

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

JUNE 2022

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 5 – Day of Pentecost, Communion, 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Liturgist: Diane Winebar

Special Music: Kerry Fremont and Lori Schmidt Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Julia Szabo Acolyte: Bowen

Greeters: John and Chris Hochstetler

Sunday, June 12 – Trinity Sunday, Outdoor Worship, Little Free Pantry Offering

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity Special Music: Sycks

Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh

Slides: Diane Winebar Acolytes: Avery and Aubrea Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Sunday, June 19 – Father's Day

Liturgist: Laura Elwood Special Music: Szabos

Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Talavinias

Acolytes: Owen and Clara Greeters: Lou and Tanya Best

Sunday, June 26

Liturgist: Tenna Rhonemus Special Music: Don Brauen

Sound: Ryan Brauen/ Camera: Julia Szabo

Slides: Cathy Carroll

Acolytes: Morgan and Paige

Greeters: Mike and Tenna Rhonemus

Sunday, July 3 - Communion

Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Diane Winebar



Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays: Worship 10:15 AM

June 5 – Pentecost Celebration

June 8 – Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM

June 9 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

June 11 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM June 12 – Outdoor Worship from Gazebo

June 14 – Pastor Karol leads worship at Mennonite

Memorial Home – 6:30 PM

June 18 – Fellowship at the home of Betsey Angus

Swimming – 3:30 PM Cookout – 5:30 PM

June 19 – Father's Day June 19 – Juneteenth

June 26 – June Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy

June 29 – Worship Committee Meeting 5:00 PM

July 7 – Community Meal – 6:00 PM

Claralice Circle will not be meeting over the summer. Please consider joining this group for prayer, sharing, study and laughter in the fall.

Weekly livestream worship is available on our <u>Facebook page</u> and later posted to our <u>website</u>.



Pastor's Letter

The Presbyterian Church (USA) 225th General Assembly ("GA") will take place June 18 – July 9, 2022 with committee sessions in Louisville, KY and plenary sessions online.

The description from the GA website (ga-pcusa.org) reads in part: "This first hybrid assembly will be a time for worship, innovation, and a new vision for the PC(USA). Every voice must be heard in this time of transition in the life of the church."

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by presbyteries. Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders (Ministers of Word and Sacrament).

Few will ever have been commissioners to the General Assembly before, but most will have served in one of the other governing bodies of our church: the session, which provides care and oversight of a local congregation; the presbytery, which provides care and oversight of a group of congregations; or the synod, which provides care and oversight of several presbyteries.

The General Assembly reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

The General Assembly has several specific responsibilities outlined in the Book of Order. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, and it is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our local communities and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

First, reports and recommendations come from the various arms of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly.

The Office of the General Assembly, headed by the Stated Clerk, is the ecclesiastical arm of the church. The Stated Clerk and their staff work to ensure that

the Presbyterian Church maintains itself as a church. The Office of the General Assembly carries out all constitutional, and most ecumenical functions at the General Assembly.

Mission programs are carried out by the Presbyterian Mission Agency which supervises the work directed to be done by the General Assembly and can make certain decisions on behalf of the Assembly.

Overtures from synods and presbyteries are the second source of General Assembly business. These governing bodies use Overtures to bring recommendations and matters of concern before the whole church.

Commissioners Resolutions are a third source of General Assembly business. As a commissioner, one is entitled to sign two resolutions which will come before the whole assembly.

The meeting begins with an orientation; then the plenary, or whole General Assembly, meets together to elect a Moderator and Vice Moderator or Co-Moderators from among the commissioners assembled. The Moderators preside over the plenary meetings for the rest of the week.

Once the Moderators are elected, the assembly breaks up into assembly committees to consider particular kinds of business. Each committee is responsible for considering a number of items and reporting back to the General Assembly on completed actions or their recommendations.

The combined insights of all those on assembly committees become the recommendations to the whole assembly. If they are approved, they guide the church in the years to come.

