



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

March 2021

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, February 28 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

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

### **Sunday, March 7 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent, Communion, 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Liturgist: Adam Shanaman  
Hymn Singers: Tanya Best & Don Brauen  
Sound: Jay McCracken / Camera: Ryan Brauen  
Slides: Julia Szabo  
Acolytes: Owen and Clara Brauen

### **Sunday, March 14 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent, Little Free Pantry Offering Daylight Savings Time Begins**

Liturgist: Jayne McGarrity  
Hymn Singers: Tenna Rhonemus & Julia Szabo  
Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

### **Sunday, March 21 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

Liturgist: Ryan Brauen  
Hymn Singers: Judy Evans & Lori Schmidt  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus  
Slides: Michelle Talavinia  
Acolytes: Avery Talavinia and Bowen Hochstetler

### **Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday**

Liturgist: Sue Mathewson  
Hymn Singers: Linda & Dave Sycks  
Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Julia Szabo  
Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Acolytes: McVetta Girls

## Mark Your Calendars!

### **Sundays: Faith Formation on Zoom for Children & Adults 9:00-9:30am; Worship 10:15am\***

- Feb 28 – Congregational Meeting to Vote on Gazebo Proposal on Zoom after worship
- Feb 28 – MVP Discipleship Zoom Gathering 2:00 to 3:00 PM (contact Pastor Karol for link)
- Feb 28 – Youth Zoom 6:00 PM
- March 2 – Worship Committee Zoom 6:30 PM
- March 3 – All Church Fellowship Gathering Zoom 7:00 PM
- March 3 – Mission Committee Zoom 7:30 PM
- March 10 – Deacons Zoom 6:30 PM
- March 11 – Session 7:00 PM
- March 13 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30-6:30 PM
- March 14 – Daylight Savings Time begins – *spring forward*
- March 16 – Presbytery Meeting Zoom 10:00 AM
- March 18 – Session 7:00 PM
- March 21 – Youth Group 6:00 PM
- **March 28 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy: XXXXXXXXXXXX**
- April 1 – Maundy Thursday
- April 2 – Good Friday

\*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 would 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](#).

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE CONTINUED

### **Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunday, Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Hymn Singers: Don Brauen & Lori Schmidt  
Sound: Jay McCracken / Camera: Ryan Brauen  
Slides: Diane Winebar

## Pastor's Letter

*In case you missed it, here is a partial summary of our life together over the past year, adapted from my 2020 Annual Pastor's Report:*

Almost a full year ago, in mid-March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted every aspect of life, including the life of this congregation. But it did not stop us. We never missed a week of worship, even if that worship was prerecorded, livestreamed, printed and mailed, or some combination of the above. We have reached many more new people (and some familiar people more consistently) through our online presence than ever before.

I am grateful for the many ways our members joined me in preparing these services, especially those who were willing to record liturgy and music. I am proud of our committees for learning how to continue the work of ministry using Zoom technology as a way of including more people without the risk of being in person. We have been especially mindful of those who are most isolated during the pandemic: our older members who live alone or in care facilities, whose circumstances make them less able to create meaningful connections with others.

The COVID-19 pandemic was not the only news of the year; we also struggled together through difficult times of unrest in this country due to racial injustice and a divisive election season. We are constantly challenged to see and serve Christ in everyone, not just people who look or think like we do. Following Christ in a broken and fearful world is not simple; this year has reminded us just how important it is that we are present to support and challenge one another in learning how our faith calls us to live every aspect of our lives.

In this season with the pandemic still hanging heavy over our lives, we need a reminder of just how important our health is. While we need to eat our "fruits and veggies" and stay hydrated and well-rested to ward off physical ailments, we also need to fortify ourselves with the "fruit of the spirit" – "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." May we bear this fruit in each aspect of our mission and ministry, as individual disciples and as a united body of Christ.

