



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

APRIL 2022

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 3 – Communion, 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Liturgist: Lori Schmidt
Special Music: Linda and Dave Sycks
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolytes: Clara and Bowen

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday Little Free Pantry Offering

Liturgist: Carole Enneking
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh
Slides: Julia Szabo
Acolytes: Paige and Morgan

Sunday, April 17 – Easter Sunday

Liturgist: Tom Edwards
Special Music: Instrumental
Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Talavinias
Acolyte: Avery

Sunday, April 24

Liturgist: Diane Winebar
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Julia Szabo
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolytes: Avery and Aubrea

Sunday, May 1

Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Julia Szabo



Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays: Worship 10:15 AM*; Faith Formation for All Ages: 9:00 to 10:00 AM

Tuesdays: Claralice Circle 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Apr 4 – Worship Committee 7:00 PM

Apr 9 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Apr 10 – Palm Sunday Car Parade after Worship

Apr 12 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Apr 13 – Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM

Apr 14 – Joint Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 PM

Emmanuel United Church of Christ

Apr 15 – Good Friday Community Cross Walk

11:30 AM – Start at St. Mary's Catholic Church

Apr 15 – Good Friday Service at Ottawa Presbyterian 7:00 PM

Apr 17 – Easter Breakfast 8:30AM

Apr 17 – Easter Egg Hunt 9:45 AM

Apr 24 – May Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy

May 1 – Graduate Recognition during Worship Service

Weekly livestream worship is available on our [Facebook page](#) and later posted to our [website](#).

Zoom Instructions for All Church Calls

To join on a computer, tablet, or smartphone:

Click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/2693770575>.

To call in on a landline phone or cell phone:

Call: 1-929-205-6099. When it asks for a meeting ID enter and then press #. When it asks for a participant ID, just press #. *Note: You will be in the "waiting room" for just a moment before you're in!*

During Pastor Karol's new parent leave, if you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact:

Clerk Lori Schmidt, Deacon Moderator Chris Hochstetler or the church office.

Prayers for Peace in Ukraine

March 10 Session Devotion – Clair Winebar

I'd bet that we have all prayed for peace in Ukraine. The situation is a horrible, heartbreaking tragedy and it needs to stop – senseless death, emotional horrors, unimaginable physical suffering.

The complete disregard for human life and international law is maddening and gets topped off with a threat that if outsiders join in defense, the retaliation could be a nuclear catastrophe.

I find that when I pray for Ukraine my hopes and pleas for peace and comfort are earnest. But given the bleak news, I have also struggled with a nagging feeling that it's a weak, futile gesture. My little prayer probably won't change a thing. Mr. Putin will still covet power and control at the expense of human life and the Ukrainians are suffering more than ever.

Are my thoughts and prayers empty words? What can my prayers achieve?

I found an article written at the start of the war that addressed my feelings. It was written by Ashley McKinless with James Martin, S.J., a Jesuit priest:

https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2022/02/24/prayer-ukraine-242464?gclid=CjwKCAjw_tWRBhAwEiwALxFPod_XgHTiYVC_WaxDdvjjiDt6gRBgx_B6qYIGqEANJ_bC_GOqBSu2diRBoCgy8QAvD_BwE

My interpretation of a few thoughts described in the article that I found helpful included:

We should pray for peace because we're followers of Jesus and it's clear that peace and unity were central to what Jesus desired for all people. In the Gospel of John, when Jesus appeared to the disciples following his resurrection, his first words were "peace be with you" rather than a direct remark on his resurrection. "Peace be with you" was one of Jesus's most common phrases.

The outcome of our prayers probably won't be a sudden turnaround of events that are beyond our control. But by praying and opening ourselves to God's response, the outcome might be a further turning of our own hearts – intensifying our compassion or our righteous anger over injustice.

Maybe God's response will lead us to contribute freely to refugee relief efforts, seek other ways to help, or raise our voice to the collective efforts to right-the-ship.

It's helpful to remember that Christianity is an invitation to believe in a God that we cannot fully understand. Father Martin remarked, "God is not a cosmic gum-ball machine where you insert a prayer and out comes a candy-coated result". But we do know that one of the ways that God works through prayer is by moving hearts to action.

