



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

September 2020

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 6

Liturgist: Lin Rumer

Hymn Singers: Laura From & George Stultz

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Acolytes: The McVettas

Sunday, September 13

Liturgist: Carole Enneking

Hymn Singers/Bells: Tanya Best & Lori Schmidt

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Ethan Friesel

Sunday, September 20

Liturgist: Diane Winebar

Hymn Singer: Julia Szabo

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Talavinias

Acolytes: Avery Talavinia & Bowen Hochstetler

Sunday, September 27

Liturgist: Clair Winebar

Hymn Singer: Don Brauen

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Cathy Carroll

Acolytes: The Brauens



Mark Your Calendars!

- Sept. 3 – Stewardship Committee Zoom 6:30 PM
- Sept. 6 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*
- Sept. 10 – Session 7:00 PM
- Sept. 11 – Sister Min Circle 2:00 PM at church
- Sept. 13 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*
- Sept. 13 – Fellowship 2:00 to 4:00 PM – Don and Jodi Brauen's home
- Sept. 15 – Presbytery Meeting Zoom 3:00 PM
- Sept. 15 – Claralice Circle 6:30 PM at church
- Sept. 17 – Deacons 6:30 PM
- Sept. 20 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*
- Sept. 22 – Claralice Circle 6:30 PM at church
- Sept. 25 – Sister Min Circle 2:00 PM at church
- Sept. 26 – Lima Rescue Mission: Contact Bob Hursh
- Sept. 27 – Worship Service 10:15 AM*
- **Sept. 27 – Newsletter Items Deadline.**
- Sept. 29 – Claralice Circle 6:30 PM at church

Zoom Fellowship: TBD!

*Weekly worship will be recorded on Sunday mornings at 10:15 AM. The Session has decided that we may resume in-person worship in September 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

As you read about our church's many pandemic precautions in this newsletter, I want to share with you an excerpt from an article in the July/August issue of *Presbyterians Today* by Jason Whitehead, a Denver-based therapist, pastor, educator, and coach:

"Precaution is not a word we often associate with a bold and risky faith. Yet maybe we should. Precautions are preemptive acts of care, like wearing a mask out in public when necessary, agreeing to sit apart from one another in the church sanctuary when returning to worship in a building, and refraining from large group gatherings. Precautions aren't about what is being taken away or limiting us. When seen as a spiritual practice, precautions take us beyond our heads and hearts in order to expand our awareness to the world around us. They require us to think and imagine with empathy, then adjust and act accordingly. Taking precautions means being a "care-full" presence in the world. By practicing precautions:

- We place all these needs in conversation with ours rather than one overtaking the other.
- We act out of empathy and imagination rather than control and self-focus.
- We place the pain of others alongside our own, and act with curiosity and compassion.
- We seek the Spirit's movement within and between us.

To use precaution as a spiritual practice is to co-create with the Spirit an integrated sense of our place in the world. It considers our emotions, thoughts and practices, as well as how those things intersect with the world around us. It calls us to respond, rather than just react. When we take in and allow ourselves to be affected by the world around us, we become aware of the Spirit and how that can help shape our responses.

In short, precaution as a spiritual practice might be the riskiest thing we could ever do. It means taking stock of how we react and respond, lamenting our struggles and celebrating our successes. It means that what we say and do matters to the world around us. It means living into a relationship with the Spirit that moves in and around us, and allowing that relationship to shape the choices we make in response."

Thank you for demonstrating your care and concern for one another. In Christ,

Pastor Karol

Zoom Instructions for All Church Calls:



Zoom Instructions for All Church Calls:

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

Step 1: Click This Link:

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

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

Step 1: Call in by dialing.

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

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

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

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

Special Announcement

Worship Will Look a Little Different Once We Return!

