



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2022

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 2

Ash Wednesday Service

St. John's United Church of Christ

Sunday, March 6 – Communion,

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Liturgist: Marilyn Edwards

Quartet: (Lori, Tanya, Dan, George)

Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Julia Szabo

Acolytes: Paige and Morgan

Greeters: McVettas

Sunday, March 13 – Little Free Pantry Offering

Liturgist: Tom Edwards

Special Music: Julia and Jeremy Szabo

Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh

Slides: Diane Winebar

Acolytes: Owen and Clara

Greeters: Chris Hochstetler and Lori Schmidt

Sunday, March 20

Liturgist: Adam Shanaman

Special Music: Don Brauen

Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Talavinias

Acolytes: Clara and Aubrea

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Sunday, March 27

Liturgist: Jeremy Szabo

Special Music: Women's Ensemble

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Julia Szabo

Slides: Cathy Carroll

Acolytes: Avery and Bowen

Greeters: Talavinias

Sunday, April 3

Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Julia Szabo

Mark Your Calendars!

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

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

Mar 2 – Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 PM –
St. John's United Church of Christ

Mar 9 – Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM

Mar 10 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Mar 12 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Mar 27 – April Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy

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

*Worship Protocols as of 8/16/21: Due to local spread of COVID-19 and in accordance with CDC recommendations, the church is requiring that masks be worn for indoor worship services and other indoor gatherings, regardless of vaccination status. Please feel free to share any questions or concerns with any elder on session or Pastor Karol. We thank you for your cooperation in caring for one another in this way.

Zoom Instructions for All Church Calls

To join on a computer, tablet, or smartphone:

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

To call in on a landline phone or cell phone:

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

During Pastor Karol's new parent leave, if you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact:
Clerk Lori Schmidt
Deacon Moderator Chris Hochstetler
or the church office

On Loving One Another

The scene could not have been more unpromising: a low-lit room, full stomachs, and the dirty feet of a dozen men. Not exactly a situation where you'd expect one of the world's greatest lessons in loving one another to occur.

But it was here, nonetheless, in the upper room of a common house in first-century Palestine, the night before Jesus died, that we learn how to live *together* as the church. The apostle John tells us the story. Jesus washed his disciples' feet, acted out his character of humility and service. Afterward, Jesus told those gathered:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
John 13:34-35

Jesus asks that we do what he does. And this means, profoundly, that one of the ways we identify with Jesus is by caring for others in the same manner that Jesus cared. We show ourselves to be his disciple when we humble ourselves and seek the good of others at our own expense.

This is significant because we experience personal sacrifice in serving one another. It always costs *something* to seek someone else's good. It might be our time, convenience, energy, or treasure. And there will be instances when it feels like we're not getting any encouraging return on our investments. In these moments, because of Jesus's example, we know it doesn't mean we turn and run, but instead hold on and keep going. When serving others becomes difficult, we shouldn't necessarily serve less, but perhaps more. And with an attitude adjustment. In doing that, we go deeper with Jesus.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the Church to re-examine the way she serves the community of believers. Churches have felt the pain of extended periods of closure and times of togetherness. Now they're experiencing reduced attendance and are struggling to stay connected. Church leaders are stressed with trying to figure out the right course to chart in uncertain times.

Add to that our own particular situation here at BPC – a pastor on an extended leave. For the most joyous and necessary of reasons, of course, but still a new course to chart.

The catalyst behind our serving one another is *our love for one another*. The church *loves one another*, sometimes even in ways deeper than flesh-and-blood family.

And that's how we live together as the church in this world: we help one another when it hurts, we get through things together, and we love one another.

Diane Winebar
2/10/22 Session Devotional

Help us, Lord, to see ourselves in light of your revelation. Help each member of your church to accept his or her calling to care for others. We pray specifically for our church, that we might become more and more a body in which all the members care for each other. Amen.

*Opening prayer offered by Lori Schmidt
2/10/22 Session meeting*

So Kind Registry for the Schilling Family

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

www.sokindregistry.org/Schilling

Thank you,
Karol and Chris



Welcome to the world, Anderson James Schilling and Carson Joseph Schilling! Born at 36w3d on February 1, 2022 at 1:10 and 1:20 pm. Anderson was 5 lb. 15 oz., 19.7 in.; Carson was 4 lb. 15 oz., 18.5 in. We appreciate your love and support!

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY SESSION MEETING



- **Pastoral Care:** In the last month 7 visits/conversations, 22 phone calls, 15 greeting cards, numerous texts, and emails.

