



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

June 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, June 7

Liturgist: Clair Winebar

Hymn Singers: Dick McGarrity and George Stultz

Acolyte/Baptismal Water: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, June 14

Liturgist: Ryan Brauen

Hymn Singer: Lori Schmidt

Acolyte/Baptismal Water: Owen and Clara Brauen

Sunday, June 21

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity

Hymn Singer: Don Brauen

Acolyte/Baptismal Water: Ethan Friesel

Sunday, June 28

Liturgist: Lori Schmidt

Hymn Singers: Tanya Best and Pastor Karol

Acolyte/Baptismal Water: McVetta Girls

Sunday, July 5

Acolyte/Baptismal Water: Bowen Hochstetler



Mark Your Calendars!

- May 31 – Worship Video with Communion and Confirmation Service; Day of Pentecost
- June 7 – Worship Video with Communion
- June 11 – Session 7:00 PM (Zoom)
- June 14 – Worship Video
- June 21 – Worship Video; Father's Day/ Celebrate the Gifts of Men
- June 24 – Worship Committee 6:30 PM (Zoom)
- June 25 – Deacons – 6:30 PM
- June 28 – Worship Video
- **June 28 – Newsletter Items Deadline.** Note new email address: jcgillen99@gmail.com



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



Deacons transferred money to Little Free Pantry in April.

Fellowship Committee/Deacons filled and delivered "Thinking of You" bags. Thank you for all the positive feedback.

Keep safe and healthy!

Pastor's Letter

In an effort to keep everyone safe, at their May 14 meeting, Session agreed to continue offering online-only worship through the month of June. We feel holding in-person worship any sooner would be too risky for the potential spread of COVID-19. Session also opted to establish a task force (Pastor Karol, Lynda Best, Lori Schmidt, and Phill Talavinia) who will look into necessary precautions and important considerations to recommend to the session as any changes to current operations are considered. We appreciate all you are doing to stay connected to one another and to refer prayer requests and community needs to us so that our combined resources as a congregation can be effective in providing a faithful witness to our increasingly-expanding community, reaching people in and around Bluffton and beyond.

As I wrote in the May newsletter, it may be a while before we are all able to gather together. Even when we do, it will not be “business as usual” or “back to normal.” Worship will not look/feel/sound exactly like we had taken for granted. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will require us to take serious precautions for many months to come. This is not what we’d like. We want what we had before. And yet, that is simply not possible if we truly care about keeping one another safe from the novel coronavirus.

Therefore, we have the challenge (aka opportunity) to get creative with how we are a church.

Remember, the church is not “closed;” worship is not “cancelled.” *The Church is still the people* (just scattered instead of gathered); worship is still entirely possible (as we lift our hearts and minds to God in prayer with requests for our families and communities, listen to the words of scripture with fresh ears, belt our praises in song, and more) – thanks to the availability of sharing videos via the internet and mailing print materials. *The church should never be equated with a building.*

While it would be wonderful to gather together in any space, we will persevere through this time of physical distancing. Let us do all that we can to maintain our spiritual connections with our siblings in Christ.

Keep the faith,

Pastor Karol



Star Word: Faith

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

When the stars were passed around I picked FAITH. Of course, when I chose that star I had no idea things were going to change so rapidly. Tyler, Jade, John, and I had all decided that we wanted to join the church, and plans were underway for that to be done on March 29. With the pandemic, joining the church was put on hold. My star was still on my dresser and I looked at it every day. Was joining the church going to happen and when? Then Pastor Karol contacted us and said she would like to do the service via a recording (just like her message has been every week). On May 17, we all joined the church as a family, and Bowen and Cooper were involved as well. Happy and Blessed.

As the pandemic goes on, I look at that star every day and think have FAITH. I am still blessed to have my father living alone at age 91, my mother-in-law living in assisted living at age 89 and family and friends. However, it is not just the people I know personally, but everyone in the world that is impacted by this pandemic. Please God keep them safe! Things are going to get better and we will all get through this. HAVE FAITH.



