



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

February 2021

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 7 – Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Liturgist: Tanya Best
Hymn Singers: Don Brauen & Pastor Karol
Sound: Jay McCracken / Camera: Ryan Brauen
Slides: Julia Szabo
Acolytes: McVettas

Sunday, February 14 – Transfiguration of the Lord, Little Free Pantry Offering

Preacher: Tenna Rhonemus
Liturgist: Adam Shanaman
Hymn Singers: Linda & Dave Sycks
Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolytes: Brauens

Wednesday, February 17 – Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM Pre-Recorded Service on Facebook joined by Ottawa Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 21 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Jana McVetta
Hymn Singers: Julia Szabo & Dick McGarrity
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Talavinias
Acolytes: Avery Talavinia and Bowen Hochstetler

Sunday, February 28 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Liturgist: Diane Winebar
Hymn Singers: Lori Schmidt, Tanya Best & Judy Evans
Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Julia Szabo
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolytes: Brauens

Sunday, March 7 – Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Mark Your Calendars!

- Feb 4 – Fellowship Zoom 7:00 PM
- Feb 4 – Mission Committee Zoom 7:00 PM
- Feb 7 – Worship Service 10:15*
- Feb 11 – Deacons Zoom 6:30 PM
- Feb 13 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 to 6:30 PM
- Feb 14 – Worship Service 10:15*
- Feb 16 – Presbytery Meeting Zoon 10:00 AM
- Feb 17 – Ash Wednesday 7:00 PM
- Feb 18 – Session 7:00 PM
- Feb 21 – Worship Service 10:15*
- **Feb 21 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy:**
gillen3072@roadrunner.com
- Feb 28 – Worship Service 10:15*
- Feb 28 – Congregational Meeting to Vote on
Gazebo Proposal
- Feb 28 – MVP Discipleship Zoom Gathering
2:00 to 3:00 PM (contact Pastor Karol for link)

*At Ohio Public Health Advisory System Alert Level 3 (red), weekly worship will be livestreamed on Sundays at 10:15 AM. At level 4 (purple), worship will be prerecorded individually and scheduled to premiere on Sundays at 10:15 AM. At Levels 1 and 2 (yellow and orange), in-person worship will be offered. 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](#).

Small Groups

There are no meetings planned for Claralice Circle or Sister Min Circle in February.

Can Recycling Notice

Please stop bringing cans to church. No one has volunteered to recycle them, so we are no longer collecting them.

Pastor's Letter

As a Presbyterian Minister of the Word and Sacrament, I participate in the work of our Presbytery along with other ministers (teaching elders) and elders (ruling elders). As happens from time to time, our Presbytery underwent a restructuring process a couple of years ago, as we sought a more effective and efficient way to organize ourselves. We now have three primary commissions to accomplish the work of the presbytery: Leadership, Discipleship, and Mission. I serve as a leader in the discipleship group – which we have determined covers a range of responsibilities, from guiding people through the process of becoming a minister or a commissioned ruling elder, to providing short-term faith formation opportunities for individuals and congregations.

During our first several meetings, we were hard at work among the “trees” – organizing the details of the tangible tasks that must be accomplished. But then, we took a step back to see the “forest” – to get a better perspective on what exactly we’re supposed to do as the Discipleship Commission. Discipleship means many things to many people, including the six on our team. However, we were able to condense our varying ideas into a manageable amount that can serve as our guiding principle in our work going forward. Here’s where we landed (starting with scripture, followed by our definition):

“Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20, *The Message*).

Discipleship involves more than learning about the faith of others; a disciple becomes caught up in the very life of Christ through the Holy Spirit. Discipleship means discovering how our life stories are interwoven with God’s unfolding story. Discipleship encompasses all that we do as Christians, both individually and communally, including learning, teaching, being challenged, struggling, growing, and sharing the Good News with others in word and deed.

Perhaps this definition resonates with you; maybe yours would include differing ideas. Like faith itself, discipleship is a lifelong journey that takes many forms as we seek connection with God and one another. May these reflections assist you in renewing your own sense of discipleship, especially as we soon enter the season of Lent.

The Discipleship Commission will be hosting Presbytery-wide Zoom gatherings on February 28 and April 25 to support congregations in their own work on discipleship development. We look forward to these conversations about how we can best work together at discipleship throughout our Presbytery. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

In Christ,

Pastor Karol

Lent



In Lent, we’re reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats – every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbation we exclaim, “Again?! How long, O God?” And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: “I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair.” Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

This theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another – especially when it’s hard – by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. “A Lenten Refrain” speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. “Refrain” also reminds us that Lent is a season of abstaining from certain or harmful practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits.