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. 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. We need the 40 days 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.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent



John 2:13-22 | 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

According to John, Jesus begins his ministry by showing more than telling. In the temple, Jesus disrupts and overturns the systems of corruption and profiteering taking place, but ultimately points us to the promise of restoration. Paul reminds the Corinthians (and us) that God's wisdom is more expansive than we can imagine. We are shown the way, even if God's "way" feels foolish, counter-cultural, disruptive, or uncomfortable.

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent



John 12:20-33 | Jeremiah 31:31-34

We desire for God to write on our hearts so that God's law can re-shape and re-form us from the inside out. Reformation is a journey of letting the old fall away for something new to emerge, of returning to God's words over and over, of being drawn into the heart of God. This is the process of justification and sanctification; transformation must be internal and communal.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent



John 3:14-21 | Ephesians 2:1-10

After inviting Nicodemus to be born anew, Jesus tells him in John 3 that God so loved the world that God sent his son to restore it. Therefore, when we read John 3:16, we remember that Jesus is speaking in metaphor and poetry. Ultimately, love is where God begins and ends. This love, like grace, is a gift we do nothing to deserve. Again and again, love is our refrain. Before we act, think, or believe, can love be first for us too?

### Palm Sunday



John 12:1-19

On Palm Sunday, we remember that Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was not a risk-free, palm party. It was a protest against those in power, a parade to prepare the way for a different kind of king, all happening with plots to kill Lazarus (and Jesus) building in the background. We're reminded that the crowds were brave to show up that day, and that Jesus drew on courage to face his journey to the cross. Courage is deep within us; we often find it when we most need it, when everything else has been stripped away.

## Zoom Instructions for All Church Calls

To join on a computer, tablet, or smartphone: Click this link: XXXXXX. 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: XXXXXXXX.

Step 2: When it asks for a meeting ID enter: XXXXXXXX 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!

## Fellowship Zoom:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month

If you are interested in connecting with other church members for fellowship conversation, join Pastor Karol on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM on the church zoom. See you on Wednesday, March 3!

## Congregational Meeting Called for February 28

The annual congregational was held on Sunday, January 31 on Zoom following the conclusion of the Facebook livestreamed worship service. The BPD Annual Report was approved and an informational presentation was given on a potential gazebo project on the church lawn. **Session has called another congregational meeting on Sunday, February 28 on Zoom following morning worship for the purpose of voting on the gazebo project.** Contact Dick or Jayne McGarrity (XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX) with questions about the project.

## Highlights of February Session Meeting



- Clerk participated in two MVP Leadership Zoom calls. Approved calling Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 28 on Zoom following worship service on Facebook – called for purpose of voting on the proposed Gazebo project shared at Annual Meeting. Approved allowing Laura From's Girl Scout Troop to sell Girl Scout cookies on church sidewalk (using Covid-19 mitigation procedures) on Feb. 20 and 27 for two hours.

- Approved request from West Central Ohio Land Conservancy Board (9-10) members to meet in church basement – 4th Thursday of odd months at 7:00 PM (Chad Carroll is on the board). Would be able to use facilities when Allen County is at green/yellow/orange level.
- **Pastoral Care:** 28 calls and 8 cards sent.  
**Congregational Activities:** Worship; Announcements/Prayers Email; Facebook Posts; Adult Faith Formation - Zoom, Claralice Circle - Zoom, Supervision Meetings with Faith Formation Intern, Church Fellowship Zoom, committee meetings – Zoom, and edit video for Ash Wednesday Service BPC & Ottawa Presbyterian Church.  
**Community Engagement Activities:** Bluffton Community Preschool Board Meeting, BAMA Meeting – ongoing BAMA Mission Outreach to local front-line workers, and BAMA Bluffton News Devotional.  
**Presbytery/Greater Church:** Conduct and edit video interview to promote Commissioned Ruling Elder program, New Pastors' Group - Zoom, Discipleship Commission - Zoom, Commissioned Ruling Elder Team - Zoom, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary Alum Board Exec Meeting - Zoom, Ottawa PC Annual Congregational Meeting and Session meeting Zoom (Moderator), MVP Leaders Space for Grace - Zoom, and Maumee Valley Presbytery Meeting – Zoom.  
**Approved Continuing Education Request:** April 17-20, 26-28 including Sunday April 18 (will attend virtual Clergy Clinic in Family Emotional Process 3 of 3).  
**Approved Vacation Request:** Sunday, May 30.
- Gazebo task force (Lynda Best, Linda Sycks, Mike Rhonemus, Dick/Jayne McGarrity, and Tom/Marilyn Edwards) suggests these options: floor color - gray/shingles color - colonial slate to match church shingles, seating - removable seats so full space can be utilized when needed, surface of ramp - poured concrete as longer lasting, smoother than pavers, electrical - 8 outlets - one per column - easier than adding later, landscaping - interest in low maintenance - e.g. knockout roses.