Highlights of May Session Meeting

- Approved Personnel and Stewardships' request to pay nursery attendants Shawna and Kori, for the months of April, May, and June. Approved to submit/accept CARES Act Loan/Grant from Small Business Administration (via Citizens National Bank) for approximately [REDACTED]. Clerk participated in seven MVP leadership Zoom conference calls – topic how churches/pastors dealing with pandemic. Corporation officers signed paperwork for PPP loan/grant application for Citizen's National Bank.
- Holy week online services were well received and had many viewers. Committee members have taken over asking people to video/audio record a welcome, candle lighting/water pouring, and scripture reading for online worship service. Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman continue to record music, and Jayne secures singers/musicians. Committee is exploring music licenses that would cover more music copyright permissions than we have now. Researching which type of license would best serve our needs.
- Permission given to Pastor Karol to replace plastic window well coverings at manse and for Pastor Karol and Chris to seal the manse driveway themselves. Don't think mulch will be needed at manse this year just trim bushes in June. Some church flower beds have been weeded. Sink stopper fixed at manse. Bob Hursh and Lynda Best have met with painters to get estimate for painting exterior church trim. Waiting on bids and anticipate email vote so they can get us on schedule – presently have one estimate for [REDACTED]. Tawa has been contacted again to confirm we will be getting trees sprayed. Carpet in church basement shampooed by Roger – preschool rooms will be done when tables are taken down. Area at manse where sewer line was repaired has debris and extra dirt – will be up to us to finish this area.
- April Pastoral Care: 20+ phone calls and 16 cards sent. Congregational Activities: Weekly Online Worship (Coordinating, Recording, Editing, Posting) plus extra services for Maundy Thursday and Easter evening; Weekly hosting Zoom Fellowship; Zoom Youth Group (2); Zoom Confirmation Class (2); Regularly posting on Church Facebook Page and Church Facebook Group; Weekly email with announcements and prayer requests; Weekly Claralice Circle Zoom; and committee meetings via Zoom. Presbytery Activities: Weekly check-in meetings with MVP General Presbyter and pastoral leaders; New Pastors' Group, Discipleship Team (all Zoom). Community Engagement: Good Friday Cross "Walk" Video; Bluffton Community Preschool Board Meeting Zoom; BAMA Prayer Circle at the Centre for MMH; BAMA Meeting Zoom; and wrote BAMA Devotion in Bluffton News. Thanks to Dave Van Eman for burning and delivering DVDs of worship services every other week. Bluffton Community Assistance Program distributed Community Market gift cards to BAMA pastors to make available to those in need. New member recognition and baptism of those approved for membership at March's session meeting was recorded and included in May 17 worship video. Confirmation service scheduled to be recorded in advance of and included in May 31 Pentecost worship video. Thanks to Tenna Rhonemus for co-teaching the classes with Pastor Karol. Due to the present recording and editing schedule for Sunday worship videos, Pastor Karol has switched her regular Sabbath day each week to Monday. Primary work days are Tuesday – Friday; with Saturday reserved for editing; Sunday for "hosting" Zoom fellowship call and online worship service, and other zoom calls and pastoral care contacts as needed. Vacation previously approved for August 10-23 – still planning to take August 10-16, but not 17-23. Approved request to grant Continuing Education for June 15-21. Realizing that preparing/editing online worship videos is taking additional time, session asked Pastor Karol for additional ways we could be supportive of her.

