



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

November 2020

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints' Day

Communion, 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Liturgist: Tammie Hursh

Hymn Singers: Clara and Don Brauen

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Julia Szabo

Acolytes: McVettas

Sunday, November 8 – Stewardship Commitment

Sunday, Little Free Pantry Offering

Liturgist: Julia Szabo

Hymn Singers: Linda and Dave Sycks

Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh

Slides: Diane Winebar

Acolytes: Owen & Clara Brauen and Ethan Friesel

Sunday, November 15

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity

Hymn Singers: Julia Szabo and Sue Van Eman

Sound: Jay McCracken / Camera: Ryan Brauen

Slides: Talavinias

Acolytes: Avery Talavinia and Bowen Hochstetler

**Sunday, November 22 – Reign of Christ Sunday
Communion**

Liturgist: Adam Shanaman

Hymn Singers: Judy Evans, Lori Schmidt, George Stultz

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Julia Szabo

Slides: Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: McVettas

Sunday, November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Liturgist: Lin Rumer

Hymn Singers: Tanya Best and Tenna Rhonemus

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Julia Szabo

Slides: Diane Winebar

Acolytes: Owen and Clara Brauen

**Sunday, December 6 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion, 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Mark Your Calendars!

- Nov 1 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*
- Nov 3 – Election Day
- Nov 3 – Claralice Circle 6:30 PM at church
- Nov 8 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*
- Nov 8 – Youth Group Bible Escape Room 1:30 PM at church
- Nov 10 – Claralice Circle 6:30 PM at church
- Nov 12 – Session 7:00 PM
- Nov 13 – Sister Min Circle 2:00 PM at church
- Nov 13-15 – MVP Rekindle Youth Retreat (see schedule for details)
- Nov 14 – Lima Rescue Mission: Contact Bob Hursh
- Nov 15 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*
- Nov 17 – MVP Stated Meeting 10:00 AM Zoom
- Nov 17 – Claralice Circle 6:30 PM at church
- Nov 18 – Stewardship & Finance Committee 6:30 PM Zoom
- Nov 18 – Mission Committee 7:30 PM
- Nov 19 – Deacons 6:30 PM
- Nov 19 – BAMA Thanksgiving Service on Facebook
- Nov 22 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*
- Nov 22 – Youth Group 6:00 PM Movie
- **Nov 22 – Newsletter Items Deadline:**
gillen3072@roadrunner.com
- Nov 24 – Claralice Circle 6:30 PM at church
- Nov 27 – Sister Min Circle 2:00 PM at church
- Nov 29 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*

*Weekly worship will be recorded on Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM. We will hold in-person worship ONLY when the Ohio Public Health Advisory System determines that Allen County is in Level 1 or 2, Yellow or Orange. Every week, regardless of in-person worship status, online worship will be made available on our [church Facebook page](#) and later posted to our [church website](#).

Pastor's Letter

Dear friends,

This is going to be short because you have so many other things to read about throughout the rest of this newsletter! These are challenging times for everyone, in some ways that are shared by all and in other ways that are very particular to one's own unique circumstances. It has become evident that living through this pandemic is more like running a 100-mile ultra-marathon than sprinting a 100-meter dash – a race that none of us willingly chose to undertake. Yet here we are, and the good news is, we are not alone. God has been with us every step of the way and will continue to be no matter what lies ahead. We also have each other, and while we may not always agree with one another on how to fix the problems of this world, our faith calls us to remember the love we have for one another in Christ. Do “they know we are Christians by our love?”

In this month of giving thanks, may we challenge ourselves not just to *be* thankful for one another, but then to *tell* and *show* that we are grateful for others' presence in our lives. There are always reasons to give thanks. “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

With thanks and love for you all,

Pastor Karol

61 Students Receive Synod Higher Education, COVID/Emergency Need Scholarships


The Synod of the Covenant is delighted to announce that it has awarded more than \$40,000 in scholarships to 61 students from 8 presbyteries and 18 churches. These awards, ranging from \$350 to \$1500, include winners of the Higher Education Scholarships and COVID/Emergency grants.

The Higher Education Scholarships include 39 bachelor degrees, 6 associate degrees, 1 vocational degree, 2 other degree, and 4 theology scholarships, while 9 students to date have been awarded COVID/Emergency grants.

(Applications for this latter grant program can be received until December 4, 2020, through an application at synodofthecovenant.org/synod-ministries/covid-emergency-need-grant.)

