



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

April 2020

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 19, 2020

Dear church family,

The session and I have decided that all in-person church gatherings will be cancelled until health and government officials indicate it is safe to meet in groups again.

Therefore, we will be seeking to find alternate ways to remain connected as a community of faith. A worship video will be made available each Sunday morning on our [church Facebook page](#). A printed page outlining the service will be made available for those without online access.

If you are seeking devotional materials for yourself and/or your family, I would be glad to send you some additional resources.

If you are interested in a weekly connection with other church members for scripture study and/or fellowship conversation using phone or video connections, join me on Wednesdays between 4-5pm for fellowship, check-in, and conversation on Zoom using the instructions provided below.

Hope to "see" you virtually as we explore some new ways of being church.

May God's peace be with you.

Pastor Karol



Mark Your Calendars!

- April 1 – Fellowship Time 4:00 PM (Zoom)
- April 2 – Session – 7:00 PM (Zoom)
- April 5 – Palm Sunday
- April 9 – Maundy Thursday
- April 10 – Good Friday
- April 12 – Easter
- **April 26 – Newsletter Items Deadline**
Gillen3072@roadrunner.com.
- June 7-11 – The Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School will be held at First Mennonite Church. Note this is earlier than years past. More details to follow.



Deacons

The Deacons had their March 19 meeting via Zoom conference call.

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.

Tanya Best	XXX-XXX-XXXX
Craig Bowman	XXX-XXX-XXXX
Laura From	XXX-XXX-XXXX
Helen Hawk	XXX-XXX-XXXX
Dave Van Eman	XXX-XXX-XXXX

The Deacons have been checking in on members. Hope to see you soon!

Pastor's Letter

The Presbyterian Church has always been a connectional church – and we're about to find out how strong those connections are. The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic has disrupted nearly every aspect of daily life: working, learning, eating, shopping, entertainment, and even our regular gatherings as a community of faith.

You may feel overwhelmed by the constant updates and changes to official orders and publicized reports for how long the pandemic is expected to keep our society so immobilized. This is such an unprecedented event that no one really knows for certain what the short and long-term consequences will be.

As people of faith, we experience these circumstances just like all of our neighbors – no one seems immune. And yet, as people of faith, what if we don't have to experience these circumstances by defaulting to fear, panic, and doom?

What if we remind ourselves that God is far more sovereign, more powerful, more in control, than any human authorities or even the virus itself? What if we remind ourselves that in life and in death, we belong to God? What if we share the tiny fragments of hope we cling to with our circles of friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors?

While it may be tempting to give in to the fear that accompanies the uncertainty of these times, I call you to remember the hope that we have in Jesus, who lived through the highs and lows of our human experience, and who bore the suffering of the world that we might have life.

The truth of the saving power of the Gospel must not be hoarded – stored up and preserved for when we feel we need it. The good news of Jesus Christ and the hope of our faith must be shared with one another and the world around – even if we have to share it from more than 6 feet away or over the phone lines or the internet. May God grant us creativity, patience, and endurance, as we live more fully into our identity as a connectional church.

In Christ,

Pastor Karol



We are a Matthew 25 Church!

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31–46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world. As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.

To learn more and for ideas on how to get involved and do your vital part as a member of a Matthew 25 church, please visit pcusa.org/matthew25.

Worship Committee Report

April 16 Worship Committee meeting cancelled.
Virtual meeting TBD.

Please mail the form at the back of this newsletter to the church by April 5 to provide Easter flowers in honor of, or in memory of, loved ones. Whether worship services on Palm Sunday and Easter are virtual or "real," palms and flowers will still be used. Contact Diane Winebar, chair (XXX-XXX-XXXX), if you have any questions, and thank you!

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Season, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form included in this newsletter or the church bulletin to make a monetary donation. Please send names and money to church office by March 29.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter Lilies and other items needed during the Easter season. The money can be given in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Please place your completed form in the collection plate or send it to the church office at P.O. Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817.



Star Word: Goodness

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

In this time of uncertainty there is still evidence of people displaying acts of “goodness”. In the last two weeks we have seen:

- Doctors, nurses, and other medical workers who faithfully continue to work even when treating patients with Covid-19.
- Grieving families making the decision to donate loved ones’ organs to give life to others.
- Medical workers who are cheerleaders encouraging hospitalized patients when family members are no longer able to physically visit because of restrictions.
- People who are willing to “think out of the box” to try and solve shortages in creative ways.
- Volunteers who are sewing face masks for medical workers to wear if anticipated shortage occurs.
- Teachers being creative with ways to communicate and share lessons with students. With basically 48-hour notice, many teachers collaborated to create materials/assignments for students for several weeks.