- Maumee Valley Presbytery met on February 16 - Zoom. Because Synod is in process of restructuring, they did not spend all their mission money last year and chose to return \$8,000 to each presbytery as a gift. MVP decided that they will use this gift to help all our churches and keep MVP share of Per Capita for 2022 the same as this year. Synod has created following Lenten services available for churches to use – Ash Wednesday, Sunday during Lent (created by MVP), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Sunday after Easter. Previous ones were well received with over 1,000 viewers. Welcomed Cathy Johnson as Interim at Toledo Christ and Carol Pierson as Interim at Bryan. First reading of MVP Leave Policy (Medical, New Parent, Bereavement, Family Leave, Military Leave) with voting to come later after churches have shared with sessions for input. New Board of Pensions temporary disability policy allows clergy to receive 60% of effective salary after being off for two weeks. Proposed MVP policy would have church cover initial two weeks of salary, 40% balance of effective salary, pulpit supply, and moderator of session expenses. Mission Committee is offering grants up to \$1,000 to churches for Matthew 25 projects.
- Hot water heater at church was leaking and replaced by M + R. Due to the electrical modifications for the digital sign, and the planned removal of the blaze lighting from church power, there is now 40 amps available for the gazebo at a relatively low cost. Additional power, if necessary, could also be pulled from the disconnect on the west side of the church. Church sign update - Concrete pad (to support faux bricks) and poles (to support sign) have been installed. Sign installation scheduled for Feb 25-26, but may be delayed by slow curing of concrete due to low temperatures. Electric service has been updated. Plan to remove excess dirt on pile at manse and seed in the spring. Church basement CO detector behind water heater replaced. Church parking sign reinstalled. Potential/new projects: electric outlet for alley, water for alley or long hose, stained glass windows - frames may need to be painted, fluorescent light in manse basement, general church yard repairs - after sign installation and Gazebo construction (if installed in 2021), consider lock for basement door - possibly electronic lock, alley back door - install bottom seal, manse foundation inspection and proposal, manse deck issues - lack of central support, lower corner support, lower support at steps, shore up step support, manse side windows painted shut (cut open with box cutters), and manse windows - quotes for replacement for future planning purposes.
- Lima Rescue Mission - Pizza Night is covered for February and March for servers and pizza. Bluffton Community Assistance - will be issuing gift cards to families again due to strong community support. Frontline Project - Pastor Karol reported that BAMA churches are interested and most have made a financial commitment – to date \$2,000 collected. Blankets were delivered to Family Promise and they were very grateful. Grace & Gratitude collected \$165.
- Recorded services for online viewing: recording sound has improved after camera adjustments made, camera will be set up closer to the chancel to help with video focus, agreed to limit hymn verses to 2 or 3, camera techs will be asked to focus on hymn, lyrics shown on the screen above the organ for those who like to sing at home.
- Insurance (property and officers' liability) was renewed with Church Mutual for 2021. Approved applying for second round Paycheck Protection Program loan of XXXXX. Procedure is for Citizens National Bank (CNB) to review and submit to the Small Business Administration (SBA). If all proceeds as planned and we are approved to receive the loan proceeds, then will incur eligible expenses (primarily ongoing wages) under the program that exceed the loan amount. Then we will apply for loan forgiveness and have no need to pay back the loan following approval of the forgiveness application. The second-round loan of XXXXX is a little higher than our first-round award of XXXXX. 2020 audit with the ONU students kicked into the active review stage on February 2 and is going well. Exit meeting is scheduled for April 22. Village of Bluffton Cultural Affairs Committee has been invoiced for \$82.02 for reimbursement of electricity for the Blaze of Lights. Under the previously approved church investment plan, we are making a series of planned deposits for investment in our Vanguard account.