Our GA commissioners from Maumee Valley Presbytery are Mary Beth McCandless, TEC, Montpelier, West Eagle Creek/West Bethesda and Lance Weismann, REC, Ottawa. Please keep them and all the GA commissioners and other participants in your prayers in the coming weeks.

In Christ,

Pastor Karol

Gun Violence Awareness

National Gun Violence Awareness Day is June 3. On the first Friday of June, faith and nonfaith ministries, organizations and grassroots groups dedicate themselves to action against gun violence, most obviously by wearing orange that day.

The PC(USA) and its predecessor bodies have addressed gun violence through the actions of many General Assemblies in the last fifty years. Beginning in the late 1960's, in response to the assassinations of public leaders, the General Assembly called for "....control [of] the sale and possession of firearms of all kinds." Similar resolutions were passed again in 1976, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1996 and 1998.

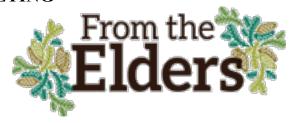
Each resolution reflected a sense of moral urgency in response to rising gun violence and the cultural trends that contributed to it. These resolutions have called on the church to be involved in education and advocacy at the federal, state, and community level to prevent gun violence. In 1991 and 1996, these resolutions were backed up with strong educational curricula, as well as comprehensive strategies for advocacy.

In 2008 the General Assembly recommended that churches should take seriously the pastoral implications of caring for members of our community who have experienced the pain of gun violence, advocate for legislation that would increase the safety and well-being of communities in relation to the presence of guns and conduct a national study on gun violence. From this recommendation, a gun violence prevention task force of ten people was formed under the auspices of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.

The task force worked tirelessly over the next two years and produced a comprehensive study of contemporary gun violence in the United States, complete with recommendations for the church as to how to address this critical issue. This study was unanimously approved by the 219th General Assembly.

Further resources are available at www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/gun-violence-resources/.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAY SESSION MEETING



- Approved to purchase all-inclusive Bose portable sound system from Sweetwater Music (for Gazebo), using money from 2017 Richard Evans Bequest.
- Approved request from BAMA for 2-4 Outdoor Summer Concerts in the gazebo – dates/acts TBD with food donations for BCAP provided dates are available on church calendar. Concern raised at BAMA about the impact of the multitude of thin blue line flags (meant to support the family and colleagues of the officer recently killed) on persons of color in the community – feelings of unwelcome and lack of safety, given that the symbol has also become associated with extremist groups with racist ideologies; consider how we as a community can be more actively welcoming to all people. Session discussed this item and felt we could be welcoming to all by having our digital sign say "All are Welcome" when service information is posted.
- Landscape at the back corner of the church (by the power lines) is being changed so that it will be easier for John to mow around. Started working on the weeds and plan to do a little "cleaning up" of the gardens around the church.

Discussed three quotes for replacing the windows at the manse. Approved to purchase white/white slider replacement windows from Thermal Guard with money to come from Triplett Fund. Presently booking in November.

With recent storm, the church basement carpet was flooded...again. Lynda Best brought her carpet cleaner in and sucked up the excess water.

• The 2021 financial reports and controls were reviewed/audited by Ohio Northern University Auditing class students. An exit meeting was held and a final report was issued on April 26.

Pastor's Report:

Congregational Activities: Worship Committee and Memorial and Graveside Services for Marilyn Bullock.

Community Engagement Activities: BAMA. Presbytery/Greater Church Activity: MVP Findlay Area Region Church Meeting.

Thank you to session for providing additional leave time in April and May along with vacation days May 23-26. Approved vacation request of June 1-4 (2 workdays).

• Approved hiring Laura Irwin as Faith Formation Intern for 2022-2023 school year. Approved request to purchase a bassinet/pack & play for twins also serve as a changing table with Avis Marshall Memorial Fund. Will be located in the basement.

We are hosting Community Vacation Bible School July 17-21 (Sunday-Thursday). Includes bible stories, crafts, games, music, soccer skills. Opening each night will start in sanctuary to use video projection. Expect rest to be outside, but do have BFR as back up if needed because of rain. Other BAMA churches are working with us to provide leaders/volunteers.