Our goal is to limit personal contact, shorten service length to reduce time spent together, and do things differently as long as necessary to lessen risk of spreading disease and help keep our congregation safe. With these things in mind, the worship committee has put the following procedures into place:

1. Attendance in Sanctuary

- You will be missed, but please do not attend worship in person if you have these or other symptoms: a fever (check your temperature before leaving home), cough or sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle pain, or if you have come in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 14 days.
- We will follow distancing guidelines. Wearing of face masks will be required. Masks will be available at the doors for those who don't have one. A few face shields will be available for those unable to wear masks. If you cannot wear a mask for the duration of the service, please continue to worship from home.
- The committee will work on seating configuration before re-opening. Places where seating is allowed will be marked.
- If needed, overflow seating can be made in the fellowship hall, with worshipers watching a live stream of the service.

2. Order of Worship Adjustments

- No bulletins will be printed. This will change if we find they are needed.
- Hymnals, Bibles, prayer request cards, envelopes, and pencils will be removed from the pews. Like bulletins, they will be returned if it's decided they are needed.
- Limited responsive readings.
- No physical passing of the peace.

- Offering plates will be placed by the doors, as will prayer request cards. People can take a prayer request card to fill out while seated in the pews, and the ushers will collect them before Joys and Concerns.
- The roles of greeters and ushers will be combined. Ushers will welcome worshipers, guide them to approved seats, and point out the offering plates and prayer request cards.
- Dismissal will be pew by pew, with ushers assisting. Pulpit side will leave by side door, and organ side will leave by front door. Exceptions made for those needing to use the ramp.
- Names of worshipers will be noted in the event they need to be contacted about COVID-19 exposure.

3. Young Christians

- No nursery will be provided at this time due to distancing guidelines.
- Children's activity bags will likewise be removed. Individual boxes of crayons will be available for children, and children's bulletins will still be printed each Sunday. Parents are encouraged to bring other items for their children's use during worship.
- For the children's message, children will be able to spread out on the front pews.

4. Communion

- No passing of trays from person to person or intinction (dipping bread into a common cup). Worship committee is working with deacons to decide best alternative.

5. Music

- Instead of congregational singing, song leaders will "sing for the people." Congregation can listen/follow along to the words on the screens, mouth the words, hum.
- Shorten number of hymns to 2 or 3; also shorten each hymn to 2 or 3 verses.
- Occasional special music will consist of solos, duets, trios, instrumental pieces.

6. Live Streaming of Worship Services

- Worship services will continue to be offered on Facebook (with links posted later on our website) for those unable to attend worship due to health factors or are uncomfortable with attending in person. We understand if you're not ready to come back yet, and we fully support your decision to continue worshipping from home.

These decisions were made in a spirit of love. Following these protocols is more than just "obeying the rules." It's how we show that we care for the whole body of Christ. Please contact worship committee chair Diane Winebar if you have any questions.



Star Word

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

When I picked up the star word "guidance" earlier this year, I thought, *well, this is going to be a tough one to reflect on.* Since then, though, I find that I filter almost everything I read or experience through the concept of guidance. So, in this respect, my star word is doing its job!

As a kid, I was enthralled by lighthouses. The way they endured storms and gales. The beacon of light they threw, guiding ships to safe harbor. Ah, that light cutting through the darkness. Still one of my favorite images.

Even now I'm drawn to lighthouses, but even more so to people, books, and ideals which themselves throw beacons of light into a challenging world. I've learned that guidance can come from the most unlikely sources. The light may not illuminate everything at once for me, but it is there.

For me, the trick to navigating life's storms is to keep those storms from dimming whatever spark lies within me. Easier said than done. But throughout my life, I've been able to look to people for guidance. Especially in my faith journey. Brave, amazing people who, without even knowing it, inspire me to keep my spark bright and growing. You, reading this, are among those beacons. And I'm grateful.