- Approved the following motion: On February 18, 2021, the Session of Bluffton Presbyterian Church authorizes Julia Szabo, Richard McGarrity, and Clair Winebar to act on behalf of Bluffton Presbyterian Church to signed documents related to Vanguard mutual fund accounts and Vanguard Brokerage Accounts owned by the church, invest the assets of the church, obtain account information and give instructions for the purchase, sale, exchange, or transfer of securities. Further, Session authorizes Clair Winebar to establish online access to the church's account. The authorized individuals are acting in their capacity as Treasurer (Julia Szabo), President of the Bluffton Presbyterian Church corporation (Richard McGarrity), and Stewardship and Finance Elder (Clair Winebar).

### Small Groups

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



### January 2021 Financial Report

#### General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2021	\$ XXXXXX
Receipts thru Jan 31	XXXXXX
Transfer of special receipts received in 2020 to 2021 budgeted items	XXXXXX
Expenses thru Jan 31	(XXXXXX)
Balance Jan 31, 2021	\$XXXXXX

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!



### Deacons Report from Feb. 10 Meeting

- This meeting was conducted via zoom. The deacons voted on supplying Pastor Karol with some gas gift cards for her to pass out at her discretion. These are available for those in need, including congregational members as well as members of our community.
- On February 18 at 6:00 PM, Bluffton Presbyterian Church hosted the Community Meal as a drive-thru behind the Senior Citizen Center. It was a great success! We were able to serve up 84 meals. Due to the cold temperatures, some meals were even delivered to a few of our church members. Thank you to Chris Hochstetler who led the evening and a big thank you to all those who volunteered their time. This outreach program is a wonderful way for us to stay connected to those in need during a time when a little bit of kindness goes a long way.

### FAITH FORMATION

#### Youth Group

The youth had a successful Valentine's Day card drive and made 25 cards! The youth will meet for a Bible Study on February 28 on Zoom at 6:00 PM. The next meeting will be March 21 at the church at 6:00 PM. Masks and social distancing will take place. A full schedule for the youth group for this semester will be available soon. Please contact Adam Shanaman with any questions or concerns.

#### 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!



## KNOW KIDS WITH FREE SUNDAY MORNINGS?

*Invite them to join our new Zoom Sunday school Series*

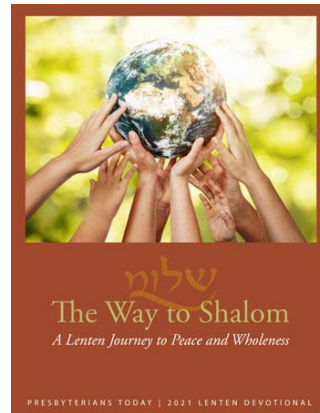
- ♥ Receive a packet with items needed for a 7-week series.
- ♥ Be assigned a pen pal for mailing weekly letters (yes, through snail mail!).
- ♥ 30-minute Zoom calls Sunday mornings for a short lesson and discuss the week's letter.
- ♥ Weekly stamps, envelopes, and fill-in letter templates are provided.
- ♥ 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 XXXXXXXXX to sign up!



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

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.

This devotional resource, "The Way to Shalom," is [online](#) and free for download or printing. You're invited to make it your spiritual companion this Lent and to join the adult Faith Formation class each Sunday morning from 9:00-9:30 AM on the church zoom. Each week, we will choose one day's reading to discuss during our brief time together. Contact Jay McCracken or Pastor Karol with questions. All are welcome!



### Little Free Pantry

Boxed items of cereal and macaroni and cheese are always appreciated. Our LFP funds are getting low so cash donations would also be helpful at this time. Thank you!

