



*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## September 2021

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, September 5 – \*\*Outdoor Service, 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Liturgist: Tenna Rhonemus  
Special Music: Linda Sycks, Oboe  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Diane Winebar  
Slides: Julia Szabo  
Acolytes: Paige and Morgan

#### **Sunday, September 12 – Communion, Little Free Pantry Offering**

Liturgist: Dave Sycks  
Special Music: Lori Schmidt  
Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolytes: Owen and Clara

#### **Sunday, September 19**

Liturgist: Phill Talavinia  
Special Music: Julia Szabo  
Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Clair Winebar  
Slides: Talavinias  
Acolytes: Avery and Bowen

#### **Sunday, September 26**

Liturgist: George Stultz  
Special Music: Don Brauen  
Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Julia Szabo  
Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Acolytes: Paige and Morgan

#### **Sunday, October 3 – World Communion Sunday**

**3 Cents a Meal Offering**  
Liturgist: Carole Enneking  
Special Music: Tanya Best  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus  
Slides: Julia Szabo



### Mark Your Calendars!

**Sundays: Worship 10:15am\***

**Faith Formation for Children & Adults:**

**Begins Sunday, September 12 from 9-10 AM**

- Sept 2 – Worship Committee 6:30 PM
- Sept 5 – Fellowship Hosted by the Faith Formation Committee following worship
- Sept 7 – Pastor Karol – MMH worship 6:30 PM
- Sept 8 – Exploring Bible Basics begins 1:00 PM
- Sept 8 – Deacons 6:30 PM
- Sept 9 – Bluffton University Church Fair 11:00 AM
- Sept 9 – Session 7:00 PM
- Sept 11 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM
- Sept 12 – Stewardship Committee Meeting Following Worship Service
- Sept 12 – Faithline 6:30 PM at First United Methodist Church
- Sept 14 – Claralice Circle 6:30 PM
- Sept 18 – Presbyterian Women's Synod Gathering – 9:00 to 11:30 AM by Zoom
- Sept 19 – BPC Community Picnic 4:30–6:30 PM
- Sept 21 – MVP Meeting on Zoom 3:00 PM
- **Sept 26 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy**

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

\*Indoor Worship Protocols as of 8/16/21: Due to local spread of the Delta variant 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.

\*\*Outdoor Worship on the Lawn: bring a lawn chair; if inclement weather, service will move indoors.

## Pastor's Letter: Quarantine Wisdom

\*Quarantine information from the CDC:

QUARANTINE keeps someone who was in close contact with a person who has COVID-19 away from others. If you had close contact with a person who has COVID-19, the best way to protect yourself and others is to stay home for the recommended number of days (check with the local health department) after your last contact with the infected person.

*The following article is excerpted from an 8/9/21 Presbyterian Outlook article by Katy Shevel, the associate pastor for congregational life at Wayne Presbyterian Church near Philadelphia, PA.*

Quarantine is a period of social isolation to help arrest the spread of disease, especially when one has been knowingly exposed. Turns out, it is also apparently the time to set out on a journey of self-improvement. Without pre-pandemic distractions, many have found the time to learn new skills, reconnect with loved ones, establish new habits of mental and physical self-care, reevaluate priorities and to simply – gratefully – *slow down*.

Even so, now as I have resumed some former patterns of life, I can't escape the gnawing feeling that I didn't use my time more wisely. I don't particularly feel as though I have discovered a new lease on life. My mind doesn't feel clearer or more focused. (Most days, it's rather the opposite!) What I honestly learned is that in or out of quarantine, I am still just... me.

After all, whether we spent the past year mastering new tech or dusting off old board games, we were all obliged to spend a little extra time with ourselves. As a result, we collectively became more well-acquainted with our shared, flawed humanity. A ruthless pandemic caught us in its clutches and forced us to confront our terrifying mortality. Our time in isolation was spent mourning the rising global death count, increasing social and economic inequalities, political and ideological extremism, waves of racial violence and the staggering impact of climate change.

