

# Emmanuel United Church of Christ April 2024 Newsletter


Starting Sunday, May 5  
Worship Service time changes to  
9:00am

## Consistory Members 2024

**Elders:** Logan Fruchey, Amy Muniz, Ron Geiser, Kelly Fruchey  
**Deacons:** Jerilyn Neeper, Nick Shepler, Sara Music, Erin Burkholder

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419-358-1561

 Facebook: Emmanuel United Church of Christ  
Bluffton OH

 Twitter: EmmanuelUCC Bluffton  
(@EmmanuelUCC1561)



<http://www.emmanueluccbluffton.com/>

(Today's and past Sermons can be heard on the  
Emmanuel UCC Bluffton website under media)



Instagram #EmmanuelUcc

E-Mail: [emmanuelucc8375@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelucc8375@gmail.com)

As many of you are already aware and may have already experienced, depending on when you read this article, on April 8<sup>th</sup> we will experience a total eclipse here in Bluffton. According to the Bluffton Chamber the last time this happened was in 1806 and the next time this will happen will be in 2099. In 1806 Napoleon Bonaparte was still Emperor of France, future President of the United States Andrew Jackson famously dueled Charles Dickinson (not to be confused with the author Charles Dickens who was born 6 years later), and the Holy Roman Empire finally came to an official end when Francis II renounced the title and became Emperor of Austria.

All of these events are ones in which we read about in our history books today, feeling that we are worlds apart. By comparison 2099 doesn't seem to be so far removed. A mere 75 years from now Bluffton and the surrounding area will once again become a hot spot of activity for those who will be amazed by the moon passing in front of the sun. I wonder then what they will be reading about today. Will they be amazed that this was the time when \_\_\_\_\_? Or will there be people living on the moon, waving down at the earth as they pass by little old Bluffton Village?

Such events are transformative and important because they mark the passage of our time. For Bluffton, Ohio, or to be more historically accurate, first named Shannon, Ohio, 1806 was 25 years away from being established. Our village, let alone our two historic congregations, did not properly exist the last time this event took place and we would only hope and pray that it will still exist the next time it happens.

Here is why I mention this; first, because right now this seem to be all we can talk about and hear about on the news around here. We are excited and yet it seems like the world is ending, or not, on April 8<sup>th</sup>, as people from all over might descend like locusts upon us, or not, causing us to lose internet signals, phone signals, gas prices to rise, streets to be littered with cars and people, or not. I hope one day that others will look back upon this article and laugh at how concerned we were about nothing. And boy do I hope it's not cloudy that day. Second, and more importantly, I wonder what we as congregations, church families, might be able to accomplish in 75 years.

Emmanuel just held its annual Spring Fish Fry feeding 360 meals to our neighbors, our friends, our families, and complete strangers who stopped by because they heard about it on the radio or saw it on social media. St. John's looks to start up a bike ministry in the community of Bluffton, seeking to provide space and opportunity for children and adults alike to experience the joy of gliding along the many bike and walking pathways which the Bluffton Lion's Club have been constructing. Our outreach from both congregations continues through Church World

Service and giving to Our Church's Wider Mission funds. The lives we have touched, the people that we have helped, here at home and abroad, are truly innumerable. But 75 years from now, what more could we do? What will the next total eclipse cover here in Bluffton?

It is exciting to think about the future, but it is a future which we must work towards, month after month and year after year. None of this can be taken for granted. We live in a place that didn't exist in 1806, so who will we be in 2099? We have been established for a purpose. And as congregations in the Church of Jesus Christ that purpose is to spread the Gospel, to share our blessings upon others, to provide for those who are without, and to support those who are in need. I look forward to that future, one which many of us will not be playing a part in at all. But it will be one for which our descendants and all those who come after us might be able to say, we helped to establish. May our work in the community of Bluffton continue and may Bluffton continue to thrive. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jeremy