- Beginning in June, will test having only four
 Communion servers rather than the current five –
 will continue to have one serve as rover.
 Approved Worship committee's request to invite
 and authorize all active members of BPC to
 participate in the rotation of communion servers.
- Decided to hold outdoor worship on the 2nd Sunday of June, July, August, and Labor Day Weekend in September. In case of inclement weather (including heat), worship would be in the sanctuary.

Highlights from Deacons May Meeting

- Communion May 1 Set up for 70 and served 46– Mike
- June Communion is June 5 Mike
- Community Meal July 7 need volunteers for pies and help.
- Sally Reeder memorial will be held at a later date.

Community Meal

We are hosting the Community Meal on July 7 at the Senior Citizen Center. We are looking for volunteers to help serve the meal and bake pies for dessert.

If you are willing to help, please contact Tenna Rhonemus. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Worship Committee

Few people know everybody in a church, large or small. Beginning June 5, nametags will be available in the sanctuary to help us connect names with faces. We encourage everyone to wear one. Knowing names is the beginning of building relationships!



Our May 22 outdoor service was rained out. But take heart, we'll have more opportunities to worship in God's great outdoors: June 12, July 10, August 14, and September 4. In case of inclement weather, (including heat), we'll worship in the sanctuary.





Community Vacation Bible School

Community Vacation Bible School takes place at Bluffton Presbyterian Church this year – July 17-21, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for kids 3-1/2 years through 5th grade. The theme is Sports Camp. Registration forms are available in the sanctuary narthex, on the Bluffton VBS Facebook page, and in the Bluffton Icon. If you have kids who may be interested in attending, please fill out a registration form. Sometimes people are hesitant to register in advance because they think a conflict may arise requiring cancelation; however, registration is a big help in our deciding how many to prepare for. If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please check with Dick McGarrity.

Summer Jobs

Summer jobs available at Bluffton Child Development Center for people 18 and over. Please contact Dick McGarrity for details.



FELLOWSHIP

Summer Cookout

There will be a summer cookout on June 18 at the home of Betsey Angus. First place on right, south of Lincoln hwy.

3:30 PM – Swimming - Bring your own towels and life jackets.

5:30 PM – Cookout - Please bring a dish to share.

Meat, lemonade, water, and table service provided. Please RSVP to Betsey (call or text) by June 17.

Thank You

Thank you for the gift card and the beautiful flowerpot, I loved them both! And thank you to everyone in the congregation, you are why I love my job!"

Cathy Carroll

Thank you for the beautiful Easter Lily. Hazel Rodabaugh

Thank you so much to the church for celebrating my graduation with me and for the gifts!

Sarah Gillen

Anniversaries

June 4	Ryan and Sarah Brauen
June 10	Jeremy and Julia Szabo
June 16	John and Linda Nelson
June 18	Dave and Sue Van Eman
June 19	Tom and Marilyn Edwards
June 20	Lou and Tanya Best
June 22	Clair and Diane Winebar
June 23	Dick and Jayne McGarrity
June 29	Dwight and Jeannie Nichols



Birthdays

	1110	ays
June	3	Carla Montgomery
	4	Dusty Freed
	6	Sheila Hurlburt
		Donnas Stone
	10	Andrew Van Horn
	12	Lori Schmidt
	14	Rowan Culbertson
	17	Jeremy Enneking
	19	Don Brauen
		Chris Hochstetler
	21	Linda Nelson
	22	Sue Van Eman
July	1	Brandie Wagner
		Judy Evans

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP



General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2022 \$
YTD transfers into the general fund
YTD receipts into the general fund
YTD general fund expenses
April 30, 2022 balance \$

General fund collections received during January through April totaled \$ compared to expenditures of \$. As a rule of thumb, general fund budgeted expenses are \$ per month.

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

Covid Relief Funds Update

During May, the Stewardship & Finance Committee applied to the IRS for an Employee Retention Credit. This credit is available to employers who retained staff during qualifying portions of 2021 who had receipts lower than the corresponding periods of 2019. Due to an IRS work backlog, it will take up to one year for our claim to be processed and paid.