Highlights of August Session Meeting

- B&G installed new secure, wall-mounted lockbox, available for dropping off checks and other confidential items to Julia (Treasurer) which is working well. Older, surplus church computer no longer being used was refurbished by Jake Szabo (data cleaned, etc.) and provided to a church member family who had need for a computer.
- TaWa treated trees for bagworm. New pine trees planted by nursery - being watered by Lynda Best. Painters will start on Monday with Wellmann sealing the masonry in September. Pastor Karol and Chris resealed the manse driveway. Manse AC unit has been serviced twice in the last twelve months and needs to be replaced. Approved for M + R to replace the manse AC unit for \$3,000 – expect to be completed this fall or early next spring. Bushes have been trimmed at the manse. Small area of baseboards in church basement will be treated for mold. Reprogrammable thermostat will be installed at the manse.
- Small groups: Claralice Circle resumes in-person meetings on Tuesday evenings starting September 15 from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church, following social distancing guidelines and wearing masks. Sister Min Circle plans to reconvene at Maple Crest when restrictions are relaxed or perhaps meet at the church. Faith Formation opportunities for children, youth and adults are in the planning stage. Weekday Christian Education Release Time will not occur in person until possibly January because of restrictions made due to Covid-19. They are planning to distribute packets to the children that registered for the program and possibly offer some online lesson options.

- Approved coordinating in person worship with Ohio Department of Health county level system – when Level 1 (yellow) and Level 2 (orange) worship will be in person and continued online, when Level 3 (red) and Level 4 (purple) then worship online format only. Approved Buildings & Grounds request to purchase a 5-foot pine tree and a 7-foot pine tree to be planted in the south corner of the yard near the remaining large one. Cost: \$423 for trees and delivery; \$100 to Drew's landscaping for digging the holes and cutting out old roots; total approx. \$523 –use Morris Triplett's memorial fund balance of \$499 with remainder to come from Grounds budget line. Approved paying Kori Phipps and Shawna Anderson, nursery care givers, at a rate of 4 hours per month from July-December. While we imagine it will be several months before we can make use of their services, we want to keep them on payroll since they have been good employees for some time now. Approved paying Linda Sycks, choir director, at 50% salary from August-December. As we imagine it will be several more months before we can make use of her services as choir director, Linda volunteered to take unpaid leave since the choir is not able to sing together. We are grateful for Linda's offer to take unpaid leave, but feel our finances are in a solid place to be able to continue keeping her on payroll, even if at a reduced rate for the time being. Approved allowing the local Bluffton Jazzercise group to hold an outdoor class on the church lawn on some or all Saturday mornings from July 11-August 1. Session had approved Senior Center to use yard for concert, however because of elevated county level, they cancelled the concert. Bike rack will now be installed in the alley, but not blocking our handicap ramp. Synod plans to continue creating worship services quarterly to support pastors. Accepted gift from Bob and Mary Barnett Bequest of \$60,000 given by their children – request projects that would support community outreach.
- Month of June Pastoral Care: 3 visits; 16 phone calls; 25 cards sent. Month of July Pastoral Care: 7 visits; 23 phone calls; 17 cards sent. Congregational Activities: weekly online worship (planning, recording, editing, posting, engaging), weekly fellowship Zoom; weekly email with announcements and prayer requests, committee meetings, Lima Rescue Mission meal, Faith Formation Intern Check-in Zoom, Racial Justice Study/Discussions – five, fellowship event, Children's Faith Formation Zoom – three, and Claralice Circle gathering. Community Engagement Activities: Community Preschool Board Zoom, BAMA Zoom – two, BAMA Bluffton News devotional article, Marlena Graves Conversation (with FCC Findlay) Zoom, and meeting with Shelly Miller, Activate Allen County – to explore bike rack location. Presbytery Activities: weekly MVP Leadership Zoom meetings, Commissioned Ruling Elder Team – two, Rekindle Youth Retreat planning Zoom – three, Discipleship Commission Zoom – two, New Pastors' Group Zoom, White Fragility Book Study Zoom – three, Commissioned Ruling Elder student liaison Zoom, MVP Called Meeting, and CRE Preaching Class planning group. Continuing Education (6/15-21) viewed some Festival of Homiletics offerings – various preaching perspectives, approaches. Vacation: 1 day used on 7/23. Officiated at following weddings: Donnas Stone (BPC Member) & Roland "Stoney" Stone, Bluffton; Carolyn Somerville & Patrick Renehan (family wedding), Pittsburgh; and Teresa Edelbrock (Former BPC Member) & David Randall, Napoleon. Virtual Worship Assistance: Thanks to Dave Van Eman and Nathan Hursh for assistance with video editing two services. Thanks to the following guest preachers: Ian & Jhan Vellenga, Chris Schilling, Chip Hardwick, and Tenna Rhonemus. August 24-30 "Presbyterian Week of Action": build on the conversations started with the racial justice discussion series by sharing digital learning opportunities with our congregation.