Mennonite Home Communities Visitation Policies

Best of wishes from MHCO! As part of our ongoing efforts to keep you informed of MHCO visitation opportunities please see our indoor visitation update on our website <https://mhcoliving.org/indoor-visitation-update/>. At any given time the most up-to-date information concerning COVID-19 and MHCO will be identified at: <https://mhcoliving.org/covid19/>. We encourage you to visit with residents of your congregation as you are able. Please realize that visitation at any of our locations can change with little notice. The care of MHCO older adults and care givers is very important to us. Thank you for your prayers, support and understanding during these challenging times. May God's peace be with us all.



Mennonite Memorial Home of
Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio

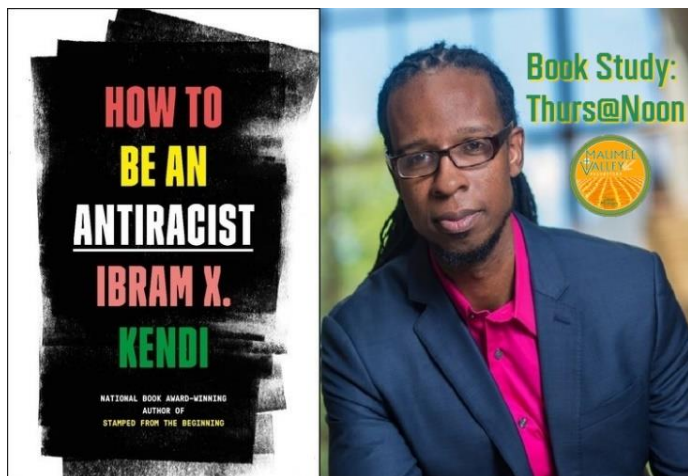
Hilty Home of
Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio

Maple Crest of
Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio

WINTER RESPITE PROGRAM

- Enjoy a temporary stay through the winter months at Mennonite Memorial Home, Hilty Home or Maple Crest Assisted Living – no long-term commitment required
- Furnished apartments with daily activities available
- Leave the laundry, housekeeping, snow removal and cooking to us!
- 24/7 healthcare staff available to help if needed
- \$1,500 New Resident fee waived for Respite Stays
- Stay 3 months and get the 4th free!

To enroll in this program or for more information, call Jason at 419-358-1015, ext. 265 or e-mail jcox@mhcoliving.org



Presbytery-Wide Book Study

This November/December, Rev. Cathi King and Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke will be leading a presbytery-wide book study on *How to be an Antiracist* by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi. **Thursdays @ Noon via Zoom starting November 12. [Register now!](#)** (You must register in advance to get the zoom link.) Praised by the *New York Times* as “the most courageous book to date on the problem of race in the Western mind,” Kendi’s groundbreaking work provides an essential counterpoint in the national conversation about race and resonates in this collective moment of reckoning. The term Kendi introduces—anti-racist—sets forth the idea that people can either be racist or anti-racist, and that there is no in-between. Racists, he argues, are people who support racist policies through their actions, inactions or ideas; anti-racists actively confront racial inequalities. Being neutral isn’t enough. We hope you will join us for this important conversation, which will continue to shape our Matthew 25 identity, and continue the discussion seeking racial justice begun with our previous Robin DiAngelo book study. You may want to secure a copy now. [It is listed on Amazon.](#) Caution: there are several workbooks, summaries, and German translations of his book, so be careful as you order.



All Saints’ Day: November 1

Saints’ days began as a way to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of early Christian martyrs – their birthdays as saints through the completion of their baptism. By the middle of the church’s first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints’ Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown. In the Reformed tradition, the emphasis of this day is the ongoing sanctification of the *whole* people of God. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in every age.

This is an appropriate time to give thanks for members of the community of faith who have died in the past year, and to pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God’s eternal realm. To rejoice with all the faithful of every generation expands our awareness of a great company of witnesses above and around (Hebrews 12:1). It lifts us out of a preoccupation with our own immediate situation and the discouragements of the present. In the knowledge that others have persevered, we are encouraged to endure against all odds. Reminded that God was with the faithful of the past, we are reassured that God is with us today, moving us and all creation toward God’s end in time.

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.

Reign of Christ / Christ the King: November 22

At the conclusion of the Christian year, the church gives thanks and praise for the sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign (see Revelation 1:4-8). This festival was established in 1925 by decree of Pope Pius XI. Originally it took place on the last Sunday in October, just prior to All Saints' Day. Now it is celebrated on the last Sunday of the Christian year, a week before the season of Advent begins.

