



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

August 2020

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Weekly worship videos are released each Sunday morning at 10:30 AM on our [church Facebook page](#), and later posted to our [church website](#).

Sunday, August 2

Preacher: Rev. Chris Schilling
Liturgist: Clair Winebar
Hymn Singers: Tanya Best and Judy Evans
Slides: Julia Szabo
Acolyte/Baptismal Water: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, August 9

Liturgist: Laura From
Hymn Singers: Don Brauen and Pastor Karol
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolyte/Baptismal: Owen and Clara Brauen

Sunday, August 16

Preacher: Tenna Rhonemus
Liturgist: Dick McGarrity
Hymn Singers: Lori Schmidt and Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolyte/Baptismal Water: Bowen Hochstetler

Sunday, August 23

Liturgist: Jade Hockstetler
Hymn Singer: Julia Szabo
Organ: Sue Van Eman
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolyte/Baptismal Water: McVetta Girls

Sunday, August 30

Liturgist: Lynda Best
Hymn Singers: Dave and Linda Sycks
Slides: Michelle Talavinia
Acolyte/Baptismal Water: Ethan Friesel

Mark Your Calendars!

- August 2 – Zoom Fellowship 10:00 AM; Worship/Communion 10:30 AM*
- August 5 – Racial Justice Discussion/Study 6:30 PM
- August 6 – Worship Committee 6:30 PM
- August 8 – Lima Rescue Mission: Contact Bob Hursh
- August 9 – Zoom Fellowship 10:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM*
- August 16 – Zoom Fellowship 10:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM*
- August 16 – Zoom Conversation with Author Marlena Graves 7:00 PM
- August 18 – Deacons 6:30 PM
- August 20 – Session 7:00 PM
- August 23 – Zoom Fellowship 10:00 AM; Worship 10:30 AM*
- **August 23 – Newsletter Items Deadline.** jcgillen99@gmail.com
- August 30 – Zoom Fellowship 10:00AM; Worship 10:30 AM*

*Weekly worship videos are released each Sunday morning at 10:30 AM on our [church Facebook page](#), and later posted to our [church website](#). As of June, session approved the task force recommendation to continue online-only worship for the rest of the summer. We tentatively plan to return to worshipping in the sanctuary in September, unless the state of the pandemic forces us to consider otherwise.



Pastor's Letter

Back in January 2018, when I was still a brand-new pastor here, I set out on a mission to meet/visit with every church member – both individuals and families – outside of weekly worship. This was a great way for me to get better acquainted with the lives behind the faces I would see in the pews on Sunday mornings.

Fast forward to mid-2020, and I don't see any faces in the pews – as worshipping online has been our faithful attempt to maintain regular opportunities for worship while avoiding in-person gatherings for the sake of everyone's health. And while I am glad to provide worship videos for online viewing, the platforms we have agreed to use do not allow us to see each other.

I never finished all of those “get to know you” visits; some were rescheduled, others just never happened, and we have welcomed new faces since then! So, maybe now is the time to resume these personal visits! While we will need to maintain social distance (which makes sharing a meal together challenging), front porch or backyard visits just might be what we've been missing! So, here is your open invitation – whether we got together before or not – to set up an open-air visit during these stressful pandemic times. If you are not comfortable meeting in person, we can also arrange a video call to see one another virtually.

Better yet – don't limit this opportunity just to me! Invite another person or family from the congregation who you miss seeing or who you would like to get to know better. Pick up the phone, set a time, and enjoy simple fellowship and powerful connection with another part of the body of Christ. Bring some joy into your life and theirs in this difficult year. May 2020 challenge us to draw closer together in spirit as we remember who we are and whose we are.

In Christ,

Pastor Karol

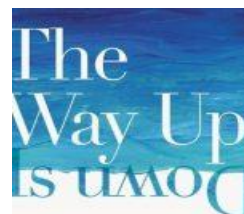


Star Word

Here is a star word reflection from one of our members:

Crafting wreaths
Ordained minister that I love
Not everything is easy
Family of God
I have confidence in being a lay reader
Daily prayers
Eternal love
New reflections
Christmas Eve services
Expressions of helping others