God, we pray for peace in Ukraine. We pray for change in the hearts of those who cause the suffering; their victims are bearing a horrible toll. We pray for the safety and physical and emotional needs of the Ukrainians, and we pray that the Russian soldiers be allowed to go home. We pray that you help us discern appropriate and compassionate responses. Amen

CDC Recommendations – Feb. 25, 2022





In accordance with recommendations by the CDC on February 25, 2022 and considering that our surrounding counties are low/medium in Covid transmission, Session has approved that masks are optional for worship and indoor gatherings effective March 2. We ask that you be kind to one another and respect the choices of those who continue to wear masks. These changes do not mean COVID is over, they simply mean transmission levels are lower than they have been during surges and Session will continue to monitor health precautions as necessary. Please continue to take care of yourselves and one another.



Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

The worship committee invites you to help make our sanctuary beautiful this coming Easter season. Please use the form included in this newsletter to make a monetary donation. Easter is a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift given in their memory or honor.

Please return your completed form with your donation by April 4. You will be able to take your flowers home after our joyful Easter Sunday worship service.

HOLY WEEK			Bluffton Presbyterian Church
			
Palm Sunday	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	Easter Sunday
Apr. 10 10:15am Worship 11:30am Car Parade thru Bluffton	Apr. 14 6pm Joint Service @ Emmanuel UCC meal, music, reflection, communion	Apr. 15 11:30am Community Cross Walk start @ St. Mary's Church	Apr. 17 begin 8:30am Breakfast 9:45am Egg Hunt 10:15am Joyful Worship!



Palm Sunday Car Parade

Sunday, April 10 at 11:30 a.m.
From Presbyterian parking lot. Palms available.

Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 14 at 6:00 p.m.
Emmanuel UCC Church, 8375 Phillips Rd.
A joint service between Emanuel UCC, St. John UCC, and Bluffton Presbyterian Church consisting of music, prayer, and reflection.

Good Friday Crosswalk

Friday, April 15 at 11:30 a.m.
Beginning at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bluffton and will go throughout Bluffton stopping at the different churches including BPC.

Good Friday Service

We have been invited by the Ottawa Presbyterian to join them for Good Friday Service on Friday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. It will be both in person in their sanctuary, as well as broadcast online at Facebook.com/ottawapresby. They would love to have you join them in whatever way you feel comfortable.

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 17 at Bluffton Presbyterian Church.

There will be an Easter Breakfast sponsored by the Fellowship Committee beginning at 8:30 a.m., followed by worship at 10:15 a.m. Please sign up in the back of church if you plan on attending the breakfast so we can plan accordingly.

There will be an Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Faith Formation Committee beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Lenten Devotional

Presbyterians Today Magazine has published a 2022 Lenten Devotional that is available online to everyone free of charge. To access it, just type pcusa.org/2022lent on your computer's address bar.

On Loving One Another

So Kind Registry for the Schilling Family

We have set up the following link if people would like to help with food, chores, etc.:

Thank you,
Karol and Chris



Highlights from Deacons March Meeting

- Communion prepared and served (60) March 6.
- July Community Meal hosted by Presbyterian Church has been moved to July 7. Planning has begun.
- April Maundy Thursday Service and Communion discussed.
- Easter/spring flower to elderly/homebound.
- Mike Rhonemus (Prayer Chain) will add all Deacons to Prayer Chain Text that he now sends out.
- Cleaning/reorganizing kitchen ongoing.
- Deacons continuing to reach out to individuals during Karol's Parental Leave.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH SESSION MEETING



