



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

July 2018

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 1 - Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Julia and Jeremy Szabo

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Jay McCracken

Acolytes: Brauens

Sunday, July 8

Special Music: Linda Sycks

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Linda Sycks

Sunday, July 15 – Outdoor Service – 9:00 AM

Special Music: Jazz Trio

Dance: Sarah Gillen and Megan Sycks

Sound: Mike Rhonemus

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity

Sunday, July 22

Special Music: Jazz Trio

Sound: Jay McCracken/ Slides: Cathy Carroll

Liturgist: Ryan Brauen

Acolyte: McVettas

Sunday, July 29

Sue Van Eman – Organ

Special Music: Don Brauen

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Leslie Freed

Liturgist: Helen Hawk

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, August 5 - Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Lay Reader: Lori Schmidt

Mark Your Calendars!

- July – No Session or Deacons Meeting
- July 5 – VBS Crafting Party – 7:00 PM
- July 8 – Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting – Following Worship
- July 15 – Outdoor Service – 9:00 AM
- July 15 – Mission Committee Meeting – Following Worship
- July 22 – Rain Date if needed for Outdoor Service – 9:00 AM; otherwise 10:15 AM
- July 22 – Fellowship Provided by Ignite – Following Worship
- July 22-26 – Vacation Bible School – First United Methodist Church – 6:00 to 8:00 PM
- July 29 – Newsletter Items Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- July 29 – Church Picnic at Don & Jodi Brauen residence – Swim 3:00 PM; Meal 5:00 PM
- August 1 – Pastor Relations Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
- August 5 – Share the Spirit Fellowship – Hosted by Deacons – Following Worship
- August 5 – Pastor Karol leads Communion Service at Maple Crest – 4:00 PM

Summer Sermon Series July 1-29

Stories of Jesus: Mark 5 – 6

Small Groups

There will be no small group meetings during July and August. Look for startup dates in September.

Outdoor Worship Service

Join us for worship as we enjoy the beauty of God's creation! We will have an Outdoor Worship Service on Sunday, July 15 at 9:00 AM. You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair. If it rains, we will still worship at 9:00 AM and simply move into the sanctuary instead, trying again the following week for outdoors.

Pastor's Letter

I spent the first week of this past June in Montreat, NC assisting with the first of six week-long summer conferences for high school youth. The theme this year was "Lift Every Voice," a powerful theme that spoke to the importance of empowering every person with an opportunity to be heard, to tell their story. The song Lift Every Voice, which has been a unifying song for African-American communities for many years and has been adopted by the NAACP, served as the theme song for our conference. I was only marginally familiar with this song, but having sung it daily and learning about its history, I am glad to now know it much better. I am also pleased that those who assembled the two most recent Presbyterian hymnals decided to include it so that even more congregations can learn and incorporate this song into our repertoire of Christian music.

The challenge to Lift Every Voice is prophetic and rooted in the gospel message. Lifting every voice requires supporting those who have been silenced, listening to their stories, creating spaces for others' voices to rise, and, sometimes, summoning the courage to find and raise one's own voice. Voices are a gift from God imparted to each person. Using them for the glory of God is part of our calling. Montreat Youth Conferences strive to be a place where authenticity, community, connection, and God's truth thrive. It seeks to be an inclusive place where each voice can be heard and where each heart can be molded; where change is invited, challenge is expected, and where all are embraced.

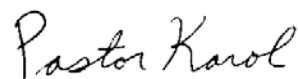
The 500 youth in attendance (other weeks surpass 1,000) spent time in small group discussions, worship, keynote talks, and recreation. The scriptures for the week lifted up God's Voice, Difficult Voices, Our Voices, Silenced Voices, and United Voices. While my role as Conference Pastor was largely behind the scenes (offering devotions for adult leaders, being available to coordinate resources for youth with pastoral care emergencies), having also previously served as a small group leader, I know what a powerful experience this conference can be for all involved. It is a great opportunity for youth to meet people

from all over the country, to share from their own tender experiences, to ask questions, to find that by the end of the week they have bonded with a group of people who four days earlier were complete strangers.

To lift every voice is one of the goals of a strong faith community, especially Presbyterians with our polity characterized by the discernment of councils rather than the decisions of individuals. No one voice should dominate; even minority voices still have a right to be heard and a place at the table. Every voice, every life, matters. Our role is to remind one another of this, that no one believe they are more important, or less important, than others; we are all valued members of the body of Christ, the Church.

*Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven
ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song
full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
sing a song full of the hope that the present has
brought us; Facing the rising sun of our new day
begun, Let us march on till victory is won.*

In Christ,



Pastor Karol

Summer Office Hours

Pastor Karol's Summer Office Hours: Mon 1-4, Tues 9-12, Wed 10-12 and by appointment.