Lately, I've found myself willingly lost in the unique world and wisdom of the Desert Mothers. I've loved learning about these courageous women, living in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries, who left contemporary society in favor of an ascetic existence in the desert. These "Ammas" left behind livelihoods, possessions, relationships, and even their identities to dedicate themselves fully to a monastic faith. The Desert Mothers (and Fathers) believed that to be a true Christian, one must retreat to the wilderness, leaving behind secular society with all its material demands and temptations.

I wonder if many of us shared the desire of these ancient desert ascetics when we entered our own modern world of isolation? Perhaps we believed *if only* we could leave our hectic schedules behind, just unplug from corporate demands and escape for just a little while, might it be so much easier to love ourselves, to love our neighbors – and even to love God? In the words of Amma Matrona, speaking to us from her own experience in the Egyptian desert: "We carry ourselves wherever we go and we cannot escape temptation by mere flight."

Mary C. Earle reminds us that in leaving their old lives behind, the desert ascetics sought "not to run away, but to encounter themselves and to encounter God." In 2020, if we learned anything, we learned that our problems came right into quarantine with us. For the Desert Mothers, that was precisely the point. The Ammas sought out social isolation not as an escape from reality, nor as a quick reset, but instead a close, unencumbered and real encounter with what it means to be fully human, just as God made us.

It isn't easy to spend so much time with oneself. Most of us don't want to know ourselves so well. This is why the impulse to flee from ourselves and flee from God is so common. In Psalm 139, the psalmist proclaims with awe, "*Oh Lord, you have searched me and known me!*" Then, in just a few short verses, the wonder turns to trepidation. After careful consideration, perhaps the psalmist doesn't want God to know us so well after all. "*Where can I go from your Spirit, Lord? Where can I flee from your presence?*"

There's nowhere to run or hide. As the ascetics discovered, in the farthest, most remote places of the desert, wherever we are, God is there with us. Today, no matter our circumstances, God is with us still. In the end, the psalmist earnestly prays, "Search me, O God, and know my heart." For we are God's children, fully accepted, fully loved. Even with our many flaws laid bare before us and before our Maker, God unconditionally calls us beloved.

We carry ourselves wherever we go. This is Good News. Because wherever we go, we are God's.

In Christ,

Pastor Karol



### **Feasting with God: A Series on Communion** Sundays, September 12 – October 3

**Exploring Bible Basics – New Bible Study Series**  
Have you often wondered how the Bible came to be? What's in it? When was it written? And why? We'll explore these questions and more in a weekly Bible study this fall on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:00 PM starting September 8. We'll plan to meet in the gazebo, and if inclement weather, move inside the church building. Questions? Contact Pastor Karol.

### **Invitation to Church Membership**

If you have recently found a home here at Bluffton Presbyterian Church, you are invited to consider joining our congregation. Talk to Pastor Karol or any member of session (see back page) to find out more. Educational opportunities can be offered for you to become more familiar with our church's history, mission, and more. The primary profession of faith for members is this: to proclaim Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. We are eager to welcome you as a vital and active member of our Christian fellowship.

## **Highlights of August Session Meeting**



- Approved request for Community VBS to use our pop-up tent. Approved request by Dave Van Eman to use church basement, gazebo, church yard on Saturday, September 18. Approved for Mennonite Home to use our church yard on July 24 for corn hole in conjunction with "Bluffton's Corn Discovery Day".
- **Month of June Pastoral Care:** 24 visits/in-person conversations; 17 phone calls; 23 greeting cards sent.  
**June Home Communion:** 1 served with Deacon Tanya Best.  
**Month of July Pastoral Care:** 23 visits/in-person conversations; 17 phone calls; 17 greeting cards sent.  
**July Home Communion:** 1 served with Deacon Libby McVetta.  
**Congregational Activities:** Worship, working with Communications Coordinator, Lima Rescue Mission, Lord's Prayer Discussion Group, church fellowship event at Brauen's, and committee meetings.  
**Community Engagement Activities:** Gazebo Dedication Ceremony and Concert, BAMA Meeting, Maple Crest Bible Study – twice, and Community VBS Skit Leader with Libby McVetta.  
**Presbytery/Greater Church Activities:** New Pastors' Group Zoom, MVP Commission Chairs Zoom, Rekindle Youth Retreat planning Zoom – twice, Inquirer annual consultations, Boundary Training planning meeting – twice, Inquirer initial interview, and Discipleship Commission meeting Zoom.