- Maumee Valley Presbytery met via Zoom on February 15. Approved selling piece of church property on Fremont East Side for \$12,500 with money going to replenish their emergency fund which had been used to make down payment on roof replacement. Approved sale of uninhabitable house and property adjacent to Van Wert Presbyterian for \$38,500 with money going to housing allowance of pastor/demolition of house. Approved that Central Support Committee, acting as Trustees for MVP, be allowed to approve sale of property between called meetings of MVP when timing is an issue. Synod is offering variety of workshops – more info on Synod of the Covenant website. Bowling Green Presbyterian provides 5 classrooms used for tutoring/English classes to LaConexion as part of their Matthew 25 commitment. LaConexion provides homework assistance because of language barrier, immigration reform, language interpreters for communities. They look at the needs of communities and try to provide services. Now working in NW Ohio - rural areas. Have outreach workers in Napoleon, Fremont, Leipsic, and Wood County. Would be interested in potential collaborating with other churches. Welcomed Rev. Stephen Speakman (CRE program at St. Vincent's Toledo), Rev. Kate Rivera Torea at Perrysburg, and Rev. Bobbie Bella at Firelands – Port Clinton. All three had connections with MVP – two grew up here. MVP presently has 21 full time pastors. 38 churches have part time clergy/CRE with remaining 13 churches having no regular pastoral leadership. In the next 5-10 years expect that 15 churches will have pastors/CRE retiring.
- Deacons cleaned kitchen – pulled out items that presently aren't used or should be replaced. Approved Deacons' request that church family be allowed to take any "Treasures" from two tables in the kitchen prior to April 1.
- Approved request from Paul Nusbaum (The 60's Survivors Band) to use Gazebo on Friday, August 5 from 7:00-9:30 p.m./rain date Saturday, August 6 from 7:00-9:30 p.m.– free/open to public. MVP reviewed Session Records and Membership Roll and found to have no exceptions. Clerk will be attending Zoom meeting for Maumee Valley Presbytery Clerks.
- Chris Schilling made two hospital visits and attended David Engelhardt's visitation. Chris and Karol are appreciative of support (food, grocery pick up, help with babies) they have received from church family.
- Light fixture installed in the storage area. Clair swept the snow from the sidewalks – February 24. Dave cleared the ice from the sidewalks – February 25. Adjusted the motion sensor light over the back door – it was shining in the apartment windows. M&R replaced the howling faucet in the kitchen sink at the manse. They now have a nice pull-down sprayer from the tap!
- Presbyterian Youth Triennium July 24 - 27 cancelled due to Covid protocols.
- Fellowship Committee is helping organize the Easter Breakfast. Men will cook the breakfast; committee will help serve, handle table decorations, and clean up. Easter egg hunt will be handled by Sara Brauen.
- Worship Committee Joys: Volunteers will alternate providing Time for Young Christians with Chris during worship through April. u Best refurbished the drum set. Church members appreciate our camera tech's fine work. Clara Brauen helped organize and put wreaths in storage.
- Adult Choir – members of choir (pre-Covid as well as potential new members) were contacted as to their comfort level of resuming choir. Some previous members have chosen not to return, but not due to Covid concerns. Session appreciated that members/potential members were contacted for input and support the decision to restart Adult Choir. Choir director will determine when choir practice would resume and dates the choir would sing.

FAITH FORMATION

Adult DVD & Discussion Series: “Saving Jesus Redux”

Jesus has been understood in so many ways through the ages. What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus today? Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. as we learn how we might live our lives in ways that contribute to “Saving Jesus” for the 21st century. This 12-week class is the place to ask, seek, and learn.

NEW Spring Sunday School Series – ANIMALS!!

What is better than learning about animals?
Experiencing them up close!

We will be doing both this spring with special guests (real dogs) and field trips (Angus Horse Farm and Birding w/Chad Carroll) in this new series.

Oh yea – and we will connect the experiences to bible lessons.

Details:

- 9:00 a.m. for kids up to 6th grade
- We provide breakfast and carpooling!
- 4/3, 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22
- No Sunday school 4/17

Faithline

Faithline will be April 3. We will meet at the Presbyterian church around 6:20 p.m. and head over together to the Methodist church. The youth will also be having their last big event of the semester in April or early May (date TBD) at the Bluffton Nature Preserve. If interested in being a chaperone, please contact Adam Shanaman. Thanks!

Graduate Recognition

Graduate Recognition will be Sunday May 1. We will be honoring Sarah Gillen who will be graduating from Bowling Green State University in April, and Adam Shanaman who will be graduating from Bluffton University in May. If you know of any other graduates, please contact Dick McGarrity.

Time for Young Christians presenters 2022

April 3 – Chris Schilling
April 10 – Sarah Brauen
April 17 – Chris Schilling
April 24 – Carole Enneking

Vacation Bible School

The BAMA Vacation Bible School Committee is meeting in the Bluffton Presbyterian Church basement on April 21 at 7:00 p.m.

CHOIR IS BACK!

Linda Sycks has announced that choir will sing again April 10 and 24, and May 8 and 29. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please see Linda.



February 2022

General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2022	\$
Receipts and transfers into the general Fund – Through Feb. 28	
Expenses through Feb. 28	
January 28, 2022 balance	\$

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

New Phone Number

Judy Evans cell
Beth Buist cell

New Address

Sheila Hurlburt
Bluffton, OH 45817

MISSION

LIMA RESCUE MISSION

Thank you to Kerry and Jeff Fremont for helping Tammie and Bob Hursh cover March Pizza Night! Currently, April and May are covered.