With this recent (and prayerfully final) claim, BPC's Covid relief claims, as follows:
Paycheck Protection Plan received 2020
Paycheck Protection Plan received 2021
Employee Retention Credit to be received 2022 or 2023.

The Covid relief funds received by BPC have been used to help cover gaps between general fund collections and expenses.

Renewing a Worship Ritual; Passing Collection Plates

Following discussions with Pastor Karol and the Worship Committee, the Stewardship & Finance Committee decided to reinstitute the Christian practice of passing offering plates during Sunday worship services beginning June 5.

We will try a new twist! Rather than passing plates during a separate Offertory song, the plates will be passed during the introduction to the Closing Hymn.

Why bring back the passing of the offering plates?

The Stewardship Committee believes that passing the offering plates will allow us to be more intentional and contemplative with our offering as an act of spiritual thanksgiving and gratitude. We enthusiastically encourage members and friends to follow the spiritual giving practice most appropriate for you, whether that is gifting weekly, monthly, or as able, and whether it be online, through electronic checks, manual checks, or cash. However, the physical passing of the offering plates provides a physical chance for us to prayerfully contemplate Christian stewardship, as well as a practical opportunity to remit an offering.

Would you please be willing to help? We need three volunteers each Sunday to serve as offering plate ushers: one usher on each outer aisle and one in the middle aisle. If you can help, please sign up on the usher volunteer calendar that will be on the back table or talk to any member of the Stewardship & Finance Committee (Pastor Karol, Craig Bowman, Barb Fett, Dick McGarrity, Julia Szabo, Clair Winebar). Thank you very much for your willingness to serve!

Thank You George!

George Stultz has decided to step aside from active membership on the Stewardship & Finance Committee after 16 years of continuous service.

With heartfelt appreciation, thank you George for your dedication and guidance!

Few congregations our size are blessed with having a non-clergy Christian stewardship professional, but that is exactly what we got with George. Following his retirement as Business Administrator for the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church near Detroit, George moved to the countryside outside Bluffton. To our good fortune, George was led to BPC where he joined the Stewardship & Finance Committee. George has a deeply studied understanding of Christian stewardship, but it is even more inspiring to witness his consistent commitment to living a stewardship-based life.

Over the years, George has served the Stewardship & Finance Committee as both an elder and an active member. Among other tasks, George guided stewardship campaigns and led efforts to better inform members and friends about the necessity of estate planning and the importance of using bequests to express our Christian faith and gratitude.

MISSION

Pentecost Offering

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. Our congregation has chosen Bluffton Family Recreation as our local recipient of 40% of the offering.



According to director, Amy Byers, "BFR summer youth programming is primarily summer camp. Each week of camp has a different theme allowing campers to have a new

and exciting experience every week. We kick off with Aloha week and include themes like Pirates, Kindness Week, and Wacky Water week to try to target a variety of interests. Camp counselors help develop core values of leadership, service, respect, and community through fun camp games and activities. It's important to us that every youth who wants to participate in camp has the opportunity to no matter their family's financial situation. That is why it is so important to us to provide a scholarship opportunity for any camper who needs it. Partnerships with places like this church are what allows us to best serve our community."

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://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/pentecost/

Little Free Pantry

This month we would like to receive canned fruit. Thanks for your continued support!

May 30-June 5 – Jodi Brauen June 6-12 – Jayne McGarrity June 13-19 – Diane Winebar June 20-26 – Carole Enneking June 27-July 3 – Sue Van Eman

International Mission Update- Excerpts from PCUSA mission website

Dear Friends,

As many of you are aware, Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in the Americas and is presently facing multiple crises. Some areas are struggling with droughts, while others are still suffering from the aftermaths of hurricanes and floods, economic recession, and a public health crisis. Financial insecurity has grown since the pandemic, and unemployment has significantly increased: almost half of the population is under-employed or informally employed, especially in the rural areas.