### March Schedule:

March 1-7 – Pastor Karol/Pat Deal & Ethan

March 8-14 – Carole Enneking

March 15-21 – Sue Van Eman

March 22-28 – Sarah Brauen

March 29-April 4 – Diane Winebar

## Lima Rescue Mission

BPC continues to support Lima Rescue Mission in 2021. The Hursh's served on Saturday, February 13. The men are always thankful and tell us how much they enjoy Fat Jack's pizza. The next couple of Pizza Night dates are March 13 (Carroll's and Gillen's are serving) and April 10.

Donations and volunteers are needed. Please use Signup.com XXXXXXXX or contact Bob Hursh at XXXXXXXXXXXX or at XXXXXXXX. 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](http://www.blufftonpc.org)) by the Wednesday before. Thanks to all!



## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



Typically received during the season of Lent, 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. To learn more about the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, watch this PCUSA video: <https://vimeo.com/510425473>. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Join us by sending a check to the church office or by giving online XXXXXXXXXXXX.

## Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

The worship committee invites you to help make our sanctuary beautiful this 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 March 21. You will be able to take your flowers home after our joyful Easter Sunday worship service. Contact a member of the worship committee if you have any questions.



## BIG Birthdays (80 yrs. and above)

Jane Benroth	March 2, 1941	80
Hazel Rodabaugh	March 13, 1931	90

## Birthdays

March	1	Greg Culbertson
	2	Emily Sycks Jane Benroth
	3	Jacob Szabo
	6	Ian Vellenga
	9	Tom Hursey
	13	Hazel Rodabaugh
	14	Erin Hotmire
	16	Jana McVetta
	24	Darrel Hotmire
	26	Laura From
	28	Drew Gable
	31	Lindsay McCracken
	April	1
2		Danielle (Rhonemus) Rowland
4		Beth Buist
5		Helen Hawk



## **BPC Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request, please contact Craig Bowman XXXXXXXXXX. PLEASE leave a message if no answer. Or call the church office XXXXXXXXXX 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 Bill Bell (Bev Begg's brother-in-law).

The family of Morgan Davies (Bev Begg's neighbor).

The family of Adam Deal (Pat Deal's nephew).

The family of Ethan Leiber, local 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

The family of Daryl Badertscher (Colletta Mullenhour's brother) as his wife Joan died on Saturday, February 20 after a brief time on hospice care following a long illness. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

### **Prayers of Joy for:**

Mariah Pneuman who is now a great great grandmother! A baby boy was born February 2 to Faith who is the daughter of Miranda, who is the daughter of Beth, who is the daughter of Mariah.

Jeanette Warren who is a great-grandmother again: Dustin & Leslie Freed had their second child, a boy, Emmitt Lynn, on January 16, welcomed home by big sister Ella Louise. A seventh great-grandchild in the family is due in May.

Several members of our congregation who have received one or both of their COVID-19 vaccines in recent weeks. We rejoice with those who are getting us started on the path to communal protection.

### **Prayers of Healing for:**

Wendy Erford (Cathy Carroll's friend) who recently had a stroke.

Donnie Middleton at Good Samaritan who is in a good deal of pain due to chronic back issues.

Tiffany (Robbie's mom) who is recovering from back surgery on January 26.

Joe (Pat Deal's brother) who had a liver transplant 10 years ago and is now in liver failure.

### **Prayers of Healing continued for:**

Molly Pontius (Lori Schmidt's friend) who had difficulties with a heart transplant.

Marine & 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.

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

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

Johnny (father of Adam Shanaman's girlfriend) is on dialysis at home and is waiting for a kidney transplant.

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.



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Bluffton Presbyterian Church – 3-cents a meal  
Thanks so much for your donation of \$41.57 to the  
Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. We  
really appreciate your ongoing support. Your  
contribution is greatly appreciated. God bless you!