- Technology has been useful for remaining “connected”; however, many of us are learning new programs. Thankfully, people have been very patient and generous sharing “how to” use these formats with those of us who are less “techy”!
- Employees of school districts and nonprofit agencies who are working to provide meals for students who might otherwise be hungry.
- Pharmacies that are delivering prescriptions to homebound people.
- Employees who sanitize grocery carts so they are ready for the next shopper.
- Grocery store employees who are restocking shelves all day long.
- Grocery store employees who unload your basket of groceries onto the conveyor belt and offer to help take your groceries to the car.
- Truck drivers who deliver food for stores to restock.
- People sharing positive thoughts/gifts of music with others.
- People connecting with those “at risk” and shopping/running errands for them.
- People connecting with old friends and staying in touch with “at risk” people in our congregation.
- Church family sharing talents to be able to create church service for others to view electronically.
- Volunteers who provide/stock our “Little Free Food Pantry” to help those in need in Bluffton.
- Employees in service fields who worked extra hours trying to help customers prior to business being temporarily closed.

May you continue to find “goodness” in people in the days ahead! God Bless You!

Lori and Alyce Ann Schmidt

Small Groups

Sister Min Circle and Claralice Circle are not meeting physically until further notice.

Jayne McGarrity (XXX) XXX-XXXX or Diane Winebar (XXX) XXX-XXXX are always happy to talk with you about small groups.

Highlights of March Session Meeting

- Session records and Membership Roll books were reviewed by Maumee Valley Presbytery on March 10 with no exceptions. Approved the following requests for membership: Pat Deal, Chris and John Hochstetler, Jade Hochstetler by Reaffirmation of Faith; and Tyler Hochstetler by Confession of Faith (baptism) – Pastor Karol has met with all. Electronically approved for Laura From’s Girl Scout group to sell cookies on church lawn on March 12.
- February Pastoral Care: 4 home/hospital/nursing home visits; 12 cards sent. Home Communion: served 2 with Deacons Helen Hawk and Tanya Best, served 1 with Deacon Dave Van Eman; and Maple Crest Communion Service - served 11 with Dave and Sue Van Eman assisting. Congregational activities: Worship, Confirmation Class, Faith Formation Intern Supervision, Claralice Circle, choir, and Ash Wednesday service with Emmanuel and St. John’s UCCs. Presbytery activities: New Pastors’ Group, Discipleship Team, and Commissioned Ruling Elder Committee. Community Engagement activities: Community Chili Cook-off, Bluffton Community Preschool Board (new board member), Ashes to Go, three Bluffton Area Ministerial Association events – including send send-off for Carol Clements and World Day of Prayer Service at Twisted Whisk. Address/contact portion of Church Directory has been updated and copies available. Plan for Confirmation Class to be confirmed on Palm Sunday (April 5). Approved having Confirmation Class help serve Communion. We host Maundy Thursday Service: on April 9 at 7:00 p.m. joined by St. John’s and Emmanuel UCCs. Good Friday: BAMA Cross Walk from St. John’s UCC at 11:30; 12:00 Service at 1st Mennonite. Easter - April 12. Working on creating and submitting video recordings of Sunday worship services to Mennonite Memorial Home for in-house viewing on Wednesday afternoons.
- News from Bluffton Community Assistance Program (BCAP): Bluffton United Way may be disappearing unless they reach more stringent annual fundraising goals, BCAP still in need of delivery drivers and transportation assistance - contact Jami Crawfis. BCAP monetary donations should be sent directly to P.O. Box 52, Bluffton, OH 45817.
- Due to flu/coronavirus Session discussed changes that have been/will be implemented. Realize this is a fluid situation and decisions on future worship/fellowship activities will be made at appropriate time. Encouraged to be in contact with our seniors/those with health concerns who might be housebound for length of time.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery met February 19 at Defiance. Administrative Commission from PCUSA has taken “original jurisdiction” of Synod of the Covenant – of which Maumee Valley Presbytery is a member. All staff have been released and replaced by members of the commission (Chicago, Florida, Puerto Rico). All programs and operations have been suspended for six months – no Health Fair or Mission to USA visits. 14 churches have voted to participate in Matthew 25 – Speaker from PCUSA will speak on “vital congregations” at May’s meeting. Defiance shared their 25 year relationship with pastor in Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico – 80+ from Defiance have gone on mission trips – trips every 3 years - built church complexes, classrooms, sanctuary, VBS, and scholarships to 40 students. Firelands (Pt. Clinton) shared Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep mission project – building beds/providing bedding for children in Ottawa County. Grace Administrative Commission (Lori Schmidt- member) gave final report and approved to dissolve the church and dismiss the commission. Rev. Jessie Commeret called as pastor at Findlay First. Granted waivers to Van Buren and Shelby Presbyterian churches to allow elders to serve more than six consecutive years.