- Elders had opportunity to share thoughts about present online worship, as well future in person worship. Small group task force including Pastor Karol, Lori Schmidt, and two others will brainstorm procedures for reopening activities/worship inside the church and present the information to session. Fellowship Committee will work to create opportunities for small outside fellowship gatherings. Session agreed to continue to evaluate monthly, but agreed to not worship in person thru June.
- Verbal job review with custodian. Recognition for Administrative Assistant's Day. Betsey Angus, Tenna Rhonemus, and Pastor Karol met with youth intern Adam Shanaman (via Zoom) to give him a positive end-of-academic year review and offered to extend his internship through the summer months, maintaining virtual communications with the youth. While these months were not initially budgeted, his hours have been at the low end of the budgeted range, so we do not anticipate going over budget even with the addition of the summer months. Salary personnel were paid as usual for the month of April. Our youth intern, Adam, was paid based on his actual April hours. Salary employees are continuing to provide normal services and/or contributing to online worship. Intend to pay salary personnel on a monthly basis and our youth intern monthly based on actual hours worked. Expect payroll costs for **two** of the next three months will be funded by the PPP. Following the receipt of PPP funds, amounts spent on regular wages and church utilities over the next 60 days convert to a grant (no repayment required). Unspent funds remain as a loan and must be repaid to the bank/government. The receipt date of PPP will start our 60 days eligible spend period. Funding for the **one** month for which PPP funds are not available will come from the general fund (as usual).
- Pizza Meal (pizza, chips, cookies, water) was delivered to Lima Rescue Mission. Expect to continue doing this twice a month.
- Ads for Shannon Theatre are "on hold" – contract will be extended – exact amount of time based on when movie theatre reopens.
- Church's Paycheck Protection Program loan application was approved, and the requested funds [REDACTED] were received on May 4. Estimate that approximately [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] will convert to a grant with no repayment obligation and that approximately [REDACTED] will remain as a loan requiring repayment over a two-year period. The amount that is convertible to a grant represents eligible expenses incurred over an eight-week measurement period ending June 29. Eligible expenses include wages, salaries and benefits, and church utilities. The final agreed upon procedures report (financial audit report) covering the 2019 financial books has been received from the ONU professor and student audit team. There were no errors found in the financial records. Report included best practice recommendations for consideration - Stewardship Committee has implemented two of the recommendations. Gifts contributed for One Great Hour of Sharing were [REDACTED] this year compared to [REDACTED] last year. Additional gifts were received during April for the Little Free Pantry, local missions, and three cents a meal. "Roll On" balance was [REDACTED] as of April 30.
- Approved to receive members of the Confirmation Class (Libby McVetta, Paige McVetta, Morgan McVetta, and Avery Talavinia) by Affirmation of Faith pending meeting with subgroup of session. Diane Winebar and Sarah Brauen agreed to represent Session and meet with Confirmation Class via Zoom to review discussions during the class sessions. Approved renewing Adam Shanaman's internship contract for 2020-2021 academic year. Adam has agreed to stay in contact with the youth virtually through the summer and continue as our intern in the fall. The youth were happy to hear this as well! VBS will be held in a virtual form this year. The final format is still being discussed among the various church representatives.

Small Groups

Small Groups will not be meeting during the summer months. If you would like to talk to someone about JOINING or STARTING a small group in September, please see or call Jayne McGarrity, Diane Winebar, or Pastor Karol. A new small group could be a book study, a helping others group, a men's group, or just about anything!

Welcome New Members

Pat Deal, Tyler & Jade Hochstetler (also Bowen & Cooper), John & Chris Hochstetler



Bluffton Presbyterian Church welcomes 9 new members in worship this May! Above: new member recognition during May 17 online worship. See page 6 for pictures of our 4 youth being confirmed during May 31 online worship.

Chris and John Hochstetler have two children, Tyler and Andrea. In 1997 they moved to Bluffton for the smaller school system and to be closer to family.

John enjoys watching college football and basketball, racing, antiquing, and golfing. He is a member of the Bluffton Lions Club. Chris enjoys thrift stores, antiquing and shopping with her sisters, yearly trips to Amish Country and Columbus with sisters/sisters-in-law. She also enjoys reading, exercising (not necessarily enjoys, but knows it has to be done), spending time with both the Hochstetler and Brauen families. Their greatest joy is spending time with their children and grandchildren.

They both feel blessed to be part of our congregation. The entire congregation has always treated us with open arms and we feel very welcomed into the congregation. They would both like to see the congregation grow. This Bluffton congregation has so much to offer any person or family looking for a place to worship.

John and Chris are both retired from General Dynamics. Chris says she likes to help people out and do things for others. Her family and friends are her priority; they are so special to her. She says "we have both been BLESSED!!!!"

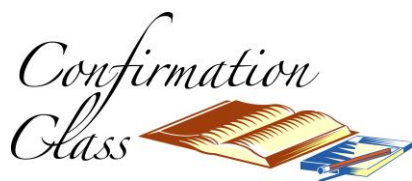
Tyler and Jade Hochstetler are the son and daughter-in-law of John and Chris Hochstetler. Tyler is the Sergeant and K-9 handler for the Bluffton Police Department; Jade is an exercise physiologist at Lima Memorial Hospital. They have two children: Bowen (5) and Cooper (2). They are eager to be involved with our church's mission of sharing God's love.

Pat Deal enjoys being part of the BPC family. A resident of Pandora, she has lived in the area for many years. Pat is retired and has 4 daughters and 13 grandchildren, including Lilly and Ethan who often join her to attend worship. Welcome, Pat!

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.