Congregational Activities: Worship (planning, coordinating, leading); announcement info to Communications Coordinator, Fellowship Zoom, moderate Annual Congregational Meeting, Jeanette Warren's Funeral and Graveside Services.

Community Engagement Activities: Bluffton Community Preschool Board Zoom.

Presbytery/Greater Church Activities: MVP Discipleship Commission Zoom.

- Pastor Karol's new parent leave began on February 1. Elders/Deacons will be providing majority of Pastoral Care. Chris Schilling is contracted for 12 hours per week for planning/leading Worship and emergency Pastoral Care including funerals.
- Replaced battery in office clock. Met with the Village Administrator – we passed our Sanitary Compliance Inspection – new requirement. Replaced the furnace filters. SW Concrete came and removed snow around the church – January 23. SW Concrete came back for a second time – night before Jeanette's visitation/services – January 24. Tightened the handrail to the basement and fixed four pew hymnal holders, familiarized myself with our inventory of tools, salt, maintenance stuff in general. Fixed a closet door at the Manse. Unable to fix the "rumble" in the kitchen sink at the Manse – M + R was called and will replace kitchen faucet. SW Concrete cleared the walks of the church and the driveway of the Manse – February 4.
- Flowers from the BPC church family were sent to Chris and Karol Schilling congratulating them on their two bundles of joy.

- Julia Szabo and Clair Winebar provided financial information and attended the February 3 kick-off meeting for the annual financial review that is being provided by ONU Audit students.
- Marilyn Bullock passed away on January 21 – no services at the present time, possibly in spring. Jeanette Warren passed away on January 22 – Pastor Karol officiated at funeral and graveside services on January 25. Approved that Tenna Rhonemus (having completed official MVP training) be allowed to preside at The Lord's Supper.

FAITH FORMATION

Adult DVD & Discussion Series: "Saving Jesus Redux"

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

NEW Spring Sunday School Series – ANIMALS!!

What is better than learning about animals?
Experiencing them up close!
We will be doing both this spring with special guests (real dogs) and field trips (Angus Horse Farm and Birding w/Chad Carroll) in this new series. Oh yea – and we will connect the experiences to bible lessons.

Details:

- 9:00 a.m. for kids up to 6th grade
- We provide breakfast and carpooling!
- 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, and 5/22
- No Sunday school 3/13, 3/20, and 4/17



Presbyterian Youth Triennium

The Presbyterian Youth Triennium had been cancelled over Covid concerns. For more information, please contact Dick McGarrity.

Vacation Bible School

The BAMA Vacation Bible School Committee is meeting in the Bluffton Presbyterian Church basement on March 17 and April 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Time for Young Christians presenters 2022

- March 6 – Chris Schilling
- March 13 – Adam Shanaman
- March 20 – Chris Schilling
- March 27 – Tenna Rhonemus
- April 3 – Chris Schilling
- April 10 – Sarah Brauen
- April 17 – Chris Schilling
- April 24 – Carole Enneking



January 2022

General Fund Budgeted Items

Balance January 1, 2022	\$
Transfer the 2021 Paycheck Protection Plan receipt into the general fund	
Receipts through Jan. 31, including Pledge payments for 2022 received in Dec. 2021	
Expenses through Jan. 31	
January 31, 2022 balance	\$

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

BPC Personnel Positions Available

After many years of faithful service, Kori Phillips and Shawna Anderson resigned as Children's Church teachers at the end of 2021. These are paid positions, and we are seeking to fill them as soon as possible. If you may be interested, or know of anyone who may be, please contact Dick McGarrity.

Lenten Devotional

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

Highlights from Deacons February Meeting

- Communion prepared and served (34) February 6.
- January 20 – Community Meal – 61 drive thru meals served, 9 meals delivered to shut ins.
- Jeanette Warren Funeral – snacks (cheese/meat trays, vegetable tray, chips/crackers, cookies, water) were offered to family in basement.
- Looking to distribute some type of Easter/spring flower to elderly/homebound.
- Reaching out to new parents to see if meals would be helpful.
- Discussion on cleaning/reorganizing kitchen. Deacons to meet on Saturday, February 19 at 9:00 a.m. to assess (keep/replace/donate/pitch) items in kitchen. List will be given to Session to see if they concur/have input.
- Waiting to hear from Session on Ash Wednesday Service.
- Clarified what is expected of Deacons during Karol's leave.