In this season, we need rituals – both old and new – to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need the 40 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples. Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.

Ash Wednesday



As Lent begins, we’re invited in – to community, to this season, to our own spiritual journey, to true transformation. We’re on this journey together, but we’re invited to turn inward. Therefore, spiritual practices are not for show. Matthew 6 and Isaiah 58 remind us that performative acts (of piety and justice) are not the way.

1st Sunday in Lent

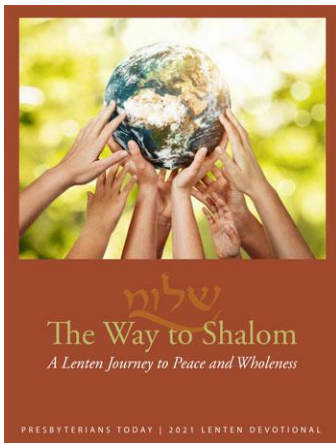


God meets Jesus at the water before he is tempted in the wilderness – this is important. First and foremost, God claims us. God meets us in the liminal space, at the water’s edge, at the threshold of something new, and names us Beloved. God’s covenant with all of creation reminds us that God meets us where we are – in the midst of our reluctance, doubt, eagerness, or weariness – and proclaims we are good.

2nd Sunday in Lent



Mark 8:31-9:8 | Psalm 22:23-31
Like the disciples, we are often stuck in the pattern of messing up over and over again. We cling to power, we climb the ladder, we memorialize Christ’s teachings rather than embodying them. However, we can’t be trapped by shame, guilt, ignorance, or inaction. Humility is required for transformation. Again and again, we are called to listen – to God and to others.



Lenten Devotional - The Way to Shalom: A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness

Lent is all about spiritual renewal. It is a sacred time of preparation for Easter and a time to reflect on what God has done to redeem us and how we can live a whole and full life as a child of God.

Many of us see Lent as a season of penitence, fasting, service and contemplation – but at the top of our list should be a prayer for peace. In this devotional, you are invited to reflect upon the gift of shalom, the Hebrew word with a host of meanings: peace, security, well-being, health, completeness. Our spiritual goal: *exploring how can we receive this gift of shalom and, in turn, bestow it upon the world.*

Now, more than ever, we deeply crave shalom. Our world is in desperate need of peace. The United States has just come out of a contentious election, a struggle with a global pandemic, and painful racial violence. Poverty, misery, and despair fill many corners of the world. Yes, we desire peace. We need peace.

Every week from Ash Wednesday (February 17) through Easter (April 4) focuses on shalom and what it can mean in our lives and how we can bring it to the world. We explore themes of justice, peace, healing, hope, repairing, and reconciliation. You'll find Scripture readings along with beautiful meditations and prayers written by the director and staff of the Presbyterian Office of Public Witness in Washington: the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Catherine Gordon and Christian Brooks. You'll be challenged and moved — and hopefully, spiritually enriched. *The Way to Shalom* is [online](#) and free for download or printing. You're invited to make it your spiritual companion this Lent.

Zoom Instructions for All Church Calls

To join on a computer, tablet, or smartphone: Click this link: . You will be in the "waiting room" for just a moment before you're in!

To call in on a landline phone or cell phone:

Step 1: Call this phone number: .

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

Step 3: When it asks for a participant ID, just press # to continue. You will be in the "waiting room" for just a moment before you're in!

Highlights of January Session Meeting



- Clerk participated in one MVP Leadership Zoom call. Clerk is serving on Synod's Permanent Judicial Commission. Elders/Deacons ordained/installed on January 10. Approved GA 2020 Statistical Report (membership/finances).
- Month of December Pastoral Care: 1 visit; 35 calls; 32 cards sent. Congregational activities: Worship, Announcements/Prayers Email, Facebook Posts, Adult Faith Formation Zoom, Choir Fellowship Zoom, Claralice Circle Zoom, Editing videos for Christmas Eve & Longest Night Service, Longest Night Worship Service (pre-recorded video), Christmas Eve Service (pre-recorded video), committee meetings. Community Engagement activities: BAMA Meeting, BAMA Video Service prepared for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 18-25, BAMA Mission Outreach to local front-line workers. Presbytery activities: Mission Commission Zoom Gathering, Commissioned Ruling Elder Team Zoom, MVP Weekly Leaders Zoom Call, and moderate Ottawa PC Session.
- Stewardship examining eligibility for the round of paycheck protection program (PPP) funds recently enacted in law. Update on investment program previously approved by Session – for January – June 2021 plan to withdraw \$ a month from Money Market and invest in existing Vanguard account. Plan to re-evaluate after six months.