*Written with **Confidence**,
Lin Rumer*



A Conversation with Author Marlena Graves - August 16, 7:00 pm

You are invited to join First Christian Church of Findlay (Rev. Chris Schilling, Pastor) for a Zoom Conversation on Sunday, August 16th at 7:00pm with author Marlena Graves for a discussion on her book “The Way Up Is Down: Becoming Yourself by Forgetting Yourself.” In the book she describes the process of emptying herself that allows her to move upward toward God and become the true self that God calls her to. Drawing on the rich traditions of Eastern and Western Christian saints, she shares stories and insights that have enlivened her transformation. RSVP for the Zoom Conversation by going to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daca23a6fec25-conversation> (A link with the Zoom login information will be sent to you a week before.) Additionally, pick up a copy of her book now at: <https://www.ivpress.com/the-way-up-is-down>

Preschool Precautions Update

The Bluffton Community Preschool, which has rented space from us for the past three school years, is taking the necessary precautions to keep everyone healthy and the building clean and safe upon returning to the classroom this fall. Current state guidelines have limited class size to be no more than 9. In the 3-year-old room, the class is limited to 6 due to the room's square footage. This means there will be 20 fewer students attending this year.

The 3-year-old students will be arriving and departing via the main office entrance. The 4-year-old students will be arriving and departing via the back preschool door. Parents will not be entering the building to wait with their children.

When children arrive, their temperature will be taken and logged, they will sanitize their hands and be marked present on the attendance sheet. If a child has a temperature that is out of range, they will not be permitted to enter the building. Preschool staff will check their own temperature daily as well.

Bathroom breaks for the two classes will be staggered to allow time for proper cleaning. Students will be utilizing the women's restroom only during their sessions. Classrooms, centers, toys, doorknobs, and all high touch surfaces will be cleaned after each class. There is currently no Friday afternoon class session so that time will be used to sanitize the room and items completely before the weekend.

School supplies are per individual child, and all of their supplies are contained in their own pouches kept at the school. This will eliminate children sharing pencils, markers, glue, etc.

Children will not be permitted to come to preschool if they have any of the following: fever or chills, cough or shortness of breath, headaches, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, congestion or runny nose, body or muscle aches, loss of taste or smell, or sore throat.

While we continue to follow the guidelines set by the State of Ohio and the Allen County Health Department, as of now the teachers will be wearing masks during student arrival, departures, and any one-on-one instruction. During the times when they are practicing letter or word pronunciation, our teaching staff has clear face shields to wear to assist with teaching to enable the children to see their mouths when speaking.

Active Scam Alert

Once again, some of our church members have been solicited through a fake email address, indicating the message appears to be from me (Pastor Karol) – or from another staff member – requesting money, gift cards, favors, etc., sometimes even asking not to call because “I’m busy.” (*Calling would actually be helpful because then you would learn that I didn’t send that message!*) The scammers may use a number of fake addresses. This scam has affected churches around the country (see article: [“New phishing scam uses church pastors’ names as bait”](#)).

Please be suspicious of any such unusual messages. If you receive something and you are unsure if you should open it or respond, first ask me about it by phone or in person.

Please note, my correct email addresses are XXX and [XXX](#). Be sure to check that any email associated with my name comes from one of those addresses before responding. The same is true of text messages – do not respond if you do not recognize the number.
~ Pastor Karol

Fellowship Opportunity

The August fellowship gathering will be announced in Pastor Karol’s weekly email. On Sunday, September 13 there will be a fellowship gathering at Don and Jodi Brauen’s from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. October fellowship will be a bonfire held at Don and Cathy Carroll’s home with the date to be announced later.

Zoom Instructions for All Church Calls:



Zoom Instructions for All Church Calls:

To Log in **WITH VIDEO ON YOUR COMPUTER, TABLET, OR SMARTPHONE**, Follow These Steps:

Step 1: Click This Link:.

Step 2: You will be in the "waiting room" for just a moment until I "accept" you into the meeting.

To Call in **WITH YOUR HOME PHONE OR CELL PHONE**, Follow These Steps:

Step 1: Call in by dialing.

Step 2: When it asks for a meeting ID enter: and then press #.

Step 3: If it asks for a participant ID, just press # to continue.

Step 4: You will be in the "waiting room" for just a moment until I "accept" you into the meeting.

Please contact Pastor Karol or someone else who has used Zoom ahead of time if you have questions about how to connect.



Your Deacons have provided their cell phone numbers below for the congregation's convenience. Please do not hesitate to call any of us, for needs you may have. The Deacons have been checking in on members. Hope to see you soon!

