



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

October 2011

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, October 2 – World Communion**

**3 cents a meal offering**

Special music – Joel Kimmel, clarinet

Lay Reader: Tenna Rhonemus

Greeters: Enneking Family

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

### **Sunday, October 9 – Fellowship**

**Food Pantry**

Choir

Lay Reader: Rebecca Hursey

Greeter: Beth Buist

Acolyte: Madison Hursh

### **Sunday, October 16**

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Jana McVetta

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Patrick Rhonemus

### **Sunday, October 23**

Choir

Lay Reader: Jeremy Scoles

Greeters: Gillen Family

Acolyte: Molly McCracken

### **Sunday, October 30**

BPC Band

Lay Reader: Dave Kisor

Greeters: Owen and Kay Ziessler

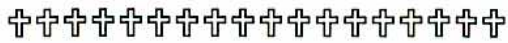
Acolyte: Libby McVetta

### **Sunday, November 6 - Communion**

Acolytes: Tucker and Will Neff

## Mark Your Calendars!

- October 2 – World Communion/Peacemaking Sunday
- October 2 – Youth Group Meeting/Supper – 5:00 – 7:00 PM – Church Basement
- October 4 – Afternoon Small Groups – 2:00 PM – Church Basement
- October 4 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Maple Crest
- October 12 – Praise Team Practice – 7:30 PM
- October 11 – Afternoon Small Groups – 2:00 PM – Church Basement
- October 11 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Maple Crest
- October