- Shower floor in manse basement fixed and floor mat purchased to go over surface. Problem with basement shower extender - planning to check it. Bulb in church refrigerator replaced. Light in ladies bathroom burnt out and has to be ordered because of being a special type. Broken blind in office has been measured and will be repaired. Phone line in office has static – new line picked up but bookcase needs moved to replace line. Approved hiring John Marshall to mow church yard.
- Community Vacation Bible School will be hosted by First Mennonite Church, Sunday to Thursday, June 7-11. Theme is "Who Is My Neighbor? Learning to Love Like Jesus." We will be partnering with Emmanuel UCC in the preschool area – we are responsible for games/snacks/3 walkers for classes - snacks provided to us.
- Community Chili Cook off had net profit of \$1380 to the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. Several boxes of food donations were collected, as well. Members of eight other area churches, and many volunteers, helped with the successful event. Little Free Food Pantry seeing heavy usage.

February 2020 Financial Report

General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2020	\$
Receipts thru February 29	
Expenses thru February 29	
Balance February 29, 2020	

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

2020 Per Capita

Maumee Valley Presbytery per capita dues are \$35.70 per active member for 2020 and our church's total per capita bill is \$3,677. You are invited to help cover the per capita cost of your membership by making a special donation to our congregation as part of your discipline of stewardship. We thank you for your assistance.

Stewardship Strategies

Did you know that if you are 70 1/2 or over and have an IRA you can donate to the church or any other charity and reduce your income tax bill even if you take the standard deduction? The way to do this is to ask the custodian of your IRA to make out a check to the Bluffton Presbyterian Church for the amount you wish to donate. You should ask the custodian to put your name on the advice line so the church will know where the contribution comes from. You should make a copy of the check when you receive it so you can give it to your tax preparer who will then reduce your taxable income by that amount thereby reducing your taxes. If you have any questions please ask your tax preparer or a member of the Stewardship Committee.

Coming Soon: Online and Mobile Giving Options

Bluffton Presbyterian Church is in the process of setting up a Vanco account (in partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation), providing capabilities to electronically accept contributions to the church. This is something that our Stewardship Committee had already been exploring, but the temporary suspension of in-person gatherings led us to accelerate the process. More details about this secure online giving platform will be available soon. There will be a link on our church website, as well as a free phone app to use. If you have any questions, please contact Julia Szabo, Treasurer or Clair Winebar, Stewardship Chair.

Youth Group

All youth group activities are suspended until further notice. Please keep an eye on the Remind and Snapchat group chat for further updates and communications. Youth should feel free to reach out to me, Tenna, and/or Pastor Karol if they need anything or want to talk. It is important to try and remain positive in these uncertain times, and if I can be of any help please let me know. Wash your hands and say your prayers because Jesus and germs are everywhere! - Adam

Fellowship Committee

Easter Breakfast has been cancelled. Pizza and Bingo night has been cancelled. Hope to have fellowship events when safe to do so.



How to Zoom!

As we explore ways to connect digitally, Pastor Karol will offer opportunities for various groups to connect by video conference/conference call using the Zoom platform. While this may sound too "techy" or complicated to some, it is actually fairly simple. The Deacons have already used it for their March meeting, and in the words of Deacon moderator Helen Hawk, "If I can do it, anyone can!" Be on the lookout for an email (or call/text/note) indicating when a Zoom meeting is scheduled; this invitation will confirm the correct numbers (where in the instructions below it indicates numbers might change).

Zoom Instructions:

Prior to the time of the meeting, you do not need to do anything. A few minutes before the meeting, here is what you should do to join:

Option 1: If you have a smartphone or a computer with a webcam, you can click the hyperlink (either <https://zoom.us/j/2693770575> or something similar - numbers might change from one meeting to the next) to join by audio and video or just audio.

Option 2: Alternatively, you can join by audio only using any phone. To join by phone, you need to dial the phone number (the one that says New York - our time zone) and then enter the meeting ID. So: 1. Call 1-929-205-6099. 2. enter 269 377 0575# (or something similar - numbers might change from one meeting to the next). 3. If it asks for a personal passcode, just enter pound sign (#).

That's it! Contact Pastor Karol if you have questions or ideas for how you would like to use this technology with our church family.