Tanya Best
Craig Bowman
Laura From
Helen Hawk
Dave Van Eman

June 2020 Financial Report

General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2020	\$
Receipts thru June 30	
Expenses thru June 30	()
Balance June 30, 2020	\$

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

Bequest It Forward

According to the Presbyterian Foundation, the word "bequeath" comes from an Old English word that means "to say, speak to, exhort". In other words, a bequest is a simple way to speak into the future; a great and joyful way to pay it forward!

A bequest allows you to express your faith in ways that speak to you. You can select a mission or a ministry within our church life that is particularly meaningful to you, or you can provide general assistance for future BPC generations. *[It is like you get to pay it forward and specify the order!]*

A bequest is a lasting expression of faith regardless of size, and as Jesus reminded us in Luke 21, faith is measured in choice and action rather than amount.

It is in our Christian faith and human nature to want to have a positive impact, including a positive impact on the future. Including a bequest or gift to the church in your estate plan or making a living bequest as part of your charitable giving are great and easy ways to make a lasting difference. You likely also agree that BPC has a positive impact on the Bluffton area, and helping ensure the future health and ministries of BPC also helps to ensure a vibrant, neighborly community.

Please visit the Presbyterian Foundation website anytime for estate planning resources, or personally contact Pastor Karol, any member of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, or our church treasurer, Julia Szabo, with any questions or requests for resources that you may have.

<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/>

'Tis in the act of giving that we live. ~William Hall

Something New!



There is a black lockbox mounted on the wall as you enter the church office. Those of you who like to drop off your offering envelope in person, thank you! Please place your offering in the black lockbox instead of in the treasurer's cardboard box on top of the mail cubbies. We want to protect your privacy, so this lockbox will be used for offerings, pledge cards, and any other small notes that you want to keep private. Please continue to place invoices, reimbursement requests, and any other routine paperwork in the treasurer's cardboard box.

Mission News

Little Food Pantry Continues to serve the Community

July 27-Aug 2 Sarah Braun
Aug 3-Aug 9 Diane Winebar
Aug 10-Aug 16 Jayne McGarrity
Aug 17-Aug 23 Pastor Karol
Aug 24-Aug 30 Carol Enneking
Aug 31-Sept 6 Sue Van Eman

Donations of canned meats, canned fruit, and small boxes of cereal may be dropped off in the church basement. Thank you to Sue Van Eman for coordinating the efforts.

School Supply Drive

School Supply Drive handled by Community Assistance this year- due to COVID19, Bluffton Community Assistance has decided to provide gift cards to families rather than having items for pick up. Several very successful fundraisers were held this summer, so the school supply cost will be covered by these funds. Mission Committee has designated \$100 of local mission dollars to assist with school supplies, if needed.

Baby Shower for Mission Co-workers, Ian and Jhan Dotel-Vellenga



You are invited to support
Mission Co-workers, Ian & Jhan Dotel-Vellenga
as they prepare for the birth of their first child
in September. We hope to provide the Hatch© Baby
Rest Sound Machine or Hello Baby© Video Baby Monitor

Donations accepted online or by check until August 20th
Sponsored by the Mission Committee

Christmas in July – Lima Rescue Mission



Support the

Facial Tissues

Ibuprofen

Small tubes Toothpaste

Twin blade disposable Razors

Cough Drops

Bleach

Napkins

Drop off items in the church basement, or contact Carole Enneking (419-348-7691) to arrange for pick up by August 5th. The items will be delivered on the next Lima Rescue Mission meal project on Sat. August 8

Sponsored by the Mission Committee

Pentecost Offering

Last Call for Pentecost Offering- If you have not yet donated to the PCUSA Pentecost Offering, please visit the church website to donate online or mail a check to the church. Forty percent of the gifts will be kept locally to support the Lima Samaritan House. Samaritan House is a homeless shelter in Lima; the non-profit has been struggling during the pandemic due to loss of grants and donations. Thank you for your consideration.

New Beginnings - Lima Rescue Mission

Thanks to our July volunteers for donations and service. We were able to serve pizza, chips, candy bars, and water Saturday, July 11 at Lima Rescue Mission. Our next pizza night is scheduled for Saturday, August 8. We are committed for the following dates: September 26, October 10, November 14, and December 26. Anyone interested in volunteering or donating items, please contact Bob Hursh at .

Community Market Receipts

If you have Community Market receipts, please bring them in and place them in the baskets on the bulletin board or the back of the hallway. Thank you to Kay Ziessler for coordinating our congregation's participation in this rewards program.