- Deacons have reorganized for 2021: Moderator – Laura From, Assistant Moderator – Jana McVetta, Prayer Chain – Craig Bowman, Funeral Dinners – Tanya Best, Community Meals – Chris Hochstetler, and Big cards – Libby McVetta.
- Christmas Joy Offering – Collection underway through January 18. Grace & Gratitude Presbyterian Giving Catalog Campaign – committee set \$250 goal to fund a Community Irrigation Water Pump; promotion will run January 24 – February 14. Little Free Pantry – increase in donations (congregation and community) during December lowered the need to purchase items. Chili Cook Off – Cancelled for 2021 due to pandemic, but Bluffton Community Assistance has received lots of financial support so are financially in good shape. First Responder Support Project – Discussed using \$200 Unbudgeted Local Mission funds to purchase snack items for Bluffton workers: Healthcare (Hospital, MMH, MC), Grocery, School Teachers/staff (Elem, MS, HS), Post Office, Emergency. Pastor Karol shared idea with BAMA and several churches are interested in participating. Lima Rescue Mission – Pizza Nights are scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month. Bob and Tammie Hursh will continue to coordinate - congregation invited to sign up to help serve or donate items. Blankets – Four were included with the Adopt A Family gifts and an additional 15 will be dropped off to Family Promise soon.
- Approved Personnel Committee for 2021 – Lori Schmidt, Phill Talavinia, and Sue Van Eman.
- Reorganizational Items – Elected Lori Schmidt as Clerk. Elected Julia Szabo as Treasurer for 2021. Elected Sarah Brauen and Tom Edwards as Co-chairs for Nominating Committee. Elected Lori Schmidt as Presbytery Commissioner. Approved that the Composition of 2021 Session includes four males and five females which is representative of our congregation in terms of age/gender. Approved nominating elders to the congregation to serve as Officers of the Corporation - President – Dick McGarrity, Treasurer – Sarah Brauen, and Secretary – Lori Schmidt.

- Approved serving communion on the following 2021 dates: first Sunday of each month (which does include Easter), Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday. Sound techs (also Nathan Hursh and Ryan Brauen) addressed over modulation/distortion livestreaming sound problem. Camera adjustment fixed the issue. Continuing work on adjusting the soundboard levels. Thank you to Pastor Karol, Jayne McGarrity, and Tenna Rhonemus for coordinating all aspects of the online Christmas Eve service. Thanks to all who participated in services throughout the Advent/Christmas seasons. A poinsettia donor requested his family’s flowers be gifted to Mennonite Memorial Home. A music license through Concordia Publishing has been purchased for a \$45 annual fee.



December 2020 Financial Report

General Fund Budgeted Items

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

Thank you for financially supporting the church’s budget.

Per Capita

You are invited to help cover the per capita cost of your membership (General Assembly, Synod, Maumee Valley Presbytery) by making a special donation through our congregation as part of your stewardship practice. The 2021 per capita amount is \$37.23 per active member. Thank you!





KNOW KIDS WITH FREE SUNDAY MORNINGS?

Invite them to join our new Zoom Sunday school Series

Starting February 14, **Valentine's Day!**

Deacons Report from January 13 Meeting

- This meeting was conducted via zoom and had the new coming deacons for 2021 in attendance. We discussed briefly what it means to be a Deacon, as well as all the many programs we do throughout the year. We also chose the office positions for 2021: Tanya Best – Funeral Dinner Coordinator, Libby McVetta – CARE Cards and directory coordinator, Chris Hochstetler – Community Meal Coordinator, Jana McVetta – Financial and Assistant Moderator, Craig Bowman – Prayer Chain Coordinator, and Laura From – Moderator.
- We will be continuing our CARE Deacon program this year. As a reminder, this program was designed to ensure all members have a connection with the church. In the coming month you should be contacted by your CARE deacon so they may introduce themselves, as well as give more information on this meaningful program.
- On February 18 at 6:00 PM, Bluffton Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Community Meal as a drive-thru behind the Senior Citizen Center.