Confirmed Pastor Karol will take final full week of continuing education November 15-21 including Sunday, November 21.

- Rob McGarrity was welcomed as a potential Deacon and he shared information with session. Approved to end examination and approve Rob for Installation/Ordination as Deacon.

- Recognizing that Allen County is now classified as red – high Covid transmission rate, and both the Center of Disease Control and Allen County Board of Health recommend masks for all for indoor events, Session approved that masks are required for all for indoor worship and indoor gatherings as of August 16. Please feel free to share any questions or concerns with any elder or Pastor Karol. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we continue to care for one another.
- Home Communion served with Deacon Tanya Best in June and Deacon Libby McVetta in July. Our church served Community Meal “to go” on Thursday, August 19. Six volunteers helped Wednesday night with prep work and four volunteers served 60 meals – shredded chicken sandwich, potato salad, watermelon wedge, and cookies. Those picking up meals donated \$264 which goes to Bluffton Community Assistance.
- Cement ramp into Gazebo is now finished. Met with Susie Stratton about landscaping the gazebo and couple things around the digital sign. Decided to do minimal planting and then we can add mums and seasonal flowers ourselves. Lynda weeded and sprayed and is ready to trim bushes at the church within the next week or so. Spreading a little extra mulch around some of the small trees. Chris Schilling trimmed bushes at the manse. Chris and Karol spread mulch at the manse.
- Community Picnic – scheduled for Sunday, September 19 on the lawn (weather and COVID permitting). Free meal includes hot dog, bagged chips, bagged veggies, bagged cookies, and bottled water or canned soft drink. Volunteers and donations will be needed. Little Free Pantry has had an increase in donations so there has not been much expense lately. Approved that our 25% of Peace and Global Witness Offering - concluding on World Community Sunday, October 3 be designated to support the mission work of co-workers Ian and Jhan Vellenga.
- Previous lease with Bluffton Community Preschool was for 2 years from June 2018-May 2020. Per dealing with the pandemic, we all forgot to renew lease. Approved to extend the lease retroactively from June 2020 to May 2023.
- Approved the Memorandum of Understanding from the Village of Bluffton for Village Electrical Access to install electrical lines and handhole (in rear of property) to be used for Blaze of Lights and other community events. MOU was reviewed by Jay McCracken and we can revoke if needed in the future. MOU to be signed by the Mayor and Dick McGarrity – President of Corporation. Approved revisions in Manual of Operations.
- After on-going audio and camera issues during in-house worship and livestreaming, the worship committee, techs, and others met with Justin Byers from House of Hindenach in May. Justin reconfigured the soundboard, which helped. However, we learned that we are struggling to meet our growing audio-visual needs with our current equipment. Justin was asked to come up with proposals for new equipment that would better serve our church. Approved purchasing new audio-visual equipment from House of Hindenach at total cost of \$XXX with an additional \$XXX for a direct box for the organ – does include installation and training. Session approved using combination of memorials – Dick Reeder memorial for microphones/stands and organ direct box, Helen Hilty memorial, and Triplett Bequest. Mike Rhonemus has agreed to be lead audio tech. Ryan Brauen is replacing Jay McCracken at the soundboard with Clair Winebar replacing Ryan behind the camera. We thank Jay for having served the church so long and so well in this capacity. Outdoor service scheduled for September 5, weather permitting. Worship committee hosted fellowship after worship July 11 and Claralice Circle hosted August 8. Due to pandemic uncertainties and other factors, full choir will not resume in the fall. Individuals, duets, or small groups will continue providing vocal/instrumental special music during worship.
- Pastor Karol and Libby McVetta participated in skit for community VBS. Enrollment down last two years due to at home/hybrid format. Next year will be our turn to host. Adult and Youth Sunday School planning to resume in person on September 12. Sarah is planning “youth story walks” around the community. Claralice Circle will resume on Tuesday, September 14.