New Contact Information

Don't forget to let Cathy Carroll know when you have a change in address, phone number, and/or email address.

If your birthday or one you know of a birthday that does not show up in our newsletter, please let Cindy Gillen know.



New Trees in Church Lawn!

Invitation to Membership

If you are not currently a member of our congregation and would like to find out more, please speak with Pastor Karol. There are 3 paths into active church membership: profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, and certificate of transfer. As you know, confirmation classes to assist our youth in making their first profession of faith are currently in progress. Other educational opportunities can be made available for prospective members to become more familiar with our theology, leadership structure, and more. The primary profession of faith is this: to proclaim Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. We are eager to welcome more people as active members of this family of faith, where we are Growing in Faith and Sharing God's Love.

Thank you!!

Bluffton Presbyterian Church:

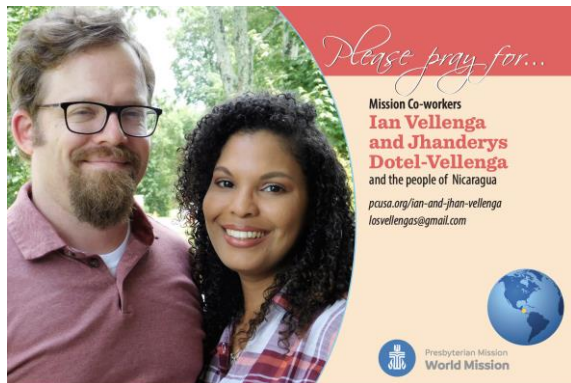
Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. We appreciate your kind donation of \$57.78 from your 3 Cents a Meal Offering. God bless you!

Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation

Mission Co-Worker Connections

For more information:

pcusa.org/ian-and-jhan-vellenga



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We hope you and your congregations are doing well during these challenging times. There is a lot happening in the United States and the rest of the world. Nicaragua and its people are also dealing with the impact of the pandemic and its consequences. We would like to have the opportunity to share with all you a little about what is happening in Nicaragua and CEPAD during a "Supporter Chat"

<https://bit.ly/2OPtHnk> this coming August 5, 2020 at 7:00 PM EST.

During that chat you will have the opportunity to hear about CEPAD's emergency response program and the impact of your donation, and ask questions about the current situation of the virus in Nicaragua. We look forward to having you be part of this chat.

The peace of Christ be with all of you.

Jhan and Ian Vellenga
Mission co-workers
PCUSA
Cepad-Nicaragua

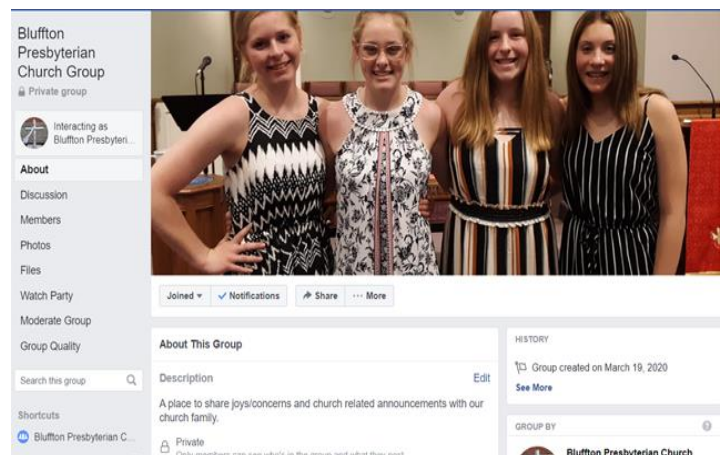
Thank you for supporting Ian Vellenga and Jhan Dorte-Vellenga's ministry in Nicaragua. Your prayers and financial support make a difference to the lives of people in Nicaragua.

Bluffton Clean Up

While social distancing, families are invited to take time to pick up trash from their neighborhood or in public areas (bike path, creeks). Be sure to take a photo and share on Facebook or send to Carole Enneking ().

Church Facebook Group

Join the [Bluffton Presbyterian Church Group](#) on Facebook to stay up to date on joys/concerns and church-related announcements with our church family. We presently have 50 members of the group!



Small Groups Fall 2020

Claralice Circle will resume in-person meetings on Tuesday evenings starting September 15 from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church, following social distancing guidelines and wearing masks.