FAITH FORMATION

Youth Valentine's Day Cards

Calling children of all ages! We are planning on sending cards to members of our faith family who are unable to get out due to the pandemic and other risk factors. Since Valentine's Day is just around the corner, we thought it would be the perfect opportunity! Please have your child(ren), grandchild(ren), etc., make some homemade cards and drop them off at the church during office hours by February 12 so we have time to send them before Valentine's Day. The cards should include a message about BPC and God loving them, and keeping them in our hearts and prayers. Adults are welcome to contribute as well! Please contact Adam Shanaman with any questions. Thanks!

- ♥ Receive a packet with items needed for a 7-week series.
- ♥ Be assigned a pen pal for mailing weekly letters (yes, through snail mail!).
- ♥ 30-minute Zoom calls Sunday mornings for a short lesson and discuss the week's letter.
- ♥ Weekly stamps, envelopes, and fill-in letter templates are provided.
- ♥ Letter template themes include 'Who Am I?', 'Heroes', 'Candy', 'Animals', and More!
- ♥ No **problem** if you miss a Zoom, but please be able to commit to sending the letters.
- ♥ Text or call Sarah Brauen at to sign up!



Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School

Hold onto your hats—err—shoes! Vacation Bible school planning is already under way. St. Mary's Catholic Church is hosting this year and they are requesting that we begin collecting shoe boxes. So if you get some cool footwear for Christmas, please save the box. We have a box in the church basement fellowship hall for donations. Thank you!

MISSION NEWS

Grace & Gratitude Campaign



This year, the Mission Committee is challenging the congregation to raise \$250 for a Community Irrigation Pump. This is one of many items in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog that supports worldwide mission.

Water is a necessity for life, but there are many areas of the world where access to clean water is limited. For example, the northeast region of Nigeria has recently been ravaged by civil unrest that has damaged land and made farms inaccessible. This, combined with an extended dry period, has led to widespread food insecurity and economic instability. A community irrigation water pump will help farmers restore their land and make it fruitful again. Donations are welcome by check or online (www.blufftonpc.org or <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org>) by February 15, 2021.

Little Free Pantry

Looking to donate to the LFP? This month we are asking for boxes of Mac & Cheese, spaghetti, and Hamburger Helper®. If you would like to join the Stocking Crew rotation, contact Sue Van Eman. These volunteers agree to stock the Pantry every day for a week. Monetary donations are welcome to help purchase food items.

February Schedule:

Feb 1-7 – Jodi Brauen

Feb 8-14 – Diane Winebar

Feb 15-21 – Sarah Brauen

Feb 22-28 – Jayne McGarrity

Lima Rescue Mission

Thanks all who provided snacks, drinks, supplies, and who helped support, deliver, and serve pizza. We covered 11 Pizza Nights in 2020.

In 2021, we served on January 9 and have committed to the 2nd Saturday of the month. This month's Pizza Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 13 from 4:30 to 6:00 PM and donations of water bottles, candy bars, snack bags, and money for pizza are needed. Please use Signup.com <https://signup.com/go/aCcGFHV> or contact Bob Hursh to help. Water and snack donations are due in the church kitchen by the Friday before each meal. If you donate money, please submit a check (memo: LRM) to the church office or give online (www.blufftonpc.org) by the Wednesday before.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

*Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry,
Empowering the Oppressed*

Support for our Lenten offering is welcome starting February 21 and will continue until Easter. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



You are Invited to Join

If you enjoy helping others, you are invited to join the Mission Committee. We meet on the first Wednesday night from 7:30 to 8:30 PM (currently by Zoom) to share ideas to “outreach through the Church to the least among us, those in need, and victims.” Contact Carole Enneking (Chair), Lynda Best, Sue Van Eman, or Pastor Karol for more information.