Upcoming Pizza Nights are scheduled for June 11, July 9, and August 13. Anyone interested in volunteering as a server or to donate supplies (water, soda, candy bars, snacks, and paper supplies) call or text Bob Hursh. If you donate money, please submit a check (memo: LRM) to the church office or give online (www.blufftonpc.org/give). Thanks!

Little Free Pantry

Items to donate at this time are: boxed hamburger helper, cake and cookie mixes, and canned meats. Thank you for your continued support!

March 28-April 3 – Sarah Noland
April 4-10 – Sarah Brauen
April 11-17 – Jodi Brauen
April 18-24 – Jayne McGarrity
April 25- May1 – Diane Winebar



Habitat for Humanity

Have you decided 2022 is the year to get more involved? Habitat for Humanity Lima has a unique way to volunteer. By joining one of our committees, you can help to shape, promote, and expand the ministry of Habitat and the ReStore as we help families to become empowered, secure, and self-reliant through housing. Please email Caleb@habitatlima.org or call (419) 222-4937 to hear about how you could play a pivotal role in our organization's future.

Grace & Gratitude Campaign

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

Due to the overwhelming response to this offering, Bluffton Presbyterian Church is helping communities with donations of 1 pair of goats, 3 piglets, 5 families of chickens, and 4 shares of a cow. The goal was \$500 with \$618 received.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

(March 2- April 30)

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

To support this work, send a check to the church office or give online <https://www.blufftonpc.org/give.html>.

For more information about this denominational offering, visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/oghs/>

Humanitarian Relief for Ukraine

Support humanitarian relief to those fleeing violence in Ukraine via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been working very closely on the developing situation in the Ukraine, the humanitarian efforts underway, and how to support those in the midst of the conflict. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP – Give. Act. Pray. Gifts can be made to your local Presbyterian church, in the memo line include DR000156-Ukraine.



Prayers of Celebration for:

Congratulations to Adam Shanaman (Faith Formation Intern) on his acceptance to Chicago Theological Seminary. He will begin in the fall. Adam, we have enjoyed having you with us to work with our youth, give Children's messages, serve as liturgist, and preach. We know you have a bright future ahead!

Prayers of Sympathy for:

Dave and Linda Sycks and family on the recent loss of Dave's aunt Beverly Sycks.

Dave and Sue Van Eman and family on the recent loss of Sue's father Harold McDougale.

Prayers for:

Those who live alone or in care facilities and are less able to engage in meaningful connections with others, including Jane Benroth, Sheila Hurlburt, Peggy Hursey, Ralph and Donnie Middleton, Sally Reeder, Hazel Rodabaugh, Dortha Radabaugh, and Owen and Kay Ziessler.

The people of Afghanistan during a tense time of transition and unrest.

Prayers for peace and hope in the Ukraine conflict.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces (including Chris Schilling) who may be called to active service as a result of conflict in Ukraine.

Victims of violence in our country and around the world.

Prayers of Healing for:

Alyce Ann Schmidt (Lori Schmidt's mother)
Valerie Basinger (Jodi's sister-in-law)
Heather (Lori Schmidt's friend)
Pete Amstutz (Gayle Marshall's friend)
Vanessa (Adam Shanaman's sister)
Gayle Marshall
Yuji (Greg and Laura Elwood's son)
Roger Brodman
Elkin (great nephew of Lynda Best)
Kay and Owen Ziessler
Brecken (Shawna Anderson's son)
Cindy Gillen
Vanessa Miracle (Ben's daughter)
Alva Hunt (Jerry Szabo's friend)
Andy (Paige's friend)
Jim Basinger (Jodi Brauen's brother)
Lou Dunn (Ben Miracle's sister)
Dwight Nichols
Mustaq Ahmed (Jeremy Szabo's friend)
Miranda Samsal (Mariah Pneuman's granddaughter)
Sheila Hurlburt

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus. 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.

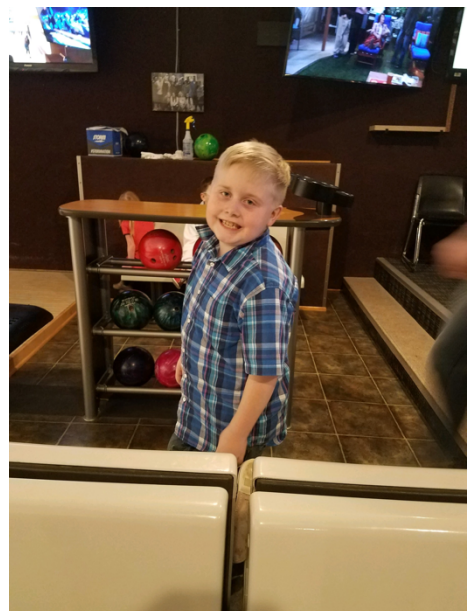
Prayer Chain Members

Are you a prayerful person or want to become more so? We have a prayer filled mission opportunity for you! The deacons are inviting any interested individuals to join the prayer chain.