Sister Min Circle will hopefully reconvene at Maple Crest when restrictions are relaxed.

Anyone wishing to join a small group or become part of a new group is invited to contact Pastor Karol, Diane Winebar, or Jayne McGarrity.

Children ZOOM Meetings

The 7-week Grace and Gratitude Challenge for the children will continue through August 23. Each Sunday morning we will have a ZOOM meeting from 9:30 to 10:00 AM. We will connect with God and each other as we explore a Bible story together. The children will be given a challenge for the upcoming week and they can share their experiences at our next meeting. Feel free to share this with anyone with children, who might want to join us!

Topic: Grace and Gratitude Challenge

Time: 09:30 AM Eastern Time

Every week on Sunday

Aug 2, 2020 - 09:30 AM

Aug 9, 2020 - 09:30 AM

Aug 16, 2020 - 09:30 AM

Aug 23, 2020 - 09:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID:

Password:

Birthdays

August	4	Judy Miracle
	11	Bev Begg
	12	Tom Edwards
	18	Gene Mathewson
	19	Kay Ziessler
	20	Bob Hursh
	21	Lynda Best
	24	Emily Parker
Sept.	4	Jeremy Szabo
	5	Jay McCracken

Anniversaries

August	8	Jay and Anne McCracken
	10	Chris and Karol Schilling
	14	Jeremy and Sunny Zank
	30	Gene and Sue Mathewson
Sept.	1	Jeff and Cindy Gillen

Six Tips for Long-Distance Caregiving

Anyone who is caring for a friend, relative or parent from far away can be considered a **long-distance caregiver**. Whether you are helping with **finances**, arranging for **care**, or providing **emotional support**, long-distance caregiving can bring a host of **unique challenges**.

Keep these tips in mind to help make life more manageable.

- 1 Learn as much as you can about your loved one's health, treatments and available caregiving resources.**

You can understand what is going on, anticipate the course of an illness, prevent crises, and assist in healthcare management.


- 2 Organize important paperwork.**

Keep all vital information in one place and up-to-date, including healthcare documents, wills and financial information. Provide copies to other caregivers.


- 3 Make sure at least one caregiver has written permission to receive medical and financial information.**

To the extent possible, one person should handle conversations with all healthcare providers.


- 4 Plan your visits.**

Find out in advance what the person would like to do. Aim for simple and relaxing activities. And check with the primary caregiver to see if you can help with any priority tasks.


- 5 Stay connected.**

Schedule calls with healthcare providers and facility staff to discuss the person's well-being. Update trusted family members on your loved one's health and needs.


- 6 Consider caregiver training.**

Some local chapters of the American Red Cross or other not-for-profit organizations might offer caregiving courses. Medicare and Medicaid will sometimes cover the cost of this training.



Visit www.nia.nih.gov/long-distance-caregiving to learn more.

 National Institute on Aging



Prayers for all who are struggling with health, finances, employment, or distress during this pandemic. Let us hold one another and all of these in prayer when we lift our hearts to God. If you have prayers you would like to be shared with our church family, please let us know.

Prayers that people would continue precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Prayers for our members and friends serving in the armed forces: especially Kyle Begg, Andrew Warner, and Lucas Woodward.

Prayers for all who are suffering from mental or physical illness in these difficult times.

Prayers for the world as we seek a cure for the coronavirus causing the pandemic.

Prayers for our country as we seek a cure for the virus of racism long embedded in and not yet eradicated from our society, that one day we may live up to our pledge of liberty and justice for all.

Prayers of celebration with Dortha Radabaugh who can walk again on her own!

Prayers for Adam Shanaman's cousin Gretchen who had surgery on a large cyst at the bottom of her spine.

Prayers for Adam Shanaman who has bronchitis.

Prayers of health for Tyler From, that his respiratory issues would improve.

Prayers of continued recovery for Anessa Samsal (Mariah's granddaughter-in-law) who will have occasional radiation treatments following her surgery to remove a brain tumor earlier this summer.

Prayers of strength for Tina Moritz (Gayle Marshall's co-worker) who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

Prayers of celebration with Jeanette Warren, who shares that Dustin and Leslie Freed will welcome their second child in January!

Prayers of comfort for those who experience immense suffering during these difficult times.

Prayers of wisdom and kindness for all as we seek actions and solutions to reduce the impact and length of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prayers of relief for Dorothy Hursey who has returned to Maple Crest.