Weekday Christian Education

Here it is! The last day we need to provider walker volunteers for the Weekday Christian Education program for this academic year. We want to line up volunteers just in case school is back in session by April 17. After several weeks of isolation a brisk walk and being around enthusiastic young disciples may be just the pick me up you need. If you are willing to help, please reach out to Tenna Rhonemus via email at XXXXXXXXXXXX or phone XXX-XXX-XXXX.

Friday April 17 Grades 1-5
8:50 – 9:20
9:25 – 9:55
10:30 – 11:00
11:50 – 12:20
12:25 – 12:55
1:00 – 1:30
1:40 – 2:10
2:25 - 2:55

Also attached is a free resource from SALT, similar to one we shared with families last summer. It has a variety of ways to fill our time with meaning while many are spending more time at home than usual. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the church office.

Mission Committee

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry in April. This month items needed are **cereal, peanut butter, and apple sauce or jello cups** or any other food items you wish.

Mission Co-Worker Connections

Financial Support for Ian and Jhan Vellenga:
Bluffton Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 149, Bluffton, OH 45817
Memo: Mission Co-Workers (or) Vellengas
Read more online:
pcusa.org/ian-and-jhan-vellenga

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

Little Free Pantry Getting Lots of Use!

Giving Hope, Sharing God's Love

During the last few weeks, use of our Little Free Pantry has increased dramatically. We can expect this to continue during the pandemic, as kids are home from school and layoffs become more common.

The need may seem overwhelming, but if those who are able add just a few items weekly, we can ensure that the LFP remains stocked with essentials for those who need them most.

Consider donating peanut butter, juice boxes/pouches, canned pastas, canned meats, bagged noodles, rice, beans, breakfast bars, cereals, powdered milk, and bread. Don't forget that we are now stocking emergency baby supplies! Baby wipes, individual formula packets, and plastic zip lock bags with a few diapers inside (size clearly marked on bag) would be appreciated.

Keeping our LFP stocked during this uneasy time is among the most helpful and loving action we can take. Thank you for sharing God's love in this way!

Share the Spirit

Marilyn Bullock
700 Maple Crest Crt W152
Bluffton, OH 45817

Sheila Hurlburt
115 E. College Ave. Apt. D2
Bluffton, OH 45817

Hazel Rodabaugh
700 Maple Crest Crt E103
Bluffton, OH 45817

Sally Reeder
The Springs of Lima
370 N. Eastown Rd. Apt. #205
Lima, OH 45807

Jean Szabo
Frieda House
103 Willow Ridge Dr.
Bluffton, OH 45817

June Strahm
11365 Snider Rd.
Bluffton, OH 45817

Judy Evans
609 Crimson Maple Crt
Bluffton, OH 45817

Dorothy Hursey
700 Maple Crest Crt
Bluffton, OH 45817

Mariah Pneuman
208 N. Cable Rd.
Lima, OH 45805

Peggy Hursey
Putnam Heritage
1380 N. Locust St. #116
Ottawa, OH 45875

Jeanette Warren
Good Samaritan Home
100 Powell Dr. #208
Arlington, OH 45814

Join the New Beginnings Team!

Have ideas? A vision? Want to contribute in a creative way? Consider joining New Beginnings. Reach out to any team member with questions or interest. Members include Tenna Rhonemus, Diane Winebar, Tammie & Bob Hursh, Dick McGarrity, and Sarah Brauen.

New Beginnings - Lima Rescue Mission

On Saturday, March 14, Bob and Tammie Hursh, Mike and Tenna Rhonemus, and Jeff and Cindy Gillen served a pizza supper at the Lima Rescue Mission. It was once again a big hit. The men were very nice and said they really appreciated it. It was a great experience we hope will continue!

The next Lima Rescue Mission pizza supper is scheduled for Saturday, April 11 at 4:30 PM. Please contact Bob and Tammie Hursh to help serve or donate items.



Bluffton Presbyterian Church:

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. These generous donations will help us so much with the rising number of clients during this national emergency.

February 2020	\$ 150.00
March 2020	
Souper Bowl	428.28
Chili Cook-off	<u>1,380.00</u>
Total	\$ 1,958.28

God bless you!

Thank you to the Mission Committee for the gift card for helping with the Chili Cook-off.

Jodi Brauen

Birthdays

- April 1 Megan Sycks
- 2 Danielle Rhonemus
- 4 Beth Buist
- 5 Helen Hawk
- 8 Ashlin Gable
- 13 Avery Talavinia
- 14 Marilyn Bullock
- 15 Jean Szabo
- 18 Chris Schilling
- 19 Karol Farris Schilling
- 23 Leslie Freed
- Lynn Nowak
- Pam Weisenberger
- 24 Will Neff
- 25 Dorothy Hursey
- 26 Cathy Carroll
- 30 Sally Reeder
- May 2 Patrick Rhonemus
- 3 Paige McVetta
- 7 Adam Shanaman

Anniversaries

- May 20 Ben & Judy Miracle

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Craig Bowman (XXX-XXX-XXXX). PLEASE leave a message if no answer. Or call the church office (419-358-5806) 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 of Sympathy for the family of Rev. Doug Adams (former pastor at South Side Christian Church in Lima) who passed away on March 10 and the family of Mark Blunk who passed away on March 20.