**Join the 2021 Presbyterian Women's  
Synod Gathering, September 18  
9:00 – 11:30 by Zoom**

**Theme: What My Grandmothers Taught Me**

**Bible Study**

Overview by Rev. Cheri Harper, PW staff (Mission Associate)

**Keynote**

By Rev. Kathy Reeves, Moderator-elect for Churchwide PW 2021-2024

**Overview of two Thank Offering grant recipients**

- Koinonia Project in Belize (building a daycare center and Sunday school)
- The Castle in Centerville, OH (Mental Health drop-in center)

**Business Meeting**

Business Meeting will include Financial Report, Election of Leaders & News from the Synod of the Covenant (by Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick, Interim Synod Executive)

**How to Register**

Email the following information to Susan Ochs, [s2123@aol.com](mailto:s2123@aol.com), by September 13, 2021:

- Your Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address
- Your Presbytery's Name

You will receive a registration confirmation.

Then on September 16, you will receive a zoom invitation giving you the link and login information needed for Zoom and gathering documents including the agenda for the gathering.

Cost to attend: \$0. A suggested offering will be received that will be split among the two Thank Offering Grant recipients that you will hear about during the gathering. More info will be sent with a Zoom invitation.

In the meanwhile, find a picture of your grandmother (or a woman of faith standing in for your grandmother) or a candle to light to have with you at the gathering.

**DEACONS**

- Deacons, along with other members of the congregation, are providing rides from Mennonite Memorial Home to church on Sunday mornings.
- Deacons are concerned that there will be three active deacons needing to be replaced by the end of 2021 (Libby, Craig, Tanya).
- Last three BIG BIRTHDAY cards are to go out in October 2021. Cards will once again be placed at the back of the church for members to sign.
- Will no longer serve gluten free bread for Communion (does not seem to be a need).
- Community Meal August 19, 2021 – THANK YOU Lori Schmidt for making this happen.

**FAITH FORMATION**

Don't forget that Faith Formation activities resume Sunday, September 12 including:

- Adult Sunday School – Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Education Building (Leader - George Stultz).
- Youth Sunday School – Sundays at 9:00 AM in various locations (Leader - Sarah Brauen).
- Children's Church – Sundays during worship; after Time for Young Christians (Leader - Dick McGarrity)
- Claralice Circle Small Group – Tuesdays at 6:30 PM in the basement (Leaders - Diane Winebar and Jayne McGarrity).

**Youth Sunday School**

Storybook Walks: 7-week Sunday School Series For kids up to 6th grade – Starts 9/12, ends 10/24

Will be held outside at a different location each week (Buckeye Park, Motter Park, etc). We will provide breakfast and go on a storywalk before heading up for 10:15 church service. Casual clothes required :) Contact Sarah Brauen for detailed information and carpooling (we pick up from home and transport to the church as needed).

**Youth Group – G.I.F.T**

Youth group is back, and we have a name! "The youth group" is now G.I.F.T. – which stands for Growing in Faith Together. Faithline is also back and will meet once a month at First United Methodist Church in Bluffton, with the first event on Sunday, September 12 at 6:30 PM. Any questions, contact Adam Shanaman.



## MISSION



### Community Picnic is Back!

The church yard and gazebo will be the location for this year's Community Picnic scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 19 from 4:30-6:30 PM. Volunteers to donate food items, to serve, and to help with Bingo and games are needed. Visit the online [signup.com](http://signup.com) website or sign up on the sheet on the hallway bulletin board.