Word in the World

Our Word in the World discussion group is continuing through the summer! If you have not been able to join us yet, you are still welcome to show up any time. We meet at The Twisted Whisk Café from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Wednesdays. No preparation is needed. However, if you would like to know the text/topic ahead of time, let me know and I will email you. All you need to bring is yourself, and maybe a friend! ~ Pastor Karol

Highlights of May Session Meeting

- Request to allow Ignite to use church lawn for movie on June 15 approved electronically (9-0). Request to allow Relay for Hope sign in church yard approved electronically (9-0). Avis Marshall passed away on May 13. Chaplain Bill Herr officiated at service since Pastor Karol was on vacation. Deacons served lunch following services. We received information from MVP concerning Toledo Urban Initiative Project may be on hold since they did not receive major grant – at this point our approved contribution is on hold.
- Extra doors in manse garage will be posted on the online garage sale site. Tom Hursey will remove the freezer/sump pump from the garage. M+R repaired the manse air conditioner and church air conditioner condensation drain – Tom questions the work on the condensation drain and will pursue further. Noted that the alley project has begun and handicap ramp is accessible.
- Community Vacation Bible School will be July 22 -26 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at First United Methodist Church. We are responsible for crafts – accepting donations to help towards expenses. Will be having “crafting parties” to prepare materials. Will also need 4 volunteers each night to help with crafts and 2-3 walkers.
- Time of announcements relocated to middle of worship and seems to be working better. Projector in sanctuary has been shutting off during worship – Ryan has tried to make adjustments and is contacting Barry’s. Outdoor worship tentatively July 15 (make up July 22) at 9:00 AM in front yard – encouraged to bring lawn chairs. Music has been arranged and working on a sound system. Approved moving communion from September 2 to September 9 because of Pastor Karol’s vacation.
- In the past month Pastor Karol made 8 home/hospital/nursing home visits; 1 home communion visit w/Deacon Mike Rhonemus; 1 Worship Service w/ Communion at Maple Crest (13 residents) w/Deacons Mike Rhonemus and Barb Fett; and 9 conversations with church family. Congregational activities include: Dale & Carolyn Dickey memorial service, Carl Wolf memorial service, Claralice Circle, committee meetings, and Festival of Wheels Dinner and Movie. Presbytery activities include: Presbytery Meeting - Maumee (officiated communion during worship), “Christ on the Psych Ward” – Presentation on Faith and Mental Health - Findlay, New Pastors’ Group – Toledo, and HS Leadership Retreat Planning meeting – Toledo. Community Engagement activities include: lunch w/2 BAMA pastors, attended Memorial service at MMH for Avis Marshall, Bible Study Maple Crest – 2 times, BHS Baccalaureate, Memorial Day Service – Bluffton, Weekday Christian Education (“Release Time”) Annual Meeting, and Veterans Affairs: Addressing Suicide with Faith-Based Organizations – Findlay. As Service to the Greater Church she served as Youth Conference Pastor at Montreat from June 2 – June 9. She will be taking vacation on Sunday, September 2 with the exact dates TBD. Brainstorming possibilities of a Membership Class for adults/youth. Will be helping with MVP High School Retreat at Kirkmont Center November 16, 17, (18).
- Deacons: Home communion served by Mike Rhonemus/Pastor Karol. Big Birthday card for Helen Hilty 105th birthday for June. Submitted the subscriptions for the Presbyterian Today Magazine for our church and its members. Three Funeral Reception/ Dinners during the month of May – Dale and Carolyn Dickey memorial service May 11, Carl Wolf memorial service May 15, and Avis Marshall funeral dinner May 17. Concerning our Transport Program and use of the alley way – we ask that our back alley has loading zone markings/sign made and not a Handicap sign. This is to prevent anyone from parking there at any time. Voted to use Bake Sale money to donate \$300 dollars to the Bluffton Food Pantry and give Pastor Karol \$100 to purchase gas gift cards for her to pass out at her discretion.