Birthdays

Mar	1	Greg Culbertson
	2	Emily Sycks
		Jane Benroth
	3	Jacob Szabo
	9	Tom Hursey
	13	Hazel Rodabaugh
	14	Erin Hotmire
	16	Jana McVetta
	24	Darrel Hotmire
	26	Laura From
	28	Drew Gable
	31	Lindsey McCracken
Apr	1	Megan Sycks
	2	Danielle Rhonemus
	4	Beth Buist
	5	Helen Hawk



MISSION

LIMA RESCUE MISSION

Many of us enjoy pizza after a busy week. We can bring a little enjoyment into the weekend of some who are less fortunate.

Pizza Night started at the beginning of 2020, and we've been bringing pizza for the men at LRM every month since.

- Approximately 40 volunteers
- 25 months and counting
- 155 pizzas
- Not to mention chips, water, pop, candy, cookies, veggies, plates, napkins, to-go bags, and seasonal donations.

Why participate?

The men appreciate the love, support, and routine; and they like pizza, pop, candy, and chips.

Anyone interested in helping call or text Bob Hursh. Upcoming Pizza Nights are scheduled for the second Saturday (4:30-6:00 p.m.) March 12, April 9, and May 14. Anyone interested in volunteering as a server or to donate supplies (water, soda, candy bars, snacks, and paper supplies). If you donate money, please submit a check (memo: LRM) to the church office or give online (www.blufftonpc.org/give).

Thanks!



Every gift makes a difference
in the life of someone
who deserves God's love and support.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22
04.30.22

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

(March 2- April 30)

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

- Rebuilding Hope – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Growing Food Security – Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Partnering in Progress – Self-Development of People

To support this work, send a check to the church office or give online:

<https://www.blufftonpc.org/give.html>.

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

Little Free Pantry

Oatmeal packets, canned meats, cake mixes and toilet paper would be welcome donations this month. Thank you!

Feb 28-March 6 – Jayne McGarrity

March 7-13 – Diane Winebar

March 14-20 – Sarah Noland

March 21-25 – Carole Enneking

Mar 26-Apr 3 – Sue Van Eman



Habitat for Humanity

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



Thank You

Thank you to Lou Best for updating the drum set.

A belated “thank you” to the church for my 91st birthday card and flowers from the church. They were very much appreciated, especially the card signed by church members.

God Bless,
Colletta Mullenhour

Thank you for the prayers, cards, food, condolences during the recent passing of our dad, Keith Brauen. It was very much appreciated.

Don Brauen, Chris Hochstetler, and families.

Presbyterian Church Family,
Mom touched so many with her love, generosity, service, and smile. Many of you have shared wonderful memories of her with us that we will cherish. Many of you took time to visit (during pre-Covid times) and please know how much she treasured that. We are grateful for your kindness in food donations, sound board expertise, use of the church building, etc. Your love and support are appreciated.

The Jeanette Warren Family

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support (3 cents a meal) of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation.



Prayers of Celebration for:

Chris and Karol Schilling on the arrival of Anderson
James and Carson Joseph on February 1.

Prayers of Sympathy for:

The family of Keith Brauen
The family of Dave Engelhardt
The family of James Lovell
The family of George Ellerbrock
The family and friends of Lane Rossman

Prayers of Healing for:

Gayle Marshall
Yuji (Greg and Laura Elwood’s son)
Roger Brodman
Elkin (great nephew of Lynda Best)
Linda Francies (Bev Begg’s daughter)
Kay and Owen Ziessler
Brecken (Shawna Anderson’s son)
Diane Stultz (George Stultz’s sister-in-law)
Cindy Gillen
Paige McVetta
Vanessa Miracle (Ben’s daughter)
Alva Hunt (Jerry Szabo’s friend)
Christopher and Duane Wright (Gayle Marshall’s godson and father)
Andy (Paige’s friend)
Tom Heimann (Lori Schmidt’s friend)
Jim Basinger (Jodi Brauen’s brother)
Lou Dunn (Ben Miracle’s sister)
Dwight Nichols
Bev Begg
Stormy (Bath 4th grader)
Mustaq Ahmed (Jeremy Szabo’s friend)
Miranda Samsal (Mariah Pneuman’s granddaughter)
Sheila Hurlburt

Prayers for:

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

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

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

Victims of violence in our country and around the world.

First Christian Church in Leipsic – had a fire with substantial damage.

All who have been afflicted with COVID-19.