- Approved \$100 in Local Mission (budget) funds to be used to support a local family in need of school supplies (in conjunction with Deacons). A 5-week study, Conversations on Systemic Racism, completed with good discussions among 12 members and friends. Special thanks to Pastor Karol, Tanya Best, Sue Van Eman, and Diane Winebar for leading sessions. Little Food Pantry - Sue Van Eman continues to coordinate the efforts. Lima Rescue Mission Donations - a box of paper supplies and personal care items was delivered by New Beginnings team with the August meal delivery. Baby Shower - donations are still being accepted toward a baby gift for Ian and Jhan Vellenga. Our 40% share of the Pentecost Offering will go to the Samaritan House of Lima to assist with expenses of the homeless shelter serving families.
- Plans regarding in-person worship services: Session agreed to follow Gov. DeWine's mandate requiring masks be worn. Order of Worship Adjustment - Goal is to limit personal contact, shorten service length to reduce time spent together, and do things differently to lessen risk of spreading disease. All items removed from pews, no physical passing of the peace, limited responsive readings, and offering plates and prayer request cards placed by the doors. Combine roles of greeters and ushers and call them "ushers" - 3 or 4 people will welcome worshipers, guide them to approved seats, and indicate where the offering plates and prayer request cards are located. Dismiss pew by pew, with ushers assisting. Names of worship attendees recorded to have documentation if contact tracing was needed. Communion - no passing trays, working with deacons to decide best option. If we are back in the sanctuary in the first Sunday in September, may plan to have communion on the second Sunday. Music - instead of congregational singing will have a song leader or two who will "sing for the people." Congregation can listen/follow along to the words on the screens, sing to themselves, hum. Shorten number of hymns and number of verses.
- Live Streaming of Worship Services - Worship services will continue to be offered on Facebook for those unable to attend in person. Will need volunteer to run camera (zooming in, change view) during worship, proving difficult for sound tech to run both soundboard and camera. Approved to purchase new tripod and camcorder (approx. \$400) to allow for better quality Livestreaming services - money to come from 2017 R. Evans Bequest. Church family will be contacted by Elders/Diacons to share worship adjustments, as well as listen to their concerns. Pastor Karol will create script of questions/information to be shared. Plan to return to 10:15 AM worship time.
- Pizza Dinner served at Lima Rescue Mission in early August – delivered "Christmas in July" items – both were well received. Reported update on electronic sign information – intent is to bring forward a motion later this fall. Objectives of sign: increase the visibility of the church and church activities, promote engagement with the community by listing community non-profit activities, and build connections with the community and non-members. Estimated cost = \$20,000 - \$30,000 using existing sign funds and Barnett bequest money. A sign policy will be drafted discussing details on how sign messages will be developed, approved, and managed. Request to Session and Personnel Committee to consider a Communications Staff Position with responsibilities focused around: electronic sign, monthly Shannon Theatre ad, Facebook site, weekly service videos, possibly Newsletter and development of one-page Church Overview for pews & welcome cups.



Thank you to the Deacons and the church for the lovely flowers they brought for me.

Sheila Hurlburt

Active Scam Alert

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

Please be suspicious of any such unusual messages.

If you receive something and you are unsure if you should open it or respond, first ask me about it by phone or in person.

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

~ Pastor Karol

Preschool Precautions Update

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

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

When children arrive, their temperature will be taken and logged, they will sanitize their hands

and be marked present on the attendance sheet. If a child has a temperature that is out of range, they will not be permitted to enter the building. Preschool staff will also check their temperature daily as well.