Birthdays

- February 1 Dortha Radabaugh
- 2 Jodie Parker
- 5 John Marshall
- 7 Cooper Hochstetler
- Darin Leugers
- 8 Michelle Talavinia
- 9 Owen Ziessler
- 11 Katie Blaskay (McCracken)
- 12 Samantha Rhonemus
- Jhan Dotel-Vellenga
- 14 Geraldine Sullivan Clark
- 18 Jane Sycks
- Jeannette Warren
- 22 Lin Rumer
- 24 Louis Best
- Clair Winebar
- 25 Libby McVetta
- 28 Jodi Brauen
- March 1 Greg Culbertson
- 2 Emily Sycks
- Jane Benroth
- 3 Jacob Szabo



 Thanks to everyone from the church for the calls, cards,
 and goody bag, I really appreciate hearing from you.
 Dortha Radabaugh

Thank you so much for your gift package and
 everything else you do.
 Beverly Begg

Thanks to the Deacons for the Christmas goody
 bag. Good surprise!
 Colletta Mullenhour

I feel so blessed to have such an amazing church
 family. Thank you to Tanya and fellow Deacons
 who were able to help make Tyler's memorial
 service meal a success. Thank you all!
 Laura From

To all the Deacons:
 Thank you so much for the festive sack of goodies
 you delivered to my door. The choice of cookies
 and candy became the treat I would allow myself
 several times a day. It's been a long time since I've
 had candy on a stick! And the cookies were
 delicious. The "Christian Prayer for Peace" was
 included and it proclaims the true message of
 Christmas. Thank you all so much.

Judy Evans

Bluffton Presbyterian Church:
 Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the
 Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. Your
 donation of \$598.81 is greatly appreciated and will
 be put to good use. God bless you!

I sincerely appreciate the Christmas gift. It was
 very thoughtful. Sharing music with you and others
 in the congregation is special to me.

Sue Van Eman

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.



Prayers of Sympathy for:
 The family of Daniel Wolski (Tanya Best's cousin)
 who passed away suddenly on December 17.

The family of Leigh Ann Alspach (Jane Benroth's
 niece) who passed away December 18 from heart
 issues.

The family of Jim Clark (friend of Tanya and Lou Best) who died unexpectedly on January 2 due to COVID-19.

All the families of the more than 2.1 million people worldwide (more than 421,000 in the U.S.) who have died from the virus.

Prayers of Joy for:

Bev Begg and family who have a new great-grandson, Nolan William Begg, born on January 19.

Prayers of Healing for:

Julene Walters (Jodi's friend) who had surgery on December 22 for esophageal cancer; it went well and she is at home recuperating.

Diane Winebar who has been ill recently.

Diane Winebar's sister Sylvia Morman who had a diagnostic heart catheterization procedure to follow-up on her open heart surgery a few months ago.

Tina Moritz (Gayle Marshall's coworker) who is in remission from Stage 4 cancer.

Ed Joffe (Jeremy Szabo's friend) who has bladder cancer.

Joan Badertscher (Colletta Mullenhour's sister-in-law and former BPC member) who is receiving chemotherapy and medications for cancer.

Molly Pontius (Lori's friend in AZ) who is having difficulties with heart transplant.

Marie and Ron Gallaher (Bev Begg's sister and brother-in-law), Ron is now home on hospice and getting weaker; Marie is recovering from COVID-19, but has developed strep throat.

Ken Ruckzo (McCracken family friend) who has brain cancer that has spread to other organs.

Those who live alone or in care facilities and less able to engage in meaningful connections with others, including Marilyn Bullock, Peggy Hursey, Sally Reeder, Hazel Rodabaugh, Dortha Radabaugh, Sheila Hurlburt, Jeanette Warren, and Ralph and Donnie Middleton.

Wisdom, patience, and compassion as we continue to find our way during the pandemic.

For our nation after the transition of leadership in the federal government.

New Communications Position

Based on the recommendation of New Beginnings and Session approval, the Personnel Committee will pursue hiring an hourly, part-time staff position focused on communications. Primary responsibilities are:

1. Manage internal congregational electronic sign designs.
2. Facilitate the electronic sign request/approval/publishing process*.
3. Create graphics and layout for the weekly congregation email.
4. Provide communications/graphics support and development to the congregation.

4-6 hours per week is initially forecasted with the potential of up to 10 hours per week. [Click here](#) for more details.

If you or someone you know has an interest, please reach out to Lori Schmidt or Pastor Karol.

** Internal and non-profit community signs will be approved by a designated church member.*

Happy Birthday to EtCetera, Ten Thousand Villages, and Book Reviews

On January 18, EtCetera and Ten Thousand Villages will be 47 years old and Book Reviews will be 16. These nonprofit stores provide funds to Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) to deliver food, water, and education to people around the world. During the past 47 years, these stores have sent \$1.5 million and tens of thousands of people in 50 countries around the world have experienced love and compassion given in the name of Christ.

As we begin 2021, continue shopping in our stores for your wants and needs and to provide hope to those around the world.