Confirmation Class 2020



Avery Talavinia, and Libby, Paige and Morgan McVetta completed the "Big God Big Questions: Confirmation for a Growing Faith" curriculum and decided to join the church as confirmed members. They spent 12 weeks, some in person and some via Zoom, preparing to answer the traditional membership questions:

- Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
- Who is your Lord and Savior?
- Will you be Christ's faithful disciple obeying his word and showing his love?
- Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers?

They studied Scripture, the Sacraments, and the church as a way of exploring their faith. Guests and mentors helped them discover how our similarities and our differences play a role in uniting us as believers in the local congregational and the greater church. Each of these young ladies wrote a personal statement of faith and are sharing them during the Pentecost Worship service on May 31. Everyone is encouraged to view the service on our website or Facebook page to hear for yourself what these newest members of our church believe.

Though we couldn't all be together physically for this important step in their faith journey, we pray these young ladies know they are surrounded by the love and support of this entire family of faith. Congratulations girls!



Are you isolated and want someone to chat with?

Are you looking for something to fill your time?

The Area Agency on Aging 3 can help you. If you want to volunteer your time to make calls or receive phone calls for a friendly chat, we can make that happen.

Contact the Area Agency on Aging 3 to volunteer to call and chat with others or let us know if you would like to receive a phone call.

1-800-653-7723 or 419-222-7723
email: mridenour@psa3.org

April 2020 Financial Report

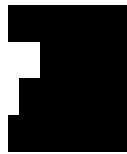
General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2020

Receipts thru April 30

Expenses thru April 30

Balance April 30, 2020



Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

Electronic Giving and Financial Assistance Available Now

Friends, we are living in uncertain times right now. Many of us are worried about the health of family members. Job security is also a concern for some. If you are in need of financial assistance, BPC has some limited resources to help you. Contact Pastor Karol or your Deacon. For those of you who are still able to support our church, we ask you to continue to do what you can. Although our worship services have gone online, I am still processing payroll checks and utility bills every month. While your paper checks mailed to the church are always welcome, here are some paper-free ways to send in your contributions:

1. Add Bluffton Presbyterian Church to your bank account's list of merchants. Your bank will send a check at no cost.
2. Click the "Giving" tab at the top of our website's home page: www.blufftonpc.org. You can make a secure gift through bank transfer or credit card and choose a variety of church mission funds to support.
3. Download the "GivePlus" mobile app onto your phone, search for Bluffton Presbyterian Church and follow the easy prompts.

Thank you for keeping BPC strong in its mission during uncertain times. I look forward to seeing you in person.

Sincerely,
Julia Szabo, Treasurer
treasurer@blufftonpc.org

Vacation Bible School

Here is the good news. The Community VBS will happen this year. Yeah! Our theme is *Who is my neighbor? Learning to love like Jesus*. The director's guide for the curriculum included the following statement and we are using it as our guide, as we determine the best way to help the children of Bluffton continue to learn to love God and others.

Learning to love God and others is a lifelong pursuit. Children can show their love for God through peaceful and loving relationships with others. They can show their love for others through simple actions that help make the world a good place for themselves and others to enjoy.

Here is the uncertain news. We are still in the redesigning phase of our planning and we do not have details to share at this time. Please watch for Facebook announcements, emails, snail mail... you name it, we will use it to get the word out about the event.

Here is the certain news. We are working hard to create an engaging, creative, and safe VBS experience for the children of Bluffton. Knowing that learning to love God and others doesn't require church walls or large crowds, we are looking at a variety of ways to share the VBS message with the children. The planning team is praying and seeking God's guidance so that we create an event where our love, shown through simple actions, helps to make the world a good place for the children and something they enjoy.

Here is the great news! God is with us every moment of every day, loving us through everything. As we lean further into God and experience the Divine's love, we will discover how we can share it with others. And that can happen for each of us, no matter what else is happening in the world.

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: (If you have never used Zoom before, you will be prompted to download/run the software program - it will guide you and will only take a minute or two.)

Step 3: You will be in the "waiting room" for just a moment until I "accept" you into the meeting - give me a few seconds to get to you before you give up!

To Call in **WITH YOUR HOME PHONE OR CELL PHONE,**

Follow These Steps:

Step 1: Call in by dialing [REDACTED].

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

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

Step 4: If it asks for a passcode, just press # again to continue.

