – Susan Gratz

**Dec.10 – Danielle Novak
Carolyn Rich**

Join us for the Trunk Sale following worship today! This year marks the 75th anniversary of what would become MCC's Self-Help Crafts/Ten Thousand Villages. It all began with Edna Ruth Byler, MCC worker 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. We will have a small sampling of the many unique items from the store. 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. That way your purchase will allow our local store to receive a percentage of your purchase. Susan Gratz, Linda Headings, Lowell Hostetler, Mitch Kingsley, Lori Nester, Bill Suter.

Announcements

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who worked on the Blood Drive. Your work was greatly appreciated.

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.

Much appreciation to John Rich for the outstanding design and construction of the new video-recording cabinet! Visit Ray on a Sunday morning to see it in action!

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!

Reminders

St. John's United Church of Christ will be holding a Blue Christmas Service on December 5th at 4:00pm.

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

Save the date for the Ohio MCC Comforter Bash on April 22-23! A handmade comforter provides not only warmth, but also a tangible message to people that their needs are not forgotten. Join others of all ages for this two-day event in Kidron to knot comforters that Mennonite Central Committee will distribute around the world. We invite you to make comforter tops and backs (60" x 80") for use at the Comforter Bash. Comforter backs and tops should be dropped off at the MCC Material Resources Center in Kidron (4080 Kidron Road) between January 1 - March 1. For more information, visit mcc.org/ohio-comforter-bash.