The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ's coming again at the end of time. The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty. The blood of martyrs, past and present, witnesses to this truth.



Star Word

*Here is a star word reflection from
Marilyn Edwards written October 18:*



This morning while I was watching our live church service, I had an "ah ha" moment or an epiphany. It had to do about stewardship. Pastor Karol asked if someone would write about their star given out on the Sunday of Epiphany. I have always respected Stewardship Sunday and the need to support the church. Today I had a new view of this, my "ah ha" moment. I think Stewardship Sunday could also be called Commitment Sunday. It is when we turn in our Commitment to the church. We all know in our own hearts what we can and are willing to commit for the church. Financially is important and over the years that is usually how I have viewed this Sunday. Today I suddenly realized that it isn't about just money, it is about commitment. We have all been given blessings from God. We might have a special talent, and not just music. Perhaps we are gainfully employed or retired and can afford to support the church and its work. But maybe we don't have extra finances and we don't realize what talent we may have that could be of use to God. As a result of the Pandemic, we have all been given a gift of more time.

I am thinking about my star, being thankful, and grateful. When we fill out our stewardship cards, I hope we will all think about our commitment to who we serve. As we heard in church, Christ said to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God, what is God's. It may be financial, a talent, or the gift of time. It could be all three. We all know what we really can do. Let's love the one we serve and serve the one we love.

Lima Rescue Mission

Thanks to all who contributed and who delivered and served pizza and snacks on Saturday, October 10. It is very much appreciated by the workers at the Mission and especially by the men who enjoy the pizza. Next Pizza Night is November 14. Anyone interested in contributing and participating, please contact Bob Hursh.

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:

<https://zoom.us/j/2693770575>.

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 XXX.

Step 2: When it asks for a meeting ID enter: XXX 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.

Highlights of September Session Meeting



- Small groups have started up again. Adult Sunday School class began October 11 at 9:30 AM. They will be using a devotional titled "Unraveled". Families with young children have received a second packet of At-Home Faith Formation Activities to be used in conjunction with the "Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible". Youth Group had a field day full of wacky Olympic games/challenges followed with a discussion about what Jesus says about equality.

- Clerk participated in three MVP Leadership Zoom events - Dr. Allgood (Cincinnati Exec) advised for indoor worship during colder months to not run fans during worship, run heat prior to service but not during service, helping to prevent transmitting Covid airborne. Since we are unable to have funeral dinners in the basement, session did discuss possibility of offering "funeral dinners" by preparing food and taking to family home/gathering place for them to eat (not in church, not served by Deacons). With Synod's offices relocating from Maumee to Detroit they offered free office furnishings – five office chairs were picked up by Pastor Karol/Clair/Diane Winebar to replace office furniture donated in 80's. Approved donating the old office chairs/loveseat to ReStore . Approved that following people be moved to the "other" list as per their request – Cathy/Don Carroll, Jim Enneking, Steve/Tammie Mericle. Approval given to Laura From to borrow tables/chairs for October 10.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery met via Zoom on September 15 – 77 participated. Maumee Valley Presbytery presently has 5,469 church members – 530 less than previous year – demographics higher for older age ranges. Chip Hardwick, Synod Exec, shared that Synod is in process of moving office from Maumee to church in Detroit (savings of \$33,000 per year in rent). Church promises to use \$12,000 from rental income to support mission projects. Ellen Hugunin and Marie Loudon Hanes enrolled as Inquirers. Kirkmont had 2 full weeks of camps – no Covid cases. Bowling Green earned most of incentive money for MVP campers (\$225 earned) and Ottawa earned (\$25). Rev. Katie Treadway elected Vice Moderator of MVP for 2021. Welcomed following people into MVP positions – Sara Hodsden (Huron), Lora Manon (Tontogany), Nancy Berkheiser (W. Unity), Bill Dunifon (Fairgreen), and Marie Loudon-Hanes (Fostoria). Said goodbye to Hal Shafer (Van Wert) and Margaret Fox (Perrysburg). Approved Presbytery Per Capita increase of \$1.50 for 2021.