Step 5: You will be in the "waiting room" for just a moment until I "accept" you into the meeting - give me a few seconds to get to you before you give up!

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

Youth Group

The youth are having a Zoom meeting May 31 at 7:00 PM.

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.

Personal 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 you know of a birthday that does not show up in our newsletter, please let Cindy Gillen know.

Local Mission & Outreach (Matthew 25 focus)

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 [REDACTED]

Little Food Pantry

Thank you for your continuing support, by donations of food and money, for this important resource during the pandemic. If you are interested in helping to stock the pantry, contact Sue Van Eman. Weekly checkers in June: Jayne and Dick McGarrity – June 1-7; Sue and Dave Van Eman – June 8-14; Sarah, Ryan, Owen, Clara Brauen – June 15-21; Diane and Clair Winebar – June 22-28.

Donations of food and personal care items or money (put "free pantry" in the memo on checks) are welcome to support this ministry. Items needed most this month are toothpaste, tooth brushes, and bars of soap. Drop off items at the church or contact Lynda Best or Carole Enneking for more information.

New Beginnings - Lima Rescue Mission

Pizza, chips, cookies and water was delivered to Lima Rescue Mission as they had suspended serving of meals for the months of April and May. The team hopes to be able to reconvene serving in the coming months.

PCUSA Special Offerings:



Pentecost Offering

Gifts will be dedicated on Sunday, May 31 as part of worship, but donations can be made through the church office, online giving or denominational gifts anytime in June. The focus of this offering is to support Children and Youth across the world and locally.

Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, from Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky shares an important reason for the Pentecost Offering. He said, "Our kids need to know they are valued in this moment – their gifts, wisdom and experiences are important. They need to know that we take them seriously and honor them as members of Christ's body, and that we want to learn from them even as they learn from us – right here, right now."

On a denominational level, the offering supports the church-wide Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative, helps with expenses for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, as well as tutoring and mentoring programs.

The Pentecost Offering is a shared offering, so we can designate 40% of the gifts to a local program. The Mission Committee has chosen to support Lima's Samaritan House Shelter for women and children this year. Lima's Samaritan House is a thirty-eight room emergency shelter. Since 1987, the program has been providing food, shelter, and essential services to over 250 unduplicated homeless, and/or abused women and their children per year. Women and children are referred to Lima's Samaritan House by self-referral, churches, and other public and private social service agencies.

Lima's Samaritan House can accommodate up to seventeen households at a time and up to thirty-eight individuals depending on the size of the households being served. Due to the COVID19 pandemic, donations to Samaritan House have been lower than anticipated, so our support will help a lot. For more information about Samaritan House programs and their wish list, visit www.samaritanhouselima.org.



Thank you for your support of the Pentecost Offering, it shows that you recognize the gifts of our own youth and the importance of building a life of faith in youth across the world.

Triennium Group

Libby and Paige McVetta attended last year's Triennium with a group of youth from Maumee Valley Presbytery.



One Great Hour of Sharing

If you have not supported this annual offering, you are encouraged to write a check to the church, to use the online giving option (visit www.blufftonpc.org) or give through the denomination (www.pcusa.org). Families with Fish Boxes are encouraged to keep giving and we will collect them in the near future.

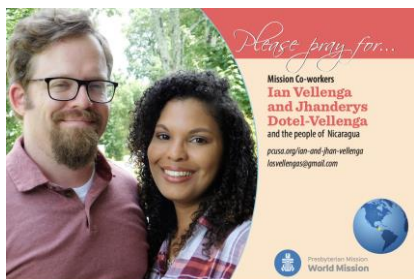
Mission Co-Worker Connections

We will be hearing from Ian and Jhan during online worship in June – we can't wait!

Financial Support for Ian and Jhan Vellenga:
Bluffton Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 149, Bluffton, OH 45817
Memo: Mission Co-Workers (or) Vallengas

For more information:

pcusa.org/ian-and-jhan-vellenga



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

Worship Committee Report

The worship committee met via Zoom on May 20. Among items discussed: June worship schedule; pulpit supply; arranging for video/audio greeters, candle lighters/pourers, readers, musicians; possibility of outdoor worship; music licenses; Father's Day/Celebrating the Gifts of Men.

If anyone would like to PROVIDE A SHORT CHILDRENS MESSAGE VIDEO for one of our online worship services, we'd welcome your participation! Please contact Pastor Karol or Diane Winebar, and we'll help you get started.