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus. PLEASE leave a message if no answer. Or call the church office with your prayer request, and we will pass along the information. If you would like to add someone else to the prayer chain, please be sure to get their permission first. Names and circumstances can be kept confidential, if desired. God knows for whom we pray. If you would like to be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Craig or another deacon.

Merchant Rebate Programs!



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

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

If you would like to participate:

Simply click or copy this link:

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

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

Thank you for supporting Bluffton Presbyterian Church!



Community Markets Rebates – Save Your Receipts!

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

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

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

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

Ash Wednesday Service

March 2, 7pm

**St. John's
United Church of Christ
223 W. College Ave
Bluffton**



*A combined service with St. John's UCC,
Emmanuel UCC, and Bluffton Presbyterian Church.*

Make a Difference this Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing, in addition to supporting our neighbors in need, promotes lifestyle integrity work and environmental stewardship. Use this resource, designed in partnership with the Presbyterian Hunger Program, to inspire thoughtful practices this Lenten season.

Give up an hour of electricity on March 27.

Participate in Earth Hour by switching off all electricity at 8:30 p.m. local time in solidarity with global efforts to secure nature and our home. Even better – consider giving up Netflix during Lent and using the roughly **\$28** you save in those two months to donate a family of chickens to a family facing food insecurity.

Give up bottled water.

If you spend \$1 on a 16.9-ounce bottle of water, you're effectively paying \$7.57 per gallon – 3,785 times more than you'd pay for the same amount of water from a faucet! Giving up one bottle of water every day during Lent could save you around **\$60**, enough to donate a sewing machine, a source of income for a person in need.

Give up food with a high carbon footprint.

Beef and cheese are two foods with a high carbon footprint. Hamburger averages \$3.95/pound. By eliminating this food once a week during Lent, you can save nearly **\$25** and provide up to 10 jerry cans to help in the efficient transportation of water. Calculate your food footprint at eatlowcarbon.org.

Eliminate air travel.

Aviation contributes ~2% of the world's global carbon emissions, and short flights produce a larger amount of greenhouse gas emissions per passenger compared to longer routes. The **thousands of dollars** you can save on a family vacation for four could provide a community farm bundle – including livestock, tools, and training.

Walk somewhere you would have driven.

U.S. consumption of 500 gallons of gasoline every year per driver creates as much as 10,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. By walking instead of driving, you can save roughly **\$175** this Lent, enough money to support a women's empowerment project in another country.

Speak to the powerful.

Urge elected officials to support legislation making justice a priority, such as welcoming refugees. Visit capwiz.com/pcusa/home to reach out to your representative.

Set a goal of zero food waste today.

40% of U.S. food supply is wasted each year – that's 219 lbs. per person! Food waste costs the U.S. around \$218 billion per year. When 12% of American households are food insecure, reducing food waste by just 15% could provide enough sustenance to feed more than 25 million people, annually.

Switch from single-use bags to reusable bags.

The average family only recycles 15 bags a year; the rest end up in landfills or as litter. It takes 500+ years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down completely but instead photo-degrade, becoming microplastics that absorb toxins and continue to pollute the environment.

Plant a tree.

If every one of America's 85 million gardening households planted just one young shade tree in their backyard or community, those trees would absorb more than 2 million tons of carbon pollution each year. You can also help others plant trees with the gift of a sapling set for **\$30**.

Drink only water today.

It takes 600 cups of water to produce a single cup of coffee, and 125 cups of water to produce a cup of tea. By giving up a cup of coffee each day of Lent, you could save roughly **\$125**, enough to donate an emergency food basket.

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

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

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

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter

Help make our sanctuary Easter-beautiful!



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

You may:

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

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

Please note: The deadline is April 4.

I/We wish to donate \$ _____

My Name: _____

In Memory of _____

By: _____

In Honor of _____

By: _____

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

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

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email:

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

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email:

Communications Coordinator: Abigail Gwin

Email:

Faith Formation Intern: Adam Shanaman

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Children's Church Leaders: OPEN

Custodians: Chris and John Hochstetler

2022 Church Officers

Elders on Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Sycks

Faith Formation – Dick McGarrity

Fellowship – Tom Edwards

Mission – Carole Enneking

Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Diane Winebar

Elders at Large – Sarah Brauen and Phill Talavinia

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

Members: Cindy Gillen, Rob McGarrity,

Jana McVetta, Tenna Rhonemus, Mike Rhonemus