Blessings, Pastor Jeremy

*Praying the*  
**SCRIPTURES**  
elispulliam.com

**April 7**  
John 20:19-31

**April 21**  
John 10:11-18

**April 14**  
Luke 24:36-48

**April 28**  
John 15:1-8

*Order Your Hanging  
Basket or Gift Card  
they would  
Make a Great Mother's  
Day Gift*

*\*\*\*Order Forms need to be  
turned in to  
Sherry Stratton  
419-231-1435  
by April 7<sup>th</sup>\*\*\**

*Hanging baskets 12" \$22.00  
pots \$25.00  
ferns \$24.00  
gift cards are \$20.00*



\$20 Certificate for Stratton Greenhouse  
and Roots  
**Valid May 12 – July 31, 2024**  
(Please note expiration date)



# Church Upcoming Dates

**April 7** – Worship 10:30am

**April 8** – Church closed (Eclipse)

**April 10** – Wednesday, Consistory 6:30pm

**April 14** – Worship 10:30am Communion

**April 15** – Monday Women’s Outreach 7:00pm  
Program by Linda Reichenbach & Nancy Steiner

**April 21** – Worship 10:30am Graduation Sunday  
Recognizing members who have reached a milestone in their lives

Riley Stark – HS Graduate

Haley Pinks – College Graduate

If you would like someone lifted up who is not a member please let the office know.

**May 12** – Worship 9 am Confirmation Sunday, Communion  
Wyatt Moser  
Peyton Worcester  
Charlotte Burkholder

**May 19** – Pentecost – Work Day (Baked Potato Bar)

## National Volunteer Week

April 21-27

Parts of this was shared by Timothy Merrill Hometouch Quarterly  
Not long ago I came across a little quip about volunteers. It goes like this:  
“Just remember - Noah’s Ark was built by amateurs. The Titanic was built by professionals.” Then I began to think about the important work that volunteers do in our church and community.

*Thank you to all who volunteer. You make a difference:*

Consistory members

People who give of their time, money and talents

Donating food

Service groups

Praying for the church

Sending a card to someone, visiting someone, talking to someone on the phone, at the grocery store

These are just a few, many of you volunteer in other ways so

**Thank you!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



# Financial Updates



## January and February 2024

### **Current Fund**

YTD Income \$17,460.01  
YTD Expenses \$16,170.17

### **Benevolence Fund**

YTD Income \$405.00  
Budget \$437.50

### **Overall Income/Expense**

YTD Income \$22,581.73  
YTD Expense \$20,792.17

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Hometown Nazareth

Let the children experience what it might have  
looked like in Nazareth

Sunday, July 21 - Thursday, July 25, 2024  
(6:00 to 8:00pm)

**Bluffton Family YMCA (BFR)**

## Church Staff

Pastor, Jeremy Mann	419-420-5052
Logan Fruchey, Consistory President	567-204-5783
Kristen Parkins, Fin. Sec.	419-302-3969
Teresa Pinks, Treasurer	419-234-1817
Jen Mann, Faith Formation	717-813-1485
Dick & Connie Baker, Maintenance	567-712-0119
Renee Caskie, Secretary	419-890-6213
Church Number	419-358-1561

## April Birthdays

1 Jase Kiene	10 Connie Baker
2 Becky Leiber	12 Dick Baker
Deb Leiber	13 Landen Worcester
3 Jason Chatelain	16 Larry Eikenbary
4 Isabella Sampson	Reese Stark
Rowen Sampson	17 Jill Rumer
6 Dennis Caskie	18 Karen Kopp
Makenzie Frankhart	20 Charlotte Burkholder
7 Jay Stratton	Renee Caskie
9 Roxanne Chatelain	
Rick Krumrey	

## SUMMER CAMP

Templed Hills has a great summer camp. If you are interested please check out the website @<http://www.ohioucc.org/outdoor-ministries/> for more information on all the different camps they have to offer. If you would like more information or have questions talk to Renee Caskie, [rcaskie@thewavz.com](mailto:rcaskie@thewavz.com), 419-890-6213.