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## Expressions of Appreciation

Expressions of appreciation at the January 31 Annual Congregational Meeting included thanking the following:

- Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman for willingness to select music, work with soloists, and accompany for each worship service.
- Pastor Karol for flexibility and willingness to learn new video editing skills to be able to provide worship services during pandemic.
- Participation of many in church family to volunteer as acolytes, lay readers, children's message, and hymn singers in our livestream/recorded worship services.
- Sue Van Eman and members in church family for keeping our Little Free Pantry stocked every day. Thanks to Claralice Circle members and church family who have donated items/money for our Little Free Pantry which has been a blessing to our community.
- Members of the Nominating Committee who worked faithfully to make many contacts to recruit people to serve as leaders during this "uncertain" time. Thanks to all who accepted the call and agreed to serve as Elders and Deacons.
- Tenna Rhonemus and her many years of service with Faith Formation. Faith Formation Committee for willingness to adapt and try new ideas for Community Vacation Bible School and Faith Formation Classes.
- Dave Van Eman for making DVDs of each week's worship service so they can be shared with Mennonite Memorial Home and other members in church family who would not have other means for listening to our services.
- Dave Van Eman and Nathan Hursh for willingness to assist in video editing skills as needed throughout the year.
- Sound techs and camera operators who are all working together learning new skills to allow us to produce quality online worship services.
- Bob and Tammie Hursh for their leadership in coordinating meals at Lima Rescue Mission which allows us to reach out beyond Bluffton.
- Worship Committee for securing additional licenses to allow more music options for recording services and for being flexible and proud of working together to provide quality worship. BPC family makes a great team!
- Mission Committee for their continued work in challenging times.
- Julia Szabo and Clair Winebar for their professional work with our church's finances. Members who have continued to support the church financially – quiet, faithful givers.
- Lynda Best and Lin Rumer for attending to flowers, beautiful wreaths which help to make our church a beautiful place in the center of town.
- Deacons for caring for our congregation – especially those who might feel isolated to feel connected to our church.
- Thanks to our church family for staying together during this past year! Living proof that BPC continues beyond the walls of our physical church!

## Emmanuel Church of Christ

8375 Phillips Rd, Bluffton



### FISH FRY

Friday, March 12 4:00 to 7:00 PM

\$9.00/meal

Drive Up-Take Out Only

Pay when you pick up

DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS

THERE IS NO DINING IN.

Meal includes: 4 pieces of fish, cheesy potatoes, green beans, applesauce and a dessert.

## CVS Guardians

CVS Guardian Volunteer Andrew Carey explains that the purpose of a guardian is "to help out someone who can't do some things for themselves, and to make sure that their life and living conditions are as good as possible." Volunteers don't deal with finances, but focus on advocating for their protected person's quality of life, and ensuring their safety and dignity.

Court-sworn guardians of the person are needed to make decisions related to social services, housing and healthcare for individuals unable to make those decisions solely by themselves. Learn more not only about guardianship but also the workings of our volunteer program: Thursday, Feb. 25, from noon to 1:00 PM. Reserve your spot on <http://www.eventbrite.com> (search "Lima Guardian") or call Crime Victim Services, 419-222-8666, 330 N. Elizabeth St., Lima. Contact: Elysia or Katie [cvsguardian@crimevictimservices.org](mailto:cvsguardian@crimevictimservices.org).

## 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](mailto: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 XXXXX 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.
1. **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. See Gazebo task force report in Session  
“Highlights of February Session Meeting” on page 4 above for suggested details on  
various options.

### **New Sign Installation 2/23/2021**



## 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.

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

*Please note: The deadline is March 21.*

**I/We wish to donate \$**\_\_\_\_\_

**My Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Bluffton Presbyterian Church**

**112 N. Main St., P.O. Box 149**

**Bluffton, OH 45817**

**XXXXXXXXXX**

[blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Faith Formation: 9:00 AM

**OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone: XXXXXXXXXXXX

Email: XXXXXXXXXXXX

Primary Work Days: Tuesday – Friday (off Mondays)

In-Office Hours: Tues & Wed 10-1

Secretary: Cathy Carroll

Email: XXXXXXXXX

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-12

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email: XXXXXXXXX

Faith Formation Intern: Adam Shanaman

Email: XXXXXXXXX

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