Blessings, Marcie Allen
Store Manager
Bluffton Ten Thousand Villages

Proposal for Gazebo

We'd like to give you information concerning a proposal made to Session which includes input from Faith Formation, Buildings & Grounds, and Stewardship committees. It is essentially an update of a proposal made by the 2015 New Beginnings Committee which consisted of Ryan Brauen, Dave Sycks, Jana McVetta, Tenna Rhonemus, Lin Rumer, Diane Winebar, and Dave Good. There was a gazebo on the lawn many years ago, although we haven't been able to find a photograph. Mary Barnett remembered concerts there and many people have stories about the old gazebo.

We believe the project would be consistent with the church's objective of community outreach. Possible uses would be to provide a place for:

- Rest, meditation, and reflection for passersby.
- BPC events such as Sunday services, Faith Formation activities, fellowship, weddings, funerals, fundraisers.
- Community events such as weddings, showers, birthdays, anniversaries, and fundraising.
- Musical and dramatic performances by church, high school, university, and community groups.
- Relaxation by parents and care givers while kids are playing.
- Community programs such as Blaze of Lights, Bluffton in Bloom.
- Enhancing the small-town quaintness and ambiance of Village.

A fact sheet is attached. If you have any questions, please send us an email at dickjayne1@aol.com.

The project would be funded by the Barnett bequest.

Thanks,
Dick & Jayne McGarrity

BPC Gazebo Fact Sheet

1. **Appearance:** The proposal is for a white, 20' by 20' octagon-shaped, Victorian style gazebo. The area would be just under 400 square feet and the floor would be two feet above the ground. Dave Sycks believes that this size would accommodate all the high school musical groups except show choir (although the band would be a squeeze.) The size is the same as the gazebo in Ottawa's Water Works Park and is about 2½ times the size

of the one in Bluffton's Johnny Appleseed Park. The material would be polyvinyl-covered pine. The manufacturer, LuxCraft of Sugar Creek, OH, an Amish company, describes it as virtually maintenance-free, although it would need power washing every few years. It would be of commercial quality with a shingle roof. It would include an electrical connection to the church, but we would need to distribute power to specified electrical fixtures. The following photo from the LuxCraft catalog of an octagonal gazebo gives an idea of its appearance.

2. **Location:** The proposal is that the gazebo would be located approximately 40' out from the entrance to the basement. White flags on the lawn indicate this position, which allows for good visibility from both Cherry and Main Streets while being far enough from all streets to minimize traffic noise. It would also leave a large part of the lawn open so that people watching an event could spread blankets or use lawn chairs.
3. **Cost and Design Details:** Cost estimates indicate that the total project would not exceed the \$ _____ which will remain in the Barnett bequest after the final payment for the electronic sign. This figure includes electrical distribution and fixtures, landscaping, and permits. Because the floor of the gazebo would be 2' above grade, a ramp would be needed for people with disabilities. The ramp would run between the gazebo and the sidewalk in front of the basement entrance. Rather than use a manufactured ramp, we plan to use a ramp created by raising the elevation of the ground gradually between the sidewalk and the gazebo. The stairs to the gazebo, which would face the parking lot, would be wider than normal, resembling risers. This would enable them to be used by a choir, bridesmaids, or anyone "spilling over" from the gazebo. Tom Edwards has suggested that we seek out volunteer labor to assist with electrical and landscaping. For example, Wendell Badertscher has indicated an interest in helping with the electrical. Dave Sycks has volunteered to help specify the lighting levels and locations for electrical outlets and fixtures.
5. **Timing:** We could expect the gazebo to be installed about two months after we give them a purchase order. The installation process takes about three days.



Two of the 8 sides would be open for steps (risers) and one side for handicap entry.
Different roof colors are available.

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

blufftonpc.org

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone:

Email:

Primary Work Days: Tuesday – Friday (off Mondays)

In-Office Hours: Wed & Thurs 10-1

Secretary: Cathy Carroll

Email:

Office Hours: Tues & 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

2021 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Lynda Best

Faith Formation – Dick McGarrity

Fellowship – Tom Edwards

Finance & Stewardship – Clair Winebar

Mission – Carole Enneking

Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Worship – Diane Winebar

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Members at Large – Sarah Brauen and Phill Talavinia

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Laura From

Assistant Moderator: Jana McVetta

Members: Tanya Best, Craig Bowman,

Chris Hochstetler, Libby McVetta