Birthdays

June	3	Carla Montgomery
	4	Dusty Freed
	6	Sheila Hurlburt
		Donnas Stone
	10	Andrew Van Horn
	12	Lori Schmidt
	16	Rowan Culbertson
	17	Jeremy Enneking
	19	Don Brauen
		Chris Hochstetler
	22	Sue Van Eman
July	1	Brandie Wagner
		Judy Evans
	5	Dave Van Eman
	6	Lisa Culbertson

Anniversaries

June	4	Ryan and Sarah Brauen
	10	Jeremy and Julia Szabo
	18	Dave and Sue Van Eman
	19	Tom and Marilyn Edwards
	20	Lou and Tanya Best
	22	Clair and Diane Winebar
	23	Dick and Jayne McGarrity
	29	Dwight and Jeanie Nichols
July	3	Jim and Carole Enneking

Fellowship Opportunity

We would like to offer small group fellowship outdoor time on June 6, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM (adults only) to be held at Betsey Angus's home. Please RSVP: call or text [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]. **Weather Permitting!!**

Chairs, light individual snacks, and water bottles will be provided. If you prefer, you are welcome to bring your own chair, drink, or wear a mask. We will do our best to social distance in 1-2 small groups of 10 or less, staying 6 feet apart.

We are planning on at least once a month in July and August and are seeking how much interest you have in this small group outdoor fellowship. If you would enjoy this, and want more, please let Betsey or Jodi know so we can plan more! Or if interested in last minute get togethers at Betsey's pond, let her know. We miss you!

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Craig Bowman [REDACTED] PLEASE leave a message if no answer. Or call the church office [REDACTED] with your prayer request, and we 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 Craig or another deacon.



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

Prayers for Molly Pontius, Lori Schmidt's friend, who was able to return to Arizona after surgeries in Los Angeles. Still quarantined from family, but closer to Home!

Prayers for Mariah Pneuman who is traveled to the Outer Banks of NC with her daughter Beth and Rick to visit Mariah's younger sister Elizabeth Martinus who has received a terminal diagnosis.

Prayers for Anessa Samsal, Mariah's granddaughter-in-law, whose surgery to remove her brain tumor has been rescheduled for late May.

Prayers for Dortha Radabaugh at Mennonite Memorial Home.

Prayers for Jodi and Don Brauen's son-in-law Mike Kaple and family on the death of his brother Jason Lamb.

Prayers for Leanne Goldsberry, a coworker of Jodi Brauen, with health issues.

Prayers for Mason family in Milan, former neighbors of Gayle Marshall; on the passing of Donna on April 28.

Prayers for Jane Benroth, as her son Scott was placed on Hospice care and passed away on May 21.

Prayers for Prayers for Bill, Jane Benroth's son-in-law, who came through a successful surgery.

Prayers for Lin Rumer, as her sister Connie has had another major stroke at Hilty Home in Pandora.

Prayers for Sylvia Morman, Diane Winebar's sister, who is working with doctors to determine the best type of and time for surgery to replace a heart valve.

Pandemic Plans

In an effort to keep everyone safe, the session at their May 14 meeting agreed to continue offering **online-only worship through the month of June**. We felt holding in-person worship any sooner would be too risky for the potential spread of COVID-19. Session also opted to establish a **task force** (Pastor Karol, Lynda Best, Lori Schmidt, and Phill Talavinia) who will look into necessary precautions and important considerations to recommend to the session as any changes to current operations are considered. We appreciate all you are doing to stay connected to one another and to refer prayer requests and community needs to us so that our combined resources as a congregation can be effective in providing a faithful witness to our increasingly-expanding community, reaching people in and around Bluffton and beyond.



A PLACE OF HOPE FOR
CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS

Coronavirus...Focus on what you CAN do!

