



2025 Report to Central District Conference

ANABAPTISM AT 500

During the spring 2025 semester, Bluffton University hosted numerous events in conjunction with the celebration of Anabaptism at 500. During this time of commemoration, Bluffton reflected on its faith heritage as a Mennonite institution. **Dr. John D. Roth**, emeritus professor of history at Goshen College and project director for Anabaptism at 500 for MennoMedia, was a featured speaker at many of these events. Bluffton will continue its commemoration of Anabaptism at 500 in the **fall semester**. A full list of events can be found at www.bluffton.edu/anabaptism500

BLUFFTON COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Bluffton College Foundation, a newly established 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to supporting the long-term success and development of the Bluffton campus was launched Feb. 14, 2025. **Edward Diller '69** was named chairman of the board, which will be made up of Bluffton alumni and Mennonite-affiliated friends and donors. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.bluffton.edu/foundation

SPIRITUAL LIFE WEEK

Rev. Dr. Maxwell Kennel, pastor, Hamilton Mennonite Church, and director, Pandora Press, was the spring semester's Spiritual Life Week speaker. Rev. Kennel spoke at Forum on Tuesday, March 25, and also at Chapel on Thursday, March 27, focusing on the theme "Faith and Memory" in connection to the university's commemoration of Anabaptism at 500.

THE LION AND LAMB PEACE ARTS CENTER

The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center hosted a Taiko Japanese drumming workshop, Feb. 18, open to students, faculty, staff and community members. Additionally, the **"Teaching Peace to Children"** program, a series of sessions on issues such as conflict resolution and cultural understanding, began again in early March. The Lion and Lamb also welcomed **interim assistant director Georgia Adams** in early February.

EARLY ANABAPTIST BIBLES

Dr. John D. Roth, **Dr. Gerald J. Mast**, **Dr. Raymond F. Person, Jr.** and local participants in Anabaptist Bible study groups celebrated the release of the Anabaptist Community Bible Sunday, March 9, as part of Bluffton's Anabaptism at 500 series. **Musselman Library** also hosted an exhibit "Pages of Persistence: An exhibit of early Anabaptist Bibles," March 9-23.

125TH COMMENCEMENT

Bluffton University welcomed its 125th graduating class this May. **Dr. Perry Bush**, emeritus professor of history, was chosen to be the Commencement speaker during the May 3 ceremony in Sommer Center.

MERGER STOPPED

Bluffton University was informed that the University of Findlay Board of Trustees voted on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, not to proceed with the joint application to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for merger approval and to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding signed on March 19, 2024. To learn more visit www.bluffton.edu/strategic-faq

Dr. J. Alexander Sider **appointed Interim President**

Bluffton University announced Feb. 26, 2025, that **Dr. J. Alexander Sider** was named interim president effective immediately. Dr. Sider, a longtime member of the Bluffton faculty and previously Dean of Academic Affairs, has served the university in various roles since joining in 2006. His leadership, deep knowledge of the institution and dedication to Bluffton's mission make him well-qualified to guide the university through this transition. The university's Board of Trustees will work closely with Dr. Sider to ensure a smooth transition and continue to advance Bluffton's mission of "preparing students of all backgrounds for life as well as vocation."

Save the date

"Grace and Peace" Concert

Oct. 26, 2025, Yoder Recital Hall

Bluffton University Homecoming

Oct. 4, 2025

MC USA Convention

July 8-12, 2025, Greensboro, N.C.

Stay tuned for more information about the Bluffton University Alumni Meetup.

Meet with fellow alumni and visit with Interim President Sider.

Thank you for visiting the
Bluffton University Campus
during the CDC gathering!

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