- Internet Access: looking to upgrade equipment and expand access throughout church building – contact Barry’s and Spectrum. Present church signage is at corner of Cherry/Main which is not visible from the front/back of the church. New Beginnings discussed various options for additional signage – Session felt the PCUSA logo should be included on the sign. Discussed placing additional signs in the landscaped areas with directional signs being hung over rails. Approved hiring “Fultz Sign Company” (up to \$250) to prepare preliminary sketches for front sign, back sign, and directional signs for office and handicap entrance. Noted that the \$250 expense would be re-credited towards project if Fultz Sign Company was given the contract. Expect to have sketches at August’s meeting. Session decided not to pursue digital signage at this time.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery met May 15 in Maumee. Approved that documents involving transfer of property/deeds be signed by MVP Treasurer or Moderator of MVP Budget and Finance Committee. Approved quitclaim deed from Bluffton PC as we release any interest in adjoining alley; deed signed by both of the above allowed parties. The MIF for the Temporary MVP Presbyter has been approved by COM and posted. Welcomed Mary Beth McCandless at West Bethesda/West Eagle Creek and Rev. Jin-Seung Kim at Toledo Hanmi Covenant. Rev. David Aber retired from Toledo Collingwood. Pastor Karol officiated at Communion during worship. The next stated meeting will be September 18 in Huron.

Deacons Report

- We are looking for additional volunteers who would like to help with transportation. By volunteering, you would be called upon one weekend a month for only a few months of the year. It’s best when we can worship the Lord all together as a family. Please contact a deacon or Pastor Karol if you would like to use your talents in this matter.

- Wow, can you believe it, half the year has passed already. The Deacons would like to extend a big “THANK YOU” to everyone who has helped us share Christ’s love within our community and throughout our church. From our Prayer Chain, to signing the BIG birthday cards, to helping with our Funeral dinners and Community Meals, to our Share the Spirit outreach project—Some of the most important work we may ever do in life is caring for one another. Our church has such a big heart and sometimes a big “THANK YOU” is needed.

Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds is making a master list of who has a key to the church. If you have not already been contacted and own a key, please call the office to let Cathy know or call Tom at 419-722-4811. Thank you.

Opportunity to Serve our Children

Pastor Karol would like to have a member of the congregation lead the Time for Young Christians once or twice a month. Please let her know if you would be interested in doing so on occasion. She will coordinate a date with you and can provide you with a theme and resources if needed.

Permission/Release Forms

We are collecting **permission/release forms** from everyone in the congregation who is willing to have their photo included in any form of media we might use as a church. This may include our website, Facebook page, and any print or digital promotions. Forms are located at both entrances to the sanctuary and in this newsletter. Please give your completed forms to Tenna Rhonemus or the office. Thank you!



ignite

Fellowship/Action/Service

Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service

➤ **BPC Swimming/Potluck Picnic**

➤ **Bluffton's Biggest Event –
2,500 Expected**

Don't miss out! Be in the middle of all the action on Tuesday, August 7!!

Join **Ignite** as we volunteer with Bluffton's 5th annual **National Night Out** Event. Two shifts are available 5:00 to 7:00 PM and 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Some of the jobs include serving food, face painting, and manning bounce houses. Please reach out to Sarah Brauen at 419-236-0099 or snbrauen@gmail.com for questions or to sign up!

The night ends with Fireworks so if you cannot volunteer, please join us for the show!



➤ **MOVIE ON THE LAWN**



We had fun at our Community Movie on the Lawn on June 15! Many thanks to the Sigler family (Ted's Market) of Pandora for providing the equipment, to Lynda Best for her popcorn maker, and to Tyler and Laura From for the use of their van, and Clair and Diane Winebar for coordinating the event.

➤ POTLUCK/POOL PARTY AT GILLEN'S



3 Cents A Meal Offering

Three Cents a Meal invites every member of our congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Ideally, contributions come from “living more simply so that others may simply live.” Participation in Three Cents a Meal is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus’ command, “You give them something to eat.” Daily participation is a reminder of the reality of hunger for millions of our sisters and brothers in the world. As the money accumulates, those participating become aware that small, regular acts can result in significant responses to hunger and that there is great strength in working together with other Christians. We collect this offering on the first Sunday of each month.

Mission Committee

We will still be accepting donations for Relay for Hope for a few weeks. You can make checks out to Bluffton for Hope and drop off at Village Cut-N-Curl or see Lynda Best at church.

The Community Picnic that was scheduled for July 15 is being postponed to a later date.

Please save your aluminum cans so we can turn them in to get money for movie passes for families who use the food pantry.

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in July. The items needed this month are **peanut butter, canned soup, and liquid hand soap**. This is not to say that we don't welcome other items, but these are the items they need the most at this time.



Little Free Pantry

Thank you for supporting our Little Free Pantry! Items you may consider donating: boxed foods (cereal, etc.), dry mixes (soup, etc.), rice, noodles, personal hygiene items, paper towels, Kleenex, baby items. No glass, please.