- September Pastoral Care: 5 visits; 28 calls; 16 cards sent. Congregational Activities: worship, weekly email with announcements/prayers, Facebook posts, Claralice Circle, Sister Min Circle, Faith Formation Intern supervision, Youth Group Field Day, sold tickets for Deacons Fundraiser, and church committee meetings. Community Engagement Activities: Community Preschool Board Meeting Zoom and BAMA Zoom. Presbytery Activities: Occasional check-in meetings with MVP General Presbyter and pastoral Leaders, MVP Stated Meeting Zoom, Commissioned Ruling Elder student liaison Zoom, Rekindle Youth Retreat planning Zoom, New Pastors' Group Zoom, Discipleship Commission Zoom, Boundary Training Planning and Boundary Training – co-facilitator for 8 in-person at FPC Maumee and 13 on Zoom. Approved following request that week of Continuing Ed. in June be changed to vacation (all vacation time would be used during 2020) and that one week of Continuing Ed. be rolled over to 2021 which is in accordance with MVP's policy.
- Vellenga Baby Gifts- \$145 donated to purchase Baby Monitor with camera, 3 books, and donation toward diaper fund. Received thank you email. Peace & Global Witness Offering - donations welcome through October. Louise Matthews, director of the Lion & Lamb Peace Center will participate in the October 25 worship service.
- Approved allowing village to use church lawn for Blaze of Lights display – plan to set up on November 7 with following week as back up if needed. Lynda Best will get insurance info from Village. Because of Covid we are not serving food in basement – plan to have table outside that day and have coffee, hot chocolate, cookies, fruit, snacks (all individually packaged) outside for workers.
- Dirt piles from planting new pine trees leveled out and grass seed planted. Manse yard still needs to be seeded. M+R replaced shower part at manse.

- Approved to spend up to \$26,100 to replace the existing church corner sign with a new electronic sign with funds to come from Electronic sign fund and Barnett bequest. Requested to be installed in spring of 2021 and will include a plaque noting that it is donated by the Stultz/Barnett families. Sarah and Ryan Brauen will be donating cost for the additional electrical work needed. Will cost approximately \$200 to remove sign and extra rider will be added to insurance (\$10 per year).

Worship Committee Report

At its October meeting, the worship committee made some adjustments regarding in-person worship services. We are returning to spoken Joys & Concerns. Prayer cards will still be available for those who wish to write out their requests. The cards may then be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher. Also, with the weather turning cooler, we will no longer be going outside for our closing hymn.

Thank you to *everyone*, in every capacity, who works to bring us meaningful worship services. You are appreciated!

Please contact any of the committee members if you have questions regarding worship services: Tanya Best, Jayne McGarrity, Lin Rumer, Michelle Talavinia, Diane Winebar, and Pastor Karol.



September 2020 Financial Report

General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2020	\$ XXXX
Receipts thru Sept. 30	XXXX
Expenses thru Sept. 30	XXXX
Balance Sept. 30, 2020	\$ XXXX

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

Youth Group

November is a busy month for the youth group. On November 8 at 1:30 PM, we will have a Bible Escape Room at the church (zoom as a backup location). The Escape Room takes us on a journey to find Paul's missing letter while searching for clues in Scripture and other "documents". The Presbytery Youth Retreat is the weekend of November 13-15 with some zoom and some small group gathering activities. Lastly, the movie "Joshua" will be shown on November 22 at 6:00 PM. If you have any questions, contact Adam Shanaman.



REKINDLE
MVP YOUTH RETREAT

Due to Covid-19, we have decided to move Rekindle to a hybrid model this year. We will be meeting on Zoom a few times, and the other times we recommend youth meet at their home churches and/or on their own at home. We will send kits with all the supplies you need.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 2020
7:30PM (FRI.) - 11:30AM (SUN.) | ONLINE & @ HOME/CHURCHES

Registration Deadline: Friday, October 30th at 5PM!
Register TODAY on the MVP website! (www.maameevp.org)
\$15 Early Bird Registration by October 7th
\$25 Registration after October 8th

**A fun, inspiring, faith-filled weekend
for all youth (grades 7-12) in the
Maumee Valley Presbytery!**

Sponsored by the MVP Discipleship Commission
Contact Rev. Lanie Sipes at laniescpc@olado@gmail.com



Youth (& friends!) are invited to the MVP Rekindle Youth Retreat Nov 13-15, 2020!