Prayers for those sick with the flu, the Corona virus and other illnesses; for all the doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers providing care to those with the coronavirus and all other sicknesses, and for daycare centers that remain open with extra precautions.

Prayers for those without work (many restaurants) and who are overworked (grocery stores) because of the circumstances.

Prayers of Joy for those who have the opportunity to spend more time with family.

Prayers of Comfort for everyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one.

Prayers for those families who have lost the source of their income.

Prayers for the families that were struggling before this crisis and are even more at risk now.

Prayers for wisdom and hope for our community, our country, our world.

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

Prayers of Healing for Tom & Rebecca Hursey, Jean Szabo, Anessa Samsal, Jeanette Warren, Joan Badertscher, Lexie Roth, Sylvia Morman, Jan Romes, Hannah Fenzel, Missy Bishop, Beth Buist, Scott Benroth, Marlene Karrick, Brady Zaller, Jay Begg, Sharon Calvelage, Family of Sue Hover, Shawn McDowell, Kim Best, Katrina Riepenhoff, Molly Pontius, Grace Lancaster, Britton Henn, Ellen Kirkis, Dortha Radabaugh and David Rempelsmucker.



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

Request for Masks from MHCO

As most people are staying at home, some who have sewing skills may be willing to help making masks. While MHCO has some masks on hand they are basically not available in the short term and we are unsure when more will be delivered.

MHCO is asking that masks be delivered to MMH at the front entrance. (It would be good if the church or people making them could include in a bag the number of masks and who made them with contact information so we could later thank them.)

Take a look at this instructional video:
<https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask?fbclid=IwAR1H25JhviFlqeBjj-LEwCUCGNf-PbJcst4fHxcnXOThUqoTk6CVQ8cuyRM>

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Season, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form below to make a monetary donation.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter Lilies and other items needed during the Easter season. Please place your completed form in the collection plate or send to the church office (P.O. Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817).

Thank you.

I/We wish to donate: \$_____

I/We would like this gift to be given in Memory of:

I/We would like this gift to be given in Honor of:

Name: _____

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Thank you.

I/We wish to donate: \$_____

I/We would like this gift to be given in Memory of:

I/We would like this gift to be given in Honor of:

Name: _____

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing from home!

Individuals may indicate their church name in the comments of the donation form to ensure their congregation is informed of any giving.

By Mail:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Mobile Giving:

Text SHARING to 56512
to use our mobile give site

Over the Phone:

800-728-7228

Online:

pcusa.org/give-oghs

We're here
to help!

Call the
Special Offerings team
800-728-7228, Ext. 5047.



The congregation is encouraged to support the One Great Hour of Sharing offering by mailing a check to the church office, giving online, or calling PCUSA Special Offerings.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING GIFTS CONTINUE LONG-TERM RECOVERY FROM HURRICANE MARIA

Who could forget the devastation after Hurricane Maria swept across Puerto Rico in 2017? The hurricane wrecked the electrical grid across Puerto Rico. Eighteen months later, Mimita Nieves was still living without electricity.

Her situation did not change until the day Presbyterian volunteers knocked on her door. The volunteers replaced her electrical system with one much safer and more durable, built her a new fence and hauled away storm debris that had been in her yard for months. One Great Hour of Sharing gifts provided the materials they used to make the repairs. As a senior citizen with limited income, Mimita never would have been able to afford a contractor to do the work and feels blessed for the help she received. When her lights came on, Nieves was overcome with gratitude for Presbyterians. "I cried," she says. "I got down on my knees and I cried."

Mimita's house also got a much-needed roof installed by an organization called Hope Builders, an organization which will now be able to rebuild more roofs using gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing.

The programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program – unite us in caring for the hungry, the weak and the vulnerable. Together, we work to become as Isaiah said, "repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in – for as we always say, if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

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

blufftonpc.org

Sunday Virtual Worship: 10:30 AM

NOTE: TEMPORARY OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone: 419-581-9232

Email: pastor@blufftonpc.org

Home Office Hours: Tues – Fri 10:00 – 4:00 (off Mondays)

Secretary: Cathy Carroll

Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com

Office Hours: Tues or Thurs as needed

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