Prayers of healing for Jessica and Megan, two of Lori Schmidt's nieces who live in Columbus, who tested positive for COVID-19.

Prayers of healing for Matt Pneuman (Mariah's son) who had tonsils and adenoids removed July 16.

Prayers of healing for the family of Cindy Gillen.

Prayers of comfort for Mariah Pneuman on the passing of her system Elizabeth Maritnus in North Carolina on July 22.

Prayers for Brian Hall family from Defiance (friends of Lori Schmidt), for parents in hospital and children at home, all with Covid-19.

Prayers for Jacob Korn (16-year old son of Lori Schmidt's friend), 16, who was in a serious car accident and is receiving care in Columbus.

Prayers of comfort for those who are experiencing immense suffering during these difficult times.

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Craig Bowman (). PLEASE leave a message if no answer. Or call the church office () with your prayer request, and we will pass along the information. If you would like to add someone else to the prayer chain, please be sure to get their permission first. Names and circumstances can be kept confidential, if desired. God knows for whom we pray. If you would like to be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Craig or another deacon.

Faith Formation Activities Survey

Since Session agreed to follow the BPC Pandemic Task Force's recommendations, there will be no in person Faith Formation Activities on Sunday morning until we have a good handle on best practices for in person worship. Because Faith Formation is an important part of being a follower of Christ, we would like to offer these opportunities in some form. Below is a brief survey to help us in our decision making process. Please send your responses to Tenna Rhonemus at by August 12. Your response is not a commitment to participate, but it will help us as we make plans for the fall. Having your name will enable us to reach out to you with more details, or possibly seek more input if needed, as the structure of the class(es) on which you commented is (are) decided.

Thank you in advance for your time and responses!
The Faith Formation Committee

1. Please rank the following **Adult Faith Formation Activities** in order with 1 being the option you find most appealing.

- ☐ In person gathering (following social distancing and mask guidelines) held at a time other than Sunday morning
- ☐ Zoom meeting
- ☐ Personal faith exploration study via email
- ☐ Personal faith exploration study in print form

2. Please rank the following **Children/Youth Faith Formation Activities** in order with 1 being the option you and your children/ youth find most appealing,

- ☐ In person gathering (following social distancing and mask guidelines) held at a time other than Sunday morning
- ☐ Zoom meeting
- ☐ Personal faith exploration study via email
- ☐ Personal faith exploration study in print form

3. If the **adults** were to meet in person, please rank the following day/time options in order with 1 being most preferable.

- ☐ Weekday (specific day and time to be determined)
- ☐ Saturday Morning
- ☐ Saturday Afternoon
- ☐ Saturday Evening
- ☐ Sunday Afternoon
- ☐ Sunday Evening

4. If the **adults** were to meet via Zoom, please rank the following day/time options in order with 1 being most preferable.

- ☐ Weekday (specific day and time to be determined)
- ☐ Saturday Morning
- ☐ Saturday Afternoon
- ☐ Saturday Evening
- ☐ Sunday Afternoon
- ☐ Sunday Evening

5. If the **children** were to meet in person, please rank the following day/time options in order with 1 being most preferable.

- ☐ Weekday (specific day and time to be determined)
- ☐ Saturday Morning
- ☐ Saturday Afternoon
- ☐ Saturday Evening
- ☐ Sunday Afternoon
- ☐ Sunday Evening

6. If the **children** were to meet via Zoom, please rank the following day/time options in order with 1 being most preferable.

- ☐ Weekday (specific day and time to be determined)
- ☐ Saturday Morning
- ☐ Saturday Afternoon
- ☐ Saturday Evening
- ☐ Sunday Afternoon
- ☐ Sunday Evening

7. If the **youth** were to meet in person, please rank the following day/time options in order with 1 being most preferable.

- ☐ Weekday (specific day and time to be determined)
- ☐ Saturday Morning
- ☐ Saturday Afternoon
- ☐ Saturday Evening
- ☐ Sunday Afternoon
- ☐ Sunday Evening

8. If the **youth** were to meet via Zoom, please rank the following day/ options in order with 1 being most preferable.

- ☐ Weekday (specific day and time to be determined)
- ☐ Saturday Morning
- ☐ Saturday Afternoon
- ☐ Saturday Evening
- ☐ Sunday Afternoon
- ☐ Sunday Evening

Giving Online is Fast and Secure in 4 Easy Steps:

Step 1: Go to [www.blufftonpresbyterian.org](#) and click on the word "GIVE" next to the word "CONTACT"



Step 2: Now that you are on our church's Giving page, click the green words

"CLICK HERE TO GIVE"



Support our ministries through your one-time or recurring online gift.