- Friday
 - 7:30-8:30PM Bonfire/Opening Session (@ Sarah & Ryan Brauens')
 - 9:30-10PM Meet, Greet, & Games! (Zoom)
- Saturday
 - 10:30-11:30AM Saturday AM Session (Zoom)
 - Saturday Afternoon Time TBD Prayer Stations (@ BPC) w/ Adam
 - 7:30-8:15PM Saturday PM Session (Zoom)
 - 8:30PM or later Labyrinth (@ home)
- Sunday
 - 10:30-11:15AM Closing Session (Zoom)

Long-sleeve shirts & supply kits included with registration fee! Register by 5:00 PM on Friday October 30 [here](#)! Questions? Contact Pastor Karol.

For the Common Good

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;
⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (English Standard Version)

As these verses from 1 Corinthians remind us, each of us have been given different gifts that can be used by God in service for the common good. The nominating committee has been working diligently to identify the gifts the members of our congregation have received from the Spirit. It was our hope and prayer that we would be led to the individuals who were not only gifted but called to serve in a variety of leadership roles. It is with great gratitude we can say God did lead us to several such people! But we are a small group and we admit we may have overlooked your gifts and are unaware of the Spirit's work within your heart. So we are appealing to everyone, asking you to survey your gifts and assess where the Spirit is leading you to serve.

We are in need of a chair for the Faith Formation Committee, a person who feels called to help others grow in faith. We are also in need of a Deacon, an individual who feels called to share God's love by caring for others. Each of these roles connect directly to our mission of *Growing in Faith- Sharing God's Love* and benefit not only our congregation, but could impact many other lives as well. If you feel God has empowered you to serve for the common good in either of these roles, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Lynda Best, Craig Bowman, Tom Edwards, Dick McGarrity, Tenna Rhonemus, or Dave Sycks. Thank you!

Ten Thousand Villages Help Needed

VOLUNTEERS needed as cashiers at Ten Thousand Villages in Bluffton fair trade store helping artisans in 35 developing countries. Help needed Mon.-Sat. (store hours 11-5 M-F and 9-3 Sat.) with flexible hours. Regular weekly commitment preferred, but other schedules can be arranged. Call Suzann at 419.303.1375.

Birthdays

Nov.	2	Molly McCracken
		Julia Szabo
	7	Gayle Marshall
		Nathan Hursh
	8	Morgan McVetta
	10	Owen Brauen
	15	Jeff Gillen
	26	Madison Hursh
	28	Clara Brauen
	29	Olivia Parker
Dec.	4	Marilyn Edwards
		Jim Enneking
	5	Ariana Zuehlke

Anniversaries

Nov.	15	Kim and Lynda Best
	18	Phill and Michele Talavinia
	26	Bill and Chris Gable



Dear Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for all the ways you have shown your love and support during Pastor Appreciation Month, including the restaurant gift card. While this has been a challenging year, I am blessed to be serving with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Karol

Dear brothers and sisters of Bluffton Presbyterian,

Thank you so much for all the gifts for the baby. We really appreciate your kindness and generosity. We look forward to meet all of you in due time.

With gratitude,
Jhan, Ian and baby Marcella



Deacons

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 are planning not only communion, but a few other things in the next couple months. They want to thank all of the members for checking on others.

Hope to see you soon!

Tanya Best
Craig Bowman
Laura From
Helen Hawk
Dave Van Eman

Thank you to all who promoted, donated, purchased, and helped with our BBQ dinner. The Deacons Aid Fund has increased by \$329.76. Once again thank you to our honorary Deacons Sue Van Eman and Cathy Carroll for helping with the Community Meal. Dave reported 63 meals were served.

A BIG thank you to the congregation on all the donations for Tyler's celebration of life dinner. Thanks also goes to Lynda and Andrea Best for helping Tanya serve.

CONGRATULATIONS to Libby and Paige McVetta for being nominated to the Cory Rawson Homecoming Court.

Mission News

Peace & Global Witness Offering

Gifts (by check or online) will be accepted through the 2nd Sunday in November. A portion of the offering (25%) will go to support peace efforts/education by Bluffton University's Lion & Lamb Peace Arts Center. Director, Louise Mathews shared information about her work during the October 25 worship service.

Little Food Pantry

Donations of soup (vegetable beef, chicken noodle, tomato), spaghetti, tuna, beef stew, or cash are welcome to support our community program. Bring donations to worship on the 2nd Sunday or drop-off in the church basement fellowship area.