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Community Vacation Bible School

VBS will be held July 22- 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at First United Methodist Church. We are in charge of the craft area. We would like to collect \$300 to cover the cost of the supplies. If you would be willing to donate toward this, please write VBS in the memo line of your check or cash donations can be placed in the boxes in the front and back of the sanctuary.

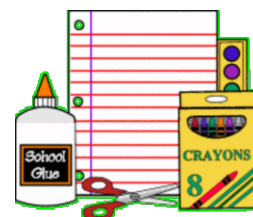
We will have "crafting parties" on July 5 at 7:00 PM and July 11 at 7:00 PM (if needed) to complete the preparations for the various projects. Please join us in the church basement if you would like to help.

We will also need 4 volunteers each night to help lead the craft area and 2-3 volunteers to serve as walkers for the children. A sign-up sheet is located in the back of the sanctuary or contact Tenna Rhonemus.

<http://blufftonfumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018-VBS-Registration-Form.pdf>

School Supply Drive

This year for the school supply drive for local children, our congregation will be providing paper products: 50 each of paper towels and tissues. Donations of these items must be received by Sunday, July 29. We will also be collecting some additional items; more details still to come.





Prayer Requests

Prayers of Celebration with Greg, Lisa, William, and Emery Culbertson; Tom and Rebecca Hursey; and Tyler and Laura From on the birth of Rowan Patrick on June 14.

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

Prayers of Healing for Michael Lee Bucher, David Rempelsmucker, Dr. Howard Shelly, Marilyn Bullock, Jean Szabo, and Carolyn Dahms.

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus (419-358-8148 / rhonstar@juno.com), or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and they will pass along the information. If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain other than yourself, 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 Mike or another deacon.

We Lift Our Prayers



Put a prayer request in – take a prayer request out. Look for prayer request slips in the pews and near the prayer box. Or use your own paper. Requests can be as simple as “I’m having back pain,” or “My son is looking for a job.” The slips can be placed in the box or in the offering plates. Prayer requests can be submitted anonymously. Allow someone in your church family to support you in private prayer.



July	1	Brandie Carroll
		Judy Evans
	5	Dave Van Eman
	6	Lisa Culbertson
	8	Kim Best
	10	Bill Gable
	16	Diane Winebar
	19	Ryan Brauen
	23	Bill Culbertson
	24	Betsey Angus
August	29	Brennan Leugers
	30	Mike Rhonemus
	2	Haley Bloom
	4	Judy Miracle



A Special Thank You!!!

The family of Avis Marshall would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers on the passing of Avis. Also, the meal was wonderful. It was greatly appreciated. Thanks again.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the food pantry. Your efforts will help us to feed many of your friends and neighbors in the Bluffton Community.

Bluffton Community Assistance

Thank you to the following people who helped with the Family Promise meal on June 27 by providing food or serving.

John Marshall, Dave and Sue Van Eman, Don and Cathy Carroll, Laura From, Lynda Best, Jana McVetta, Diane Winebar, and Pastor Karol Farris.

We will have another opportunity to serve in this mission outreach in October.

Congratulations!!
Amanda and Casey Layer
Married June 24, 2018
It was a beautiful and very joyous day!





RENEWING THE VISION:

Kindom building for the 21st century

by Leslie Scanlon, *Outlook* national reporter

The 223rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
St. Louis, Missouri – June 16-23, 2018

Presbyterians took to the streets at the 2018 General Assembly, with hundreds marching from the convention center to the City Justice Center with \$47,200 in donations – money the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) collected during opening worship, and which was used to bail out people incarcerated for minor offenses who could not afford to pay their fines or make bail.

It's a "passion for ministry and the love of Jesus that drives us out of the church and into the streets," J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk of the PC(USA), said during a midweek rally.

This was a General Assembly that felt viscerally linked to the news of the day: climate change, immigrant parents being separated from their children at the borders, gun violence.

Over and over, this question came up:

How to put faith into action?

Floretta Barbee-Watkins, pastor of The Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, preached that it's easy to get discouraged, but Jesus, faith and love move people forward even when they are weary. The PC(USA) has "made some bad biscuits," Barbee Watkins said, but confession and a willingness to "deal with the urgent needs of our siblings and the church" propel Christians to action. She challenged: "Beloved, rise up, let's make some new biscuits."

Climate change. The assembly voted 332-178 to continue corporate engagement with oil and natural gas companies, working through the denomination's Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee, rather than to divest the PC(USA)'s holdings in fossil fuel companies. This was one of the hardest-fought issues at the assembly, with 40 presbyteries supporting an overture for fossil fuel divestment, saying the church has waited long enough to act to protect the earth, and with others contending it's better to stay at the table and use the investments as leverage to push for industry changes.