Click Here to Give

Step 3: Fill in the amount for each fund designation, choose a donation frequency (one time, weekly, monthly) and click "Continue"

Donations

If you've already created a profile, please "Log In" on the right, otherwise you may continue without creating a profile. Red starred boxes below require text description. You will have the choice on the payment method page to offset the church's credit card transaction fee. You will receive gift credit for the total amount (gift and transaction fee).

General Fund:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Pentecost Offering:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Offset ACH Fee:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Per Capita:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Roll On:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
One Great Hour of Sharing:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
3 Cents a Meal:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Memorial Gift in memory of:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Other - Please Describe:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Total:	\$0.00

Donation Frequency:

Consider Recurring Donations
Recurring donations provide a steady stream of support. It is a great way to manage charitable giving without the worry of missing a payment- you set the frequency, select the payment method and your gift continues to give over time.

Donation Start Date: mm/dd/yy

Donation End Date: (optional) mm/dd/yy

* = Required

Step 4: Fill in your name, address and credit/debit card info, donation frequency (one time, weekly, monthly) and click "Continue". Check the "I am not a robot" box and click "Process".

Donation Information

First Name: (required)

Last Name: (required)

Address 1: (required)

Address 2:

City: (required)

State / Zip: (required) /

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Account Type
☒ Credit/Debit Card ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

Card Number:

Card Verification Value (CVV2): [What's This?](#)

Expiration Date: /

Name Of Cardholder:

☐ **Optional:** - Give additional 2.75% to help offset the processing fee

☐ Use Same Address As Above

Billing Address 1:

Billing Address 2:

Billing City:

Billing State / Zip: /

☐ I'm not a robot

Note: Please review the information you entered carefully donation will be submitted.

A confirmation screen will let you know you were successful!

Thank you for supporting the mission of Bluffton Presbyterian Church!



How to Give Back to Your Community While Social Distancing by Jim Wang

(from <https://www.ally.com/do-it-right/trends/how-to-give-back-while-social-distancing/>)

The coronavirus pandemic and social distancing are things I've never experienced before. Despite the big changes, I feel very fortunate that our family is healthy, our finances are in good shape despite the recent stock market decline, and we have adjusted to the new schedule without schools and daycare. While we don't enjoy isolation and social distancing, we recognize the good it will do for the community. We have no genuine complaints. We are extremely fortunate and I am personally **grateful** to be in this position. But not everyone is so fortunate, and so, it's incumbent on us to try to help others whenever possible.

If you feel the same, there are ways to give back to your community and support it in ways that won't impact your finances. It will also feel good to take control and *do something*, rather than simply wait out a stay-at-home order. If you have the **financial means to give back**, please do. But if you don't, there are plenty of other ways to boost morale and help others that don't cost much money. I know it sounds silly, but something as simple as sharing a restaurant's post about their curbside pickup specials can go a long way.

Let's go over a few ideas:

1. Check-in with elderly family members or neighbors.

Social isolation is a common problem for many of the elderly. But the implementation of social distancing is making that isolation even more pronounced. People who had few visitors in the past are now getting none at all. Make yourself available to any elderly person you know, just in case they don't have anyone else checking in on them. It could be as simple as making a phone call and chatting with them for a few minutes every few days.

Even better, offer to pick up any necessary items they may need. While it may be easy for you to run to the store on short notice, it could be a major inconvenience for an elderly person. Try your best to sanitize the packaging before handing it off, just in case they don't have the means to do so.

My wife's grandmother lives by herself in Wisconsin, and we were able to place a grocery store order through a delivery service. She told us some of the items she needed, we used the app on our phone, and were able to get her a delivery that afternoon. Given her age, she's in a high-risk group, so this was far better than her driving to the store herself.

2. Shop at local businesses.

Small, locally-owned businesses may be the biggest victims of social distancing. To help alleviate that, shop at local businesses whenever you can and as often as you can. If you don't need anything, consider buying a gift card and using it later. You can always give it as a gift!