### Claralice Circle Small Group

Want to Join a Gang?

- No motorcycle helmets required
- No initiation rites
- No group tattoos
- No secret hand shakes
- No intimidation
- No street smarts necessary

However...Claralice Circle offers:

- Ladies who have your back
- Ladies who clap for you
- Ladies who cry for you
- Ladies who pray for you
- Ladies who share with you
- Ladies who explore the Bible with you

Every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in BPC basement,  
STARTING SEPTEMBER 14!

See Gang Leaders: Diane Winebar, Jayne McGarrity, or Pastor Karol



### July 2021 Financial Report

#### General Fund Budgeted Items

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

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.



Entertainment will be provided by singer/guitarist Wes Reese who is Community Development Pastor at Lima Community Church and nephew of Sue and Dave Van Eman. A free picnic dinner of hotdog, chips, veggies, cookies, and drink will be provided, plus bingo and yard games. Help us get better connected with our community by volunteering for the event or attending.

### Little Free Pantry

We have been blessed this month with many donations of food and our pantry is full and overflowing. Donations are not needed at this time.

#### September Pantry Stocker Schedule

- Sept 6-12 – Pastor Karol
- Sept 13-19 – Jodi Brauen
- Sept 20-26 – Carole Enneking
- Sept 27-Oct 3 – Jayne McGarrity



### Bath Elementary School Supplies

Thank you for the donated items from the Bath Elementary School wish list. These items were delivered by retired Bath teacher Lori Schmidt and made available to students in need. Bath Elementary School maintains a supply cabinet so students who are unable to bring their own supplies can “shop” from the school cabinet.

### School Supplies donated

- 21 single subject wide lined notebooks
- 22 plastic pocket folders
- 13 one inch three ring notebooks
- 5 dozen beginner pencils
- 4 dozen pencils
- 8 headphones
- 3 ear buds
- 10 school boxes
- 8 boxes of Crayola markers
- 13 boxes of Crayola colored pencils
- 1 box of Crayola crayons
- 2 boxes of jumbo Crayola crayons



### Lima Rescue Mission

Thank you to all who donated items for the summer drive for the Lima Rescue Mission. Donations included canned vegetables and meats, cups, plasticware, and syrup. Volunteers delivered the donations on August 28.

### Lima Rescue Mission Pizza Night

The next monthly Pizza Night is scheduled for Saturday, September 11 and 1-2 servers are needed; contact Bob Hursh or use the online sign-up to volunteer to serve or support the event with donations.

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 by the Wednesday before. Thanks to all!

The Lima Rescue Mission is a faith-based organization that has been helping men in the Lima area since 1906.



### Clean Up Buckets

Over \$300 of items/donations were received to help fill 6 Clean Up Buckets. The buckets will be delivered to a local drop site (thanks to Lynda Best) so they can be added to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and Church World Service inventory. Buckets are used in the U.S. and around the world to assist communities after hurricanes, floods, and fires. Anyone interested in making an additional donation toward Clean Up buckets, can visit the [pcusa website](https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000151/) <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000151/> to make an online donation.

### Bluffton National Night Out

Thank you to Lynda Best, Carole Enneking, Kevin McVetta, and Clair Winebar for their help with Bounce House management during the August 3 community-wide event.



Distractions are everywhere, threatening to pull us to the margins of living an authentic peace-filled Christian life. Important issues, breaking news, and our ragged pursuit of a more meaningful spiritual life all distract us. We are reminded of this every time we power up our computers, turn on the television, or struggle to handle conflicts in our families and communities in a way that will not alienate them or us. And we certainly experience it as we negotiate our own inner worlds of chaos and longing.

The journey of peace is a pilgrimage of our whole selves: spirit and body; heart, feet, and mind. The pursuit of God's peace is both an inner and outer journey where the well-being of one is held in the well-being of all. In order for us to walk farther along this road of peace-full living, we can and should engage both inner and outer aspects of faithful spiritual living. Doing so allows us to become more authentic and effective bearers of peace in our world.