Family separation. The assembly voted 484-34 to approve a resolution calling for an immediate end to the government's policy of separating parents from children as migrants

attempt to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. It calls for federal authorities to promptly reunite parents and children who have been separated, and to place families "under the care of the community," rather than in detention.

Per capita. The assembly approved a General Assembly per capita rate of \$8.95 per member for 2019 and \$8.95 for 2020 – up from \$7.73 per member in 2018. That was a source of constant tension during this assembly: How to meet urgent ministry needs, from drug addiction to mental health to ministry with small churches, while not raising per capita so high it raises resistance from mid councils and congregations?

The Way Forward. The assembly approved a report from the Way Forward Commission, which the 2016 General Assembly created to consider changes needed at the top levels of the denomination. The action will mean a new, more equitable governance structure for the PC(USA), A Corporation (a secular corporation used to conduct church business). Also, part of that proposal: a financial sustainability study and a commitment to translate PC(USA) resources into languages other than English.

Leadership. Taking four ballots to do so, the assembly elected as its co-moderators Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlmann, an educator and a mid-council leader, a ruling elder and a minister, two "audacious, spirited, bold, unapologetic women," as Cintrón-Olivieri put it. She is a native of Puerto Rico, for whom Spanish is her first language.

Race and inequality. From preaching to marching to overtures, the need to confront structural racism and systemic inequality echoed through this gathering. As a sign of that commitment, the assembly voted 352-160 to begin the long process of adding Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" to the PC(USA)'s Book of Confessions.

World concerns. The assembly spoke to concerns around the world — including in Yemen, Korea, South Sudan and Nicaragua. One tangible example: The assembly agreed to make the PC(USA) a partner with a Salvadoran church working to reduce gang-related violence in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador — violence that's causing people to flee for their safety.

#MeToo. The assembly voted 474-19 to have the PC(USA) confess its failure to listen to survivors of pastoral sexual misconduct; to report annually the number of sexual misconduct charges brought in the denomination; and to set up a task force of survivors of sexual abuse.

Social justice. This assembly felt pulled to public advocacy. It called for a moratorium on imposing the death penalty. It asked Presbyterians to pray for a movement of the Spirit to end gun violence. It voted to affirm the dignity and humanity of people of all sexual orientations. Time and again, the assembly acted to tell the world, "This is what Presbyterians stand for."

Visit pres-outlook.org for more.

BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LICENSE/RELEASE

(Approved by Session May 10, 2018)

I, _____, hereby grant Bluffton Presbyterian Church ("BPC") and its licensees, agents and assigns ("Licensed Parties") a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, sublicensable, and transferable right and license to use, reproduce, distribute, prepare derivative works of, publish, display, broadcast and copyright any photograph and/or videos made of me, or my minor child(ren), at BPC or elsewhere, including use in/on BPC's Facebook page, web site, and advertising or other materials prepared by/for BPC, in any media formats (including television), and through any media channels.

I hereby waive my right to inspect and/or approve the finished product of the advertising copy that may be used in connection therewith. I agree that I do not have nor will I claim any rights, title, interest or compensation, and I further agree that the Licensed Parties shall be without liability to me or my family for any distortion or illusionary effect resulting from the distribution of my likeness.

I warrant and represent the license granted hereunder does not in any way conflict with any existing commitment on my part, and understand that nothing herein will constitute any obligation by the Licensed Parties to make any use of the rights set forth herein.

This License/Release shall be deemed to be a contract made under the laws of the State of Ohio and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

Name:

Name(s) of minor child(ren) (if applicable):

Address: _____

Date: _____

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St., P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-5806
blufftonpc.org

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris
Phone: 419-581-9232
Email: pastor@blufftonpc.org
Summer Office Hours: Mon 1-4, Tues 9-12,
Wed 10-12 and by appointment

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30-12:30

Treasurer: Darin Leugers
Email: dleugers8319@yahoo.com

Organist: Jayne McGarrity
Choir Director: Linda Sycks
Youth Choir Director: Sue Van Eman
Youth Group Director: Tenna Rhonemus
Nursery Helpers: Kori Phipps and Shawna
Anderson
Custodian: Tony Carmack

2018 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus
Finance & Stewardship – Dick McGarrity
Mission – Lynda Best
Nominating – Tom Edwards and Cindy Gillen
Personnel – Betsey Angus
Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt
Worship – Cindy Gillen
Members at Large – Jodi Brauen, Tom Edwards,
and Phil Weisenbarger

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Laura From
Members: Tanya Best, Marilyn Edwards,
Laura From, Helen Hawk, Mike
Rhonemus, and Dave Van Eman