Restaurants in our area can no longer sit customers and have transitioned to curbside pickup. If you want a break from cooking, give your local restaurant a call and see what their options are. Many will even deliver food to your car as you wait, limiting the need to go inside. It's recommended you wipe off the packaging with sanitizing wipes to be cautious, but the food inside is safe.

When we do need to go to a grocery store, we visit a smaller family-operated neighborhood grocery store, because it has fewer visitors. They don't have the selection that a larger supermarket has, but it has enough to make the trip worth it. They also offer a special time (10 AM to 1 PM) just for elderly and high-risk people, so they can shop with less worry, which is something I appreciate, even though I don't need it. I've heard of some larger chains doing this as well, which I think is great.

3. Keep in touch with friends & family regularly.

As necessary as social distancing may be in combating the coronavirus, it's also separating us at the very time when we need human contact more than ever. But thanks to technology, we can still keep in close, regular contact with everyone we know, even without face-to-face meetings.

Make a list of everyone you know, and be intentional about calling, texting, emailing, and even setting up video chats with each. This will be especially important to do if you are one of the millions of Americans who have been temporarily furloughed. And not only will you help those you stay in contact with, but you'll also be providing yourself with a healthy dose of emotional support.

One of the fun ways we've kept in touch is online game nights. One of our friends set up a Zoom meeting and a party-style game on their computer. We all "called" into the conference call and played Drawful together. It wasn't like being there in-person, but it was a pretty good approximation and gave us a chance to get together. It was funny to run into common awkward conference call situations, like two people talking at once and not being able to hear each other, but no one offered to "take it offline" or "circle back."

4. Remember local charities.

By staying home, we've saved quite a bit of money, because we aren't spending it on our usual expenses like gasoline, meals, or happy hours. If there ever was a silver lining, it's that we can now give more to our favorite charities, many of which are feeling the pinch. If you're in a similar situation, a little bit could go a long way to an organization in need.

One good place to donate would be your local hospital. Right now, many of them are short on supplies, especially personal protective equipment like N95 masks, and a small donation from you could very well save someone's life. With equipment in such short supply, even a small number of masks would help significantly. Most hospitals have a donations page where you can make contributions.

Your local food bank may also be a good option because they will feel the strain as families need more. If you have any excess items, offer to donate them to a local food bank. If middle-class families have had difficulty getting basic food and supplies, the situation is likely even more difficult for low-income people. They're forced to increasingly rely on local food banks, and those food banks get their supplies from donations from members of the community. This is also true for those with school-aged children. A lot of families rely on the school system for providing meals, and the program could be under pressure to still provide those meals. If you have the resources, you may wish to consider supporting those programs as well.

5. Fun Surprises for Kids

One of the big challenges during this self-isolation period is that it's difficult to find new things for kids to do each day. One thing many families have done is walk or hike together. I've been reading a lot of stories about how neighbors are building in little moments of joy into those walks by [putting bears in their windows](#), decorating with holiday lights, or creating works of art with sidewalk chalk.

Every few days we walk out to our neighbors and write notes and draw pictures at the end of their driveway. They do the same for us. It's a fun little diversion that helps us forget that we can't spend time in person with one another, but we can still build in moments of joy. It's fun to create and discover something new and these rarely cost a penny.

Like every other calamity we have faced, the coronavirus will pass – hopefully, sooner than later. There's plenty we can do to spread goodwill, as well as create a sense of personal mission and contribution, and I hope you found a few you can try today.



Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St., P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817

blufftonpc.org

Sunday Online Fellowship: 10:00 AM

Sunday Online Worship: 10:30 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone:

Email:

Office Hours: Tues 1-4; Wed 10-1

Primary Work Days: Tuesday – Friday

Secretary: Cathy Carroll

Email:

Office Hours: Thurs 9-12

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email:

Faith Formation Intern: Adam Shanaman

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Nursery Helpers: Kori Phipps and Shawna Anderson

Custodian: Roger Brodman

2020 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Lynda Best

Faith Formation – Tenna Rhonemus

Fellowship – Jodi Brauen

Finance & Stewardship – Clair Winebar

Mission – Carole Enneking

New Beginnings – Sarah Brauen

Nominating – Lynda Best and Tenna Rhonemus

Personnel – Betsey Angus

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Worship – Diane Winebar

Members at Large – Sarah Brauen and Lori Schmidt

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Helen Hawk

Assistant Moderator: Laura From

Members: Tanya Best, Craig Bowman,

Dave Van Eman, and Jeanette Warren