Oct. 26-Nov. 1 – Sarah Brauen
Nov 2-8 – Diane Winebar
Nov 9-15 – Jodie Brauen
Nov 16-22 – Pastor Karol
Nov 23-29 – Jayne McGarrity
Nov 30-Dec 6 – Carole Enneking

Blaze of Lights Set-up

Volunteers from our community will meet on Saturday, November 7 (starting at 9:00 AM) to set up the lights and Ream Display. Members of the congregation and friends are encouraged to help OR donate toward refreshments for the volunteers. Lynda Best is coordinating efforts and invites cookies (8 dozen), bottled water (2 cases), granola bars (40-50 packets), call or txt if you can help.

****Due to COVID19 restrictions, the official lighting will be held virtually so we WILL NOT be hosting a fundraiser dinner on Blaze of Lights night.****

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. The funds collected are distributed to the Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Community Assistance Program

The Community Assistance program has restarted their monthly food pantry hours. The congregation is invited to donate any of the following: cereals, chunky soups, canned fruits, canned meats (tuna, beef, pork, chicken), spaghetti, beans, spaghetti, sauces, macaroni and cheese, vegetables, hamburger helper of any kind, Mexican foods, salsas, creams, lotions, soaps, deodorants.

Adopt A Family

Mission Committee will be coordinating our congregation’s part in the Christmas collection for area families. Watch the weekly announcements or contact Carole Enneking for more information.

Blankets for Mission Projects

We will be tying blankets again this year to give away at Christmas time. JoAnn Fabrics is having a sale if anyone would like to make some.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

1st Thessalonians 5:17 encourages us to pray continually. Following a disaster, our best response is first to seek God’s presence on behalf of those in need. If you feel moved to provide financial support for those hit by Hurricane Sally, Hurricane Laura, and Pacific Northwest Wildfires, your gifts can be made through the PCUSA by visiting <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/active-accounts/>.



- **Prayers of Sympathy** for Laura From, Tom and Rebecca Hursey, and family, on Tyler's passing on October 9.
- **Prayers of Sympathy** for Bev Begg and family on nephew Jay Begg's passing, Jay was in an accident a year ago.
- **Prayers of Celebration** for Mariah Pneuman who celebrated a wonderful surprise 90th birthday open house on October 10.

- **Prayers** for our members and friends serving in the armed forces: especially Kyle Begg, Andrew Warner, and Lucas Woodward.
- **Prayers** for those who live alone or in care facilities and are less able to engage in meaningful connections with family members and friends, including Marilyn Bullock, Dorothy Hursey, Peggy Hursey, Sally Reeder, Dortha Radabaugh, Hazel Rodabaugh, Jeanette Warren, and Ralph & Donnie Middleton.

Prayers of Healing for:

- Mary Morscheck, sister of Jeanie Nichols, has COVID-19.
- Lynda Best's aunt Cheryl Martin and partner Kim Weber in Toledo, both have significant health issues, as well as Lynda who is helping with care arrangements.
- Ron Gallaher (Bev's brother in law) is recovering from colon surgery on October 15.
- Ken Ruckzo (McCracken family friend) has brain cancer that has spread to other organs.
- Best Buist was in a car accident in September – the car was totaled, but she was not hurt.
- Diane Yoder (Edwards' neighbor) has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS).
- Sylvia Morman (Diane's sister) is home after heart surgery at the Cleveland Clinic.
- Dave Dunlap (Helen's coworker's husband) returned home from the hospital on September 24.
- Walter Schmidt (Lori's father) has good news that previous eye injections have worked! Also, the latest skin biopsy was not cancer so will just be treated with medication. Does have to get cracked tooth repaired.
- Jerry Heskett, Lori's brother in law has COVID-19.
- Tanya Best's friend who is struggling.

- Ralph and Donnie Middleton, former MVP leaders, have moved to Good Samaritan in Arlington.
- Judy Miracle returned on home on September 28 after a few weeks at St. Catherine's Manor in Findlay.

Advent Begins November 29

HANGING of the GREENS **Different approach, same excitement!**

This year, we'll decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas in stages over a week. The plan is to space out the times when volunteers will be in the church to decorate. Family units and individuals/small groups of people are invited to choose a task and select a time that works best for them.

To part of the fun, please contact worship chair Diane Winebar.

All decorations will be in the sanctuary ready to go after worship on November 22. Let's plan on being finished by November 28!