- Wash hands more frequently
- Keep hands away from face, eyes, nose, and mouth
- Maintain clean home and car
- Open windows, get outside and get fresh air
- Do not smoke
- Minimize alcohol intake
- **Build Immune System:**
 - Get enough healthy sleep: 8 hours/night is best! (Tip: No caffeine intake after 2:00 or 3:00 PM and no screens 1 hour before bed will greatly improve your sleep!)
 - Move your body daily! Get at least 20 minutes of exercise per day.
 - Eat diet high in veggies, fruits, whole grains, proteins (nuts, plain yogurt, poultry, fish).
 - Decrease sugar intake.
 - Increase water intake. (Suggested amount: 8, 8-oz. glasses per day)
 - Take multi-vitamin.
- **Decrease Anxiety:**
 - Limit or take a break from all media reporting on Coronavirus.
 - Share something encouraging or uplifting on social media.
 - Stay intentionally connected with friends and family (if not in person, via phone calls, Facetime, etc.).
 - -Practice deep-breathing techniques: Breathe in 4 counts, hold 4-6 counts, exhale slowly 6-8 counts; repeat 5 times in a row multiple times per day.
 - (Check out these apps-Abide, Calm, Centering Prayer, Reflect)

- Do something you enjoy like reading, puzzles, knitting, drawing, biking, running, watch a great movie, etc.
- Laugh often!
- Be intentional about gratefulness: Make a list of 3 things you are grateful for each day.
- Try yoga at home. (Check out holyyoga.net)
- Do something for someone else: send an encouraging note, email, text, share supplies with someone in need, etc.
- Listen to Christian music stations geared toward hope. (Try WBCL or Pandora for your favorite artists!)
- Pray for the health of our nation, government and medical officials, schools and students, job concerns, those working to contain the virus, and for God to bring good out of this in yourself and in our nation.
- Spend time reading God's Word and journaling. (Tip: Try looking up all verses that have to do with peace and journal about them. Check out You Version Bible app for other guided plans.)

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."
-John 14:27

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

-Romans 15:13

theguardian.com, health.harvard.edu



Church Music and Covid-19

A Response from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians

May 21, 2020—Ascension of the Lord



We weep with the psalmists.

Like those who made their lamentation by the waters of Babylon, our harps are hanging on the willows. Our tongues have been silenced. How can we sing the Lord's song ... in a time of exile, illness, and isolation? ... when singing has become a dangerous activity? ... when choir rehearsals are "super-spreader events"? ... when the breath of life disperses disease and death? As people who have devoted our lives to leading the people of God as they lift their voices in song, we are heartbroken. At the same time, we respect the wisdom of experts who have warned of the high risks associated with public singing during the Covid-19 pandemic. We believe that current measures to restrict singing—as much as we might lament them—are in the best interest of the church and world at this time. (See "**Resources for Information Concerning Singing and Worshiping in Covid-19 Times**" below.)

We weep with the psalmists.

But we also pray with the prophets.

Remembering Jeremiah's counsel, we will build houses and plant gardens, even now. We will continue to learn new music, educate young musicians, train our hands and minds and voices, select hymns and anthems for worship, imagine special programs, conceive of choir tours, and listen for the Spirit leading us into songs as yet unknown. We will trust that the Lord has good plans in store for us, plans for our well-being, to give us a future with hope. Remembering Isaiah's promise, we will listen with longing for the distant music that will herald the homecoming of God's people, when flowers begin to bloom in the desert and the ransomed will return with joyous song. We will be praying, preparing, practicing for that great day. (See "**Making Music in the Meantime**" below.)

We weep with the psalmists.

We pray with the prophets.

And we sing with the whole creation.

We know that the praise of God can never be silenced. The ancient and eternal song of God's saving love will never end. The rivers and oceans sing "hallelujah!" The stones along the road shout "hosanna!" The trees of the fields clap their hands. The mountains and hills skip with joy. We will keep tuning our hearts to that cosmic symphony, joining our voices with a great cloud of witnesses, the people of God in every time and place, forever singing: Holy, holy, holy! Until our final breath, we will proclaim the final words of the final psalm, "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!" As we seek to sing the Lord's song in these challenging times, the psalm prayer for Psalm 150 expresses our fervent faith, steadfast hope, and abiding joy:

Great and glorious God, unite our praise with the praise of all creation: singing your mighty acts with every breath, playing music to your name with all our instruments, joining the dance of stars and planets with our whole bodies; for you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High—Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.** — *Book of Common Worship* (WJKP, 2018), 1077.

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

blufftonpc.org

Sunday Online Worship: 10:30 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: pastor@blufftonpc.org

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

Primary Work Days: Tuesday – Friday

Secretary: Cathy Carroll

Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com

Office Hours: Thurs 9-12

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email: treasurer@blufftonpc.org

Faith Formation Intern: Adam Shanaman

Email: shaa-a@bluffton.edu

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