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

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

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

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

Fellowship Opportunity

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

Synod Grants and Scholarships Available

It's time to apply for the Synod's grants and higher education scholarships! We want to support the ministries of your churches and the academic work undertaken by your students. Grants and scholarships totaling \$85,000 will be awarded in 2020. Programs and dates when application reviews begin include:

- Higher Education Scholarships, available to individual Presbyterians within the Synod who are attending college, university, trade school, or seminary/divinity school. Up to \$1500; 8/31/20.
- COVID Emergency Need Grants for Higher Education Students. Up to \$500; 12/4/20.
- New Covenant Grants, available to congregations, institutions, and organizations within the Synod for (a) congregational development and transformation, (b) multi-cultural and justice ministries, or (c) ministries in higher education. Up to \$5000; 10/1/20.
- Racial Ethnic Program Grants, available to congregations primarily composed of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) planning new mission initiatives or outreach to the neighborhoods surrounding their church. Up to \$5000; 10/1/20.

To apply and learn more, visit

synodofthecovenant.org/synod-ministries/grants-and-scholarships or contact grants@synodofthecovenant.org.

New Synod Website Unveiled

Be sure to check out synodofthecovenant.org to see an updated version of the Synod's site. Highlights include information on current ministries (such as grants and scholarships, and the Synod worship provided at the end of June), a blog with information to keep you up-to-date, assembly papers, and updated contact information. Please send any feedback or suggestions for improvement to synod.covenant@gmail.com.

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

July 2020 Financial Report

General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2020	\$
Receipts thru July 31	
Expenses thru July 31	()
Balance July 31, 2020	

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

Birthdays

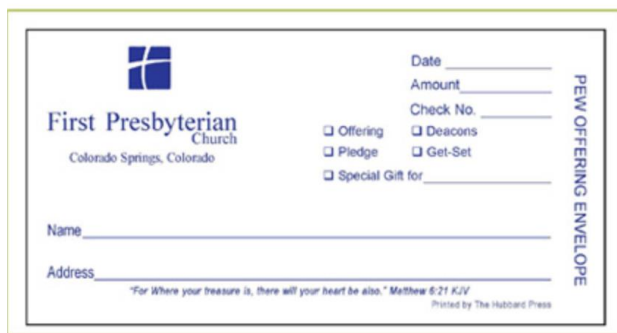
Sept.	4	Jeremy Szabo
	5	Jay McCracken
	10	Bexley Leugers
	11	Craig Bowman
	13	Julianna Hotmire
	14	Sue Dorsey
	23	Rhonda Moor
	24	Jayne McGarrity
	26	Sue Mathewson
		Amanda Layer
	29	Cindy Gillen
	30	Wyatt Marshall
		Andrea Best
Oct.	5	Rob McGarrity
	7	Anne McCracken
	8	Phil Weisenberger
	9	James Freidenberg

Anniversaries

Sept.	1	Jeff and Cindy Gillen
	14	John and Gayle Marshall
	15	Don and Cathy Carroll

Offering Envelopes for 2021 and Beyond

Did you know that close to 2,000 BPC weekly offering envelopes get thrown out or recycled each year? That's because we are required to order a minimum quantity from the printer and we've been having each Sunday's unique date preprinted on the envelopes. Stewardship committee is considering ordering offering envelopes similar to the one pictured here without the date preprinted on them. These will be available in the pews and also will be bundled in sets for you to take home: a set of 60 envelopes for weekly givers (52 + 8 for special offerings) and 20 for monthly givers (12 + 8 for special offerings). We'll want to place an order for offering envelopes before September 30 and invite you to direct your questions or comments about this change to Julia Szabo. Our motive is to save cost and save trees!



The image shows a sample offering envelope from the First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It includes fields for Name, Address, Date, Amount, and Check No. There are checkboxes for Offering, Pledge, Deacons, Get-Set, and Special Gift for. A quote from Matthew 6:21 KJV is printed at the bottom.

