

# Dare To Imagine God's Radiance!

First Mennonite Church

January 2, 2022

## Gathering

Welcome and Announcements Chris Moser  
Prelude Ken Graber  
Invocation  
\*Opening Hymn HWB 216 *Christ, whose glory fills the skies*  
\*Confession and Assurance

**All: God of the vast heavens, expansive oceans,  
majestic mountains, and rolling prairies, forgive us  
for our need to conquer and control.  
Cause us to look up, reach out, and follow . . .  
For you, O God of infinite imagination, will lead us.**

Words of Assurance

## Telling God's Story

Conversation with Children Kendra Nickel

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 the Christ candle to honor Jesus and listen as all creation joins in praise.

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

Special Music Youth Choir  
Scripture Isaiah 60:1- 6 LOGOS

Special Music *Bright Morning Stars* (traditional Appalachian)  
Harnish Family

Community Prayer Adam Phillips

Scripture Matthew 2:1-12 LOGOS

Message *Both Light AND Dark* Carrie Mast

## Living God's Story

\*Hymn of Response VT 211 *Hope Is a Candle*

Offering (White gift offering)

Words of Invitation

Offertory

Dedication Prayer

## Sending

\*Hymn of Sending VT 275 *O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

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

#### Church Staff

- 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)

#### 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:** Chris Gott

**Chancel:** Carolyn Rich

**Nursery Care:**

*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.*

12/19/21 - 12/26/21 Reported Volunteer hours: 36.5