Globally, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) have suffered a lot in the last couple of years. In Nicaragua, deep economic hardships and the political situation led to many of them cutting back on services during the pandemic. In addition to this, there is a new Nicaraguan fiscal transparency law requiring any individual or organization that provides information in any form to the public, and that also receives funds from abroad, to register as a foreign agent, under the penalty of sanctions.

CEPAD is one of the few remaining NGO's that is still open and legally functioning in Nicaragua, and it is also one of the oldest. This year CEPAD is honoring its 50th Anniversary of existence with a year-long celebration. Since its beginning, CEPAD has focused on attending to the needs of the people of Nicaragua and the advancement of communities. With programs in agriculture, education, environment, family, and clean water, helping to start small scale farming projects such as community gardens and family gardens, providing small loans and much more. CEPAD also understands the importance of development programs that build the community from the inside. Peaceful and strong family structures and united communities are central in Nicaragua and some of the main areas of CEPAD's work.

If you would like to support CEPAD's 50th Anniversary celebration by getting involved in the preparations of some of the events, or would like more detailed information about the activities that would take place during the year, visit https://cepadnica.org/50th-anniversary-celebration/

We, at CEPAD, are humbled and forever grateful for your support.
Jhan Dotel-Vellenga and Ian Vellenga



Thank you to Don and Cathy Carroll and Jeff and Cindy Gillen for covering May Pizza Night. We are looking for volunteers to help cover June 11.

Upcoming Pizza Nights are scheduled for July 9 and August 13. Anyone interested in helping or donating 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!



Prayers of Joy:

Emily Sycks (daughter of Dave and Linda Sycks) is engaged to Jake Riley

Tyler Begg (Bev Begg's grandson) graduated from veterinary school and has accepted position in Jacksonville, Florida

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, Hazel Rodabaugh, Dortha Radabaugh, and Owen and Kay Ziessler.

Uvalde, Texas community for mass shooting at Robb Elementary School.

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

Victims from mass shootings - Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas; grocery store in Buffalo, New York; and Geneva Presbyterian Church in California. Prayers for peace and hope in the Ukraine conflict.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

We Prayer for God's Healing for:

Julia Szabo

Tavin (Adam's friend)

Halko family (Helen Hawk's supervisor)

Ron Bauman (father of Bluffton teacher)

Rich Miller (Gayle and John Marshall's friend)

Jimmy Kinn (Lynda Best's friend)

Dortha Rodabaugh

Richard Sycks (Dave Sycks dad)

Nancy Ferguson (Sally Reeder's daughter)

Julie Rhodes (Jodi Brauen's friend)

Brenda McCoy (Betsey Angus's friend)

Lisa Culbertson (Tom and Rebecca Hursey's daughter)

Valerie Basinger (Jodi Brauen's sister-in-law)

Pete Amstutz (Gayle Marshall's friend)

Sharon Warner (Cindy Gillen's mother)

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)

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)

Diane Stultz (George Stultz's sister-in-law)

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 Mike or another deacon.



June 19, 2022 | 11:00 a.m. (EDT)

Livestreamed at the GA225 Homepage and Spirit of GA Facebook page.



On June 19, 1865, news reached enslaved people in Galveston, Texas that they were free. In later years Juneteenth grew as a celebration throughout Texas and other parts of the United States, with the descendants of slaves recognizing it as their Independence Day. In June 2021, Juneteenth National Independence Day became a federal holiday.

The 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will commemorate Juneteenth with a special worship service Sunday, June 19. The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, will be preaching. There will also be special selections of music and scripture.

The service is listed as the official closing event of the Juneteenth Jubilee Celebration for our host city Louisville, Kentucky. The entire service will be livestreamed at the <u>GA225 Homepage</u> and the <u>Spirit of GA</u> Facebook Page.

Freedwoman statue at the Juneteenth Memorial in Austin, TX. Photo by Adrienne Rison Isom licensed under <u>CC BY-SA 4.0.</u>

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

Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Phone: Email:

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email

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

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email:

Communications Coordinator: Abigail Gwin

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Children's Church Leader: Brooklyn Phillips 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