New Beginnings - Lima Rescue Mission

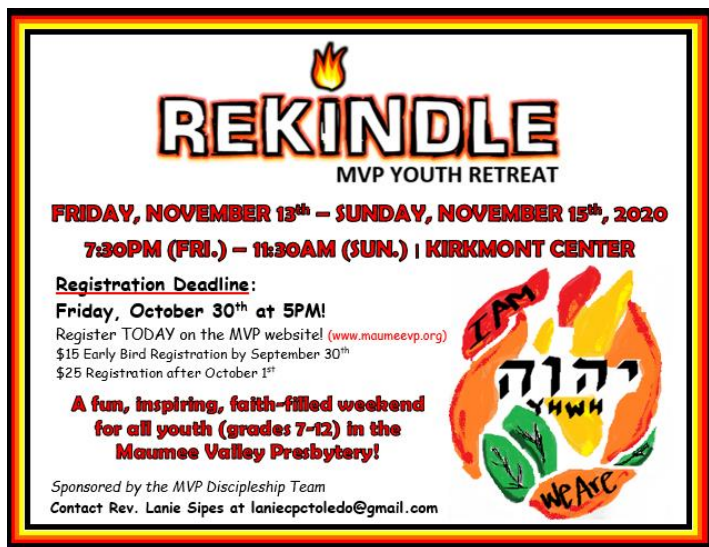
Thanks to our August volunteers for donations and service. We were able to serve pizza, chips, candy bars, and water Saturday, August 8 at Lima Rescue Mission. Our next pizza night is scheduled for Saturday, September 26. We are committed for the following dates: October 10, November 14, and December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

Faith Formation Activities

Since Session agreed to follow the BPC Pandemic Task Force's recommendations, there will be no in person Faith Formation Activities on Sunday morning until we have a good handle on best practices for worship. Because Faith Formation is an important part of being a follower of Christ, we would like to offer those opportunities in some form. The Faith Formation Committee is completing our plans for the fall and will be offering options that will be available in virtual format initially, with the potential to move to in person gatherings when it is safe to do so. More information will be available once the final plans are in place. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Tenna Rhonemus.

Vacation Bible School Follow-up

A big thank you to all of you who brought your noisy offering this summer, and for all of the drive-by generosity of unsuspecting people we flagged down in their cars, and for all of the innocent bystanders we snagged from their walks to add a handful of coins to our tub during the drive-thru hours! It all added up to \$344.27 to support the All Ability Playgrounds of Allen County! Someday soon, we can find the Bluffton Community VBS 2020 name plate at the Marimor School playground after it is constructed!



The poster for the REKINDLE MVP YOUTH RETREAT features a large flame icon above the word "REKINDLE" in bold, stylized letters. Below it, it says "MVP YOUTH RETREAT". The dates are "FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 2020" and the location is "7:30PM (FRI.) - 1:30AM (SUN.) | KIRKMONT CENTER". It includes a registration deadline of "Friday, October 30th at 5PM!" and registration details: "Register TODAY on the MVP website! (www.maumeevp.org)", "\$15 Early Bird Registration by September 30th", and "\$25 Registration after October 1st". It also states "A fun, inspiring, faith-filled weekend for all youth (grades 7-12) in the Maumee Valley Presbytery!". At the bottom, it says "Sponsored by the MVP Discipleship Team" and "Contact Rev. Lanie Sipes at laniecptoledo@gmail.com". There is a colorful graphic of a flame with the words "I AM", "YHWH", and "WE ARE" inside it.

Weekday Christian Ed Release Time

Below is a letter from Janice Basinger, the walker coordinator for WCE Released Time. If you are willing to help prepare the packets, please let Tenna know and she can get you in contact with Janice.

I hope you are all well! I wanted to update you on Bluffton WCE Release Time. The school has informed us that we are unable to take the students out of the school this fall for Release Time.

They're limiting traffic flow in the hallways and extra people entering the school. The students will be staying in their rooms most of the day. This came after the current Covide19 level for Allen County.

We're still on the school schedule for classes, but won't be meeting this fall.

The RT board has decided that we will wait until January to start classes. If the school decides to allow us to have the students sooner, we will make it work. We, teachers will help each other the best we can. The board and teachers have decided we would still try to reach out to our Release Time students. We will do this by online lessons and a take home packet to students who have signed up for the program. A parent letter will be sent home with these packets. This packet will have all our fall lessons, scriptures, worksheets and a way to see us online (maybe). This is a lot for us to get ready, but this is a hurting world and it needs to see the love of God! We are very thankful for this opportunity to pass out these take home packets!