For over 30 years, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have been committed to pursuing a peaceful and just world. Peace seekers and advocates, those who work and pray for reconciliation and justice, have found their home in the Presbyterian peacemaking community.

Daily Season of Peace reflections are available to help participants explore various forms of peacemaking through the arts (September 5-October 3). Throughout the 29 days, Witnessing to Peace through Art and Action invites us to reflect upon ways to practice peacemaking through the following:

Week 1 September 5-11: Spoken and Written Word  
Week 2 September 12-18: Song and Music  
Week 3 September 19-25: Visual Arts  
Week 4 Sept 26-Oct 3: Actions/Advocacy/Service

You have the option of subscribing to these reflections for daily delivery into your inbox <https://pcusa.activehosted.com/f/178> or downloading <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/2021-path-of-peace-reflections/> and printing the written portion of the reflections as a devotional resource.

### **Peace and Global Witness PC(USA) Special Offering – Empowering congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves.**



Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken and sinful world. Local congregations choose

how a portion of the offering is used.

This year, our local portion will be used to support the mission work of Ian and Jhan Vellengas with the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua (CEPAD).

Gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering is typically accepted on World Communion Sunday, October 3, but can be made any time until October 15 by check or online. Visit <http://www.blufftonpc.org/give> to make an online gift.

### **New Address**

Jay, Anne, and Molly McCracken

### **Book ReViews**

Do you love books? Do you love to read? Would you like to build relationships with other like-minded people? Consider volunteering at Book ReViews! Stop in the store to see about volunteering or email us at [bookreviewsetcetera@gmail.com](mailto:bookreviewsetcetera@gmail.com).

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Ladies fellowship is being cancelled due to poor attendance.





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Bluffton Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for your 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter donation of \$7.50 to the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. It is greatly appreciated.

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Thank you Bluffton Presbyterian Church for your love, prayers, and support. It is very much appreciated. And thank you very much for the gas card, it really helped driving back and forth to Gayle's treatments.  
John and Gayle Marshall

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Pastor Karol,  
We wanted to express our sincere appreciation to your congregation and church leadership for allowing us to utilize the church's new gazebo. It is a great addition to the community. We were blessed with perfect weather and a great crowd. It is fun for us to bring smiles to people's faces as we play songs from the 1960's.  
Yours in Christ,  
Paul Nusbaum & "The 60's Survivors Band"

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Bluffton Relay for Life wants to thank the church for letting us use the church and grounds for the relay. Thanks to all the people who helped making cookies, donating items, and food; and for those who helped set up and take down chairs and tables. I truly appreciated it and could not have done it without that help. We raised \$3,700 for Relay that night and although numbers were down we were very happy with what we raised.

Thank you all,  
Lynda Best

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**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 at 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.



**Birthdays**

- Sept 2 June Strahm
- 4 Jeremy Szabo
- 5 Jay McCracken
- 10 Bexley Leugers
- 11 Craig Bowman
- 13 Julianna Hotmire
- 14 Sue Dorsey
- 23 Rhonda Moor
- 24 Jayne McGarrity
- 26 Sue Mathewson
- Amanda Layer
- 29 Cindy Gillen
- 30 Wyatt Marshall
- Andrea Best
- Oct 5 Rob McGarrity
- 7 Anne McCracken
- 8 Phil Weisenbarger

**Anniversaries**

- Sept 1 Jeff and Cindy Gillen
- 14 John and Gayle Marshall
- 15 Don and Cathy Carroll

**3 Cents A Meal Offering**

Three Cents a Meal invites every member of our congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Ideally, contributions come from "living more simply so that others may simply live." Participation in Three Cents a Meal is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat." Daily participation is a reminder of the reality of hunger for millions of our sisters and brothers in the world. As the money accumulates, those participating become aware that small, regular acts can result in significant responses to hunger and that there is great strength in working together with other Christians. We collect this offering on the first Sunday of each month. The funds collected are distributed to the Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry and the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**Prayers of Joy for:**

Patrick Rhonemus for making The Ohio State Marching Band!