This group of people intentionally and purposefully seek to grow in faith and share God's love by lifting others and their needs up in prayer. If you would like more information or are interested in joining the prayer chain, please contact Mike Rhonemus.

March Fellowship Lunch and Bowling at Southgate Lanes





Thank You

Presbyterian Church Family,
Thank you for all your prayers, cards, texts, food, and emails. It all brightened my day and really meant a lot to me.

Cindy Gillen

Thank you to Don Carroll, Kerry Fremont, and Diane Winebar for helping with the Lenten supper.

A special thank you to Chris Hochstetler and Betsey Angus for the bowling pictures, and to Cathy Carroll for setting up the bowling outing.

Merchant Rebate Programs!



Bluffton Presbyterian Church is now participating in the Amazon Smile program!

- Smile is an Amazon charitable program. A shopper can designate a charitable organization to benefit from their Amazon shopping.
- Amazon donates 0.5% of the value of the customer’s Amazon purchases to the organization.
- There is no cost. You pay the same price regardless of whether you have designated a charity.
- *Example:* Fifty families designate BPC as their Smile charity and make an average of \$1,000 per year of purchases on Amazon. *BPC would receive \$250 annually!*

If you would like to participate:

Simply click or copy this link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1444206>

Then, just make sure the smile.amazon site indicates “Supporting: Bluffton Presbyterian Church” at the top left side of your screen.

Thank you for supporting Bluffton Presbyterian Church!



Community Markets Rebates – Save Your Receipts!

Participating in the Community Markets rebate program is super-easy – simply drop your Bluffton Community Markets receipts in the little basket attached to the bulletin board by the church office or mail them to the church. The church then gets a 1% cash rebate! It works best if you keep your receipts loose when you put them in the basket or mail them – please no staples or rubber bands.

The rebates program is a super easy way to support our church and local grocery store! There is no user account, loyalty card, or app required ☺! Even when your receipts are from quick stops for only a couple items, they are worth turning in because the total adds up when combined with everyone.

Thank you to Darlene Hey for coordinating our Community Markets rebates program! We recently received a \$592 rebate check from Community Markets for our participation, which is now being put to good use in our 2022 general fund.

Please let Darlene know if you have any questions regarding the receipts rebate program. Thank you for your support!

Birthdays

Apr	1	Megan Sycks
	2	Danielle Rowland
	4	Beth Buist
	5	Helen Hawk
	8	Ashlin Gable
	13	Avery Talavinia
	18	Chris Schilling
	19	Karol Farris Schilling
	23	Leslie Freed
		Lynn Nowak
		Pam Weisenbarger
	24	Will Neff
	26	Cathy Carroll
	30	Sally Reeder
May	2	Patrick Rhonemus
	3	Paige McVetta

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter

Help make our sanctuary Easter-beautiful!



Fill in the form below and return it, with payment, to the church.
Make checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

You may:

1. Mail to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, PO Box 149, Bluffton, OH 45817.
2. Bring to the church office Tuesday or Thursday between 9:00 am and noon.
3. Outside office hours, place in the inside lockbox to right of the office door.
4. Fill out and send in this form, but donate online through our website: blufftonpc.org/give.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter flowers and other items needed during the Lenten/Easter seasons.

Please note: The deadline is April 4.

I/We wish to donate \$ _____

My Name: _____

In Memory of _____

By: _____

In Honor of _____

By: _____

BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
112 N. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 149
BLUFFTON, OH 45817

Faith Formation: 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone: 419-581-9232

Email: pastor@blufftonpc.org

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email:

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email:

Communications Coordinator: Abigail Gwin

Email:

Faith Formation Intern: Adam Shanaman

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Children's Church Leaders: OPEN

Custodians: Chris and John Hochstetler

2022 Church Officers

Elders on Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Sycks

Faith Formation – Dick McGarrity

Fellowship – Tom Edwards

Mission – Carole Enneking

Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Diane Winebar

Elders at Large – Sarah Brauen and Phill Talavinia

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

Members: Cindy Gillen, Rob McGarrity,

Jana McVetta, Tenna Rhonemus, Mike Rhonemus