I will send another email in November. I believe one of the board members will be sending a letter to the churches and church pastors. If you have anyone in your church that would like to help us with packets or cutting things out, please let me know! Thank You again for all your help with the program! Please keep praying for our students, school staff and our community!

The Bluffton WCE Release Time has been around for 96 years. It is the longest running Release Time Program in the Nation and this is only by the grace of God!

The last couple years, we have had up to 701 students attending K-8th grade. Our community is the Hands and Feet of Christ!

*Janice Basinger,
RT 4th & 5th Grade Teacher and Walker Secretary*

SMALL GROUPS

Let's do life together!

Heard in Small Group: "How was your week? Did you see God?"

Our conversations run from mundane to inspirational. We talk about:

- that scary MRI diagnosis
- the cat's latest antic
- what's going on in the world
- attending someone's end-of-life moments
- family connections (or disconnects)
- our next birthday celebration!
- our spiritual journey

We'd love for you to be part of the conversation!

Small Groups is about sharing and exploring God's place in our lives. You can share or not share. When exploring the Word, there are no right or wrong answers because we look at the Bible as if for the first time, having the group interpret what Scriptures mean to them. We also draw inspiration from books, devotionals, and even art and music.

Is small groups right for you? Join us for our first couple of meetings. There are currently two groups to choose from.

Sister Min Circle: 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2:00 PM.

First meeting is Sept. 11. This group will meet at the church this fall.

Claralice Circle: Tuesdays at 6:30 PM at the church. **First meeting is Sept. 15.**

Questions? Contact Jayne McGarrity or Diane Winebar.

Mission News

Little Food Pantry Continues to serve the Community

Aug. 31 – September 6: Sue Van Eman
Sept. 7 – Sept. 13: Sarah Brauen
Sept. 14 – Sept. 20: Diane Winebar
Sept. 21 – Sept. 27: Jodi Brauen
Sept. 28 – Oct. 4: Jayne McGarrity

If you would like to support the Pantry with donations, mac & cheese, small bottles of shampoo, and bar soaps are welcome or financial donations are welcome through online giving. Thank you to Sue Van Eman for continuing to coordinate our pantry; please contact her if you would like to be added as a weekly checker.

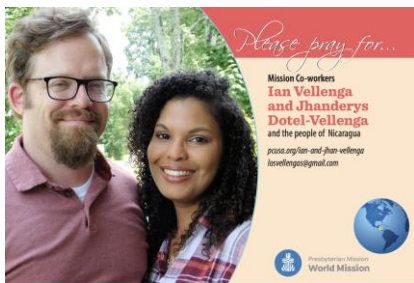
Community Assistance Program

The Community Assistance program has restarted their monthly food pantry hours. As we return to worship in September, 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.

Mission Co-Worker Connections

For more information:

pcusa.org/ian-and-jhan-vellenga



Last Call for Vellenga Baby Shower

Donations are being accepted **through August 31** for a baby gift for mission workers, Ian and Jhan Vellenga. Please choose baby shower if using the online giving, or send a check to the church office (include baby shower on the memo line). The goal is to collect enough for a baby monitor that the couple has identified.

Season of Peacemaking: Sept. 6 - Oct. 4, 2020



Welcome to the 2020 Season of Peace! This four-week pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregations, small groups, families, and individuals. Through daily “Path of Peace” reflections, a coloring page for children and families, and other downloadable resources, you are invited to define and deepen your calling as a peacemaker.

While these resources are designed to culminate in the **Peace & Global Witness Offering**, they are appropriate for any time of the year. This year’s theme returns to a text that the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program has used for a number of years to guide its work. It is the concluding hope of the second letter to the Thessalonians: “May the God of peace grant you peace at all times in all ways.” (2 Thessalonians 3:16) It is our hope that you will be enriched, renewed and enlivened in all the times and ways of your peacemaking and global witness.