Wyatt Marshall (grandson of Gayle and John Marshall) who moved to New Hampshire on July 23 to start a new job.

Tammie Hursh's mother who is home from the hospital, recovering, and doing well.

Ian Mullenhour (Colletta Mullenhour's grandson) who was married on August 7 in Chicago.

Tanya Best who is settled in Arizona and doing well.

Ethan, 16-year old son of Tonia Wodarski (Jade Hochstetler's coworker) who has been released from the hospital following a July 28 car accident and is now home.



Congratulations to

Pastor Karol and Chris Schilling, who are expecting twins in February!

**Prayers of Sympathy for:**

The family and friends of Tim Black (friend of Jay McCracken) who lost his battle with throat cancer on July 31.

The family and friends of Ken Ruckzon (friend of McCrackens) who lost his battle with cancer in August.

Lou and Tanya Best for the passing of Lou's mother.

Kori Phipps (nursery attendant) and family whose brother-in-law Brandon passed away on August 8.

Amy, Clayton, and Zachary Lehmkuhle (friends of Linda Sycks) on Tim's death due to brain cancer in late August.

The family and friends of Cynthia Reynolds (Julia Szabo's friend).

**Prayers of Healing for:**

Owen and Kay Ziessler are at Mennonite Memorial Home.

Nick Nichols who tested positive for COVID-19.

Brecken Anderson (15-mo-old son of Shawna, children's church teacher) had a recent unexplained health scare.

Donnas Stone has chronic back pain; her husband Stoney began 5 weeks of radiation on August 2.

Elkin (great-nephew of Lynda Best) was born premature, but has ongoing health concerns.

Gayle Marshall is in her 4<sup>th</sup> round of chemotherapy; her lab work continues to be good.

Yuji (5-year-old son of Greg and Laura Elwood) begins 6 months of chemotherapy in Columbus on August 31. Laura, Greg, and Yuji are grateful for your continued prayers.

Kelly (friend of Annessa Samsal and Mariah Pneuman) has cancer that has metastasized.

Zannah Harbert (Pastor Karol's friend) is in the hospital with COVID pneumonia.

George Fischer (Julia Szabo's father) is home from the hospital recovering from renal failure.

Judy Sergent (mother of Gayle Marshall's coworker) has breast cancer.

Sharon Moore, Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Covenant, is on an 8-week medical leave after receiving cancer treatments.

Sue Mathewson who is in the hospital with concerning low blood pressure issues.

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

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

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

# REKINDLE

19th MVP YOUTH RETREAT 21st

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

7:30PM (FRI.) – 11:30AM (SUN.) | KIRKMONT CENTER

## Registration Deadline:

Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 5PM!

Register TODAY on the MVP website! ([www.maumeevp.org](http://www.maumeevp.org))

\$15 Early Bird Registration by September 30<sup>th</sup>

\$25 Registration after October 1<sup>st</sup>

**A fun, inspiring, faith-filled weekend  
for all youth (grades 7-12) in the  
Maumee Valley Presbytery!**



*Sponsored by the MVP Discipleship Team*

Contact Rev. Karol Farris Schilling at [pastor@blufftonpc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonpc.org)

When did we  
See you?  
Matthew 25: 31-46

**PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM 2022**

July 24-27 • Indianapolis, IN

There will be a presentation about Triennium at the upcoming Presbytery meeting.

Triennium is July 24-27, 2022, in Indianapolis.

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

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling  
Phone:  
Email:  
Primary Workdays: Monday – Thursday (off Friday)  
Office Hours: Mon 3:00-5:00 PM;  
Tues & Wed 10:00 AM – Noon

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 Teachers: 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: Chris Hochstetler  
Assistant Moderator: Jana McVetta  
Members: Tanya Best, Craig Bowman,  
Rob McGarrity, Libby McVetta