TASKS

- *Set up Advent wreath & candles*
- *Set up the Christmas tree*
- *Place greenery and candles on the windowsills and choir loft railing*
- *Set up Nativity scene and Bethlehem village*
- *Check candleholders and candles in preparation for Christmas Eve*

TIMES

- *After worship Sunday, Nov. 22*
- *Afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 22*
- *Anytime during that week that's convenient for you*

We already have a volunteer to hang the wreaths at the windows!

LIVING COURAGEOUSLY!

...take hold of the life that really is life – 1 Timothy 6:18-19

Dear Friends,

Thank you!! Your faith-based courage and affirming confidence to support Bluffton Presbyterian Church (BPC) during an uncertain, stressful 2020 have sustained the BPC ministry which is so vital to each of us, and has allowed our church family to continue to provide Christian outreach missions to help address the needs of our congregation and community. Thank you for your continued, generous support.

A year ago, we had no idea we would worship solely online for nearly six months and live-stream socially distanced services thereafter. Few could guess the number of stop-gap meals our little free pantry would need to provide for our community. Yet, as a collective Christian family of members, friends, and dedicated staff, we have prayerfully and collectively responded with a courageous, generous spirit, and willingness to learn and try new skills and methods to sustain a vibrant BPC ministry and mission.

Now we ask that you prayerfully consider BPC's ongoing general operating budget needs for the upcoming year of 2021. Please prayerfully consider your gratitude for all that BPC offers to you and our community, discern your personal ability to support our church's services and programs, and complete your enclosed commitment card. We have designated November 8 as our annual Commitment Sunday. If you will be attending worship in-person, we encourage you to place your 2021 commitment cards in a collection plate on November 8. You may also mail your cards to the church by mid-November or place your card in the Treasurer's secure drop-box on the wall of the church office. Finally, you may simply email your commitment to our Treasurer (Julia Szabo).

Please know that the vital financial resources that you provide to our church are received with gratitude and utilized as judiciously as possible by our staff, Session, and the Stewardship & Finance Committee. Also, please remember, especially in these uncertain times, that if your financial conditions change such that you need to decrease or can increase your intended giving, we encourage you to do so. Collectively, we will care for each other.

Peace and love,

The Stewardship and Finance Committee: *Craig Bowman, Barbara Fett, Dick McGarrity, George Stultz, Julia Szabo, Clair Winebar, and Rev. Karol Farris Schilling*

***Be strong, take courage, and listen!
Living as God's stewards is an interweaving of faith and generosity.***

2021 Operating Funds - Bluffton Presbyterian Church

Live Courageously!

...take hold of the life that really is life – 1 Timothy 6:18-19

I/We thank God for the continuing opportunity to sustain and grow the ministries of Bluffton Presbyterian Church by generously sharing my/our talents and financial resources. I/we commit to give financial resources to the church operating fund as follows in 2021:

\$_____ weekly, or \$_____ monthly / quarterly / annual (please circle one)

(signature[s])

(name[s] printed)

Thank you for your commitment. Please check here if you prefer to not receive an acknowledgement:
Please note that this commitment can be changed at any time as circumstances arise by notifying our Treasurer,
Julia Szabo.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 8375 Phillips Rd, Bluffton

FISH FRY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th 4:00-7:00

\$8.00 Adult Dinner

\$4.00 Children 10 & under

Pay when you pick up!

**DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS WE WILL ONLY HAVE
DRIVE UP-TAKE OUT, THERE IS NO DINING IN.**

**Adult Meal: 4 pieces of
fish, cheesy potatoes,
green beans, coleslaw &
cookie**

**Child Meal: 2 pieces of
fish, cheesy potatoes,
green beans, applesauce
& cookie**



SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER: *Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement*

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...

*Give them a hearing...
listen before we answer*
(John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13)

1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;
 - we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
 - we will not ask questions or make statements in a way that will intimidate or judge others.
2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.
3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.

Speak the truth in love
(Ephesians 4:15)

4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.
5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;
 - we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during or following the discussion.
6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.

*Maintain the unity of the
spirit in the bond of peace*
(Ephesians 4:3)

7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.
8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;
 - we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.
9. Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies
 - urge people of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously
 - seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;
 - be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;
 - abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways that are consistent with these Guidelines.
10. Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

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

blufftonpc.org

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone: XXXX

Email: XXXX

Office Hours: Tues 10-2; Wed 10-1

Primary Work Days: Tuesday – Friday

Secretary: Cathy Carroll

Email: [XXXX](#)

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-12

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email: [XXXX](#)

Faith Formation Intern: Adam Shanaman

Email: XXXX

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