This year’s A Season of Peace Resources (visit <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/season-peace/>) are designed to help participants explore practices for building peace on every scale, from the personal level to global issues. Throughout the 29 days of this year’s Season of Peace, we are invited to reflect upon ways to practice:

September 6-12: Peace Within

September 13-19: Peace in Relationships

September 20-26: Peace in Community

September 27-October 4: Holistic Peace

Watch your email or the church Facebook page for resources for these weeks. If your family completes the Peace Poster, consider taking a picture and sharing on the church Facebook page or email Carole Enneking (cenne@gmail.com).



Prayers of Sympathy for Jerry, Julia, and Jake Szabo on the passing of Jerry's mother Jean Szabo.

Prayers of Sympathy for Pastor Dave and Jane Good on the passing of Jane's father Charles Dunwoody.

Prayers of Sympathy for the family of Cruz Huijon, Diane Winebar's uncle who died on August 9.

Prayers of Sympathy for the Brian Hall family from Defiance (friends of Lori) as their son Sebastion died from COVID-19.

Prayers of Sympathy for the family of Rev. David E. Tilly, age 65, who died August 13 in Waterville, Ohio, after a serious illness that had kept him out of the pulpit since March 2020. David served as pastor at FPC Montpelier from 1996 until his death.

Prayers for those who live alone or in care facilities and are unable to engage in meaningful connections with family members and friends, including Dorothy Hursey, Marilyn Bullock, and Hazel Rodabaugh at Maple Crest, Dortha Radabaugh at Mennonite Memorial Home, Peggy Hursey at Putnam Heritage Assisted Living, Sally Reeder at the Springs of Lima, and Jeanette Warren at Good Samaritan in Arlington.

Prayers for Jayne McGarrity who is suffering from a sloped disc in her spine.

Prayers for Jake Szabo as he undergoes tests at Nationwide Children's Hospital to determine the nature of a spinal lesion and figure out next steps.

Prayers for Laura From and family for Tyler's ongoing medical care.

Prayers for Beth Buist who is having to relocate and is in need of new homes for some of her cats.

Prayers for Walter Schmidt (Lori's father) receiving treatments for vision problems.

Prayers for Nancy (Lori's sister) who needs to have a heart procedure.

Prayers for Sonya (Lori's sister-in-law's sister) whose health is suffering due to COVID-19 symptoms for over two weeks.

Prayers for Jacob Korn (son of Lori's friend), who was in a car accident and is now receiving care at Children's Hospital in Columbus, had fifth surgery to repair vocal cord damage. Making great progress, expects to be released late August to continue recovery at home! Family is so appreciative of our prayers!

Prayers for Ralph and Donnie Middleton. Ralph is a retired Presbyterian minister who served at Kenton; his wife is a former CE director for MVP; both were hospitalized at Blanchard Valley Donnie for a broken leg and a lung issue and Ralph for pneumonia; now in a care facility in Kenton with multiple health concerns.

Prayers for Adam Shanaman's grandmother who is having a very hard time walking due to arthritis in both knees.

Prayers for Tina Moritz (Gayle Marshall's co-worker) with stage 4 cancer.

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

Prayers for the hundreds of people killed and thousands injured in the explosion in Beirut on August 4.

Prayers for those who have lost lives, electricity, homes, and crops in the devastating derecho in Iowa and ongoing wildfires in California.

Prayers for the nine military service members who were killed in a training accident in the Pacific Ocean on July 30.

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.



IllustratedChildrenInHistory.com

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

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone:

Email:

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

Primary Work Days: Tuesday – Friday

Secretary: Cathy Carroll

Email:

Office Hours: Thurs 9-12

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email:

Faith Formation Intern: Adam Shanaman

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Nursery Helpers: Kori Phipps and Shawna Anderson

Custodian: Roger Brodman

2020 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Lynda Best

Faith Formation – Tenna Rhonemus

Fellowship – Jodi Brauen

Finance & Stewardship – Clair Winebar

Mission – Carole Enneking

New Beginnings – Sarah Brauen

Nominating – Lynda Best and Tenna Rhonemus

Personnel – Betsey Angus

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Worship – Diane Winebar

Members at Large – Sarah Brauen and Lori Schmidt

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Helen Hawk

Assistant Moderator: Laura From

Members: Tanya Best, Craig Bowman,

Dave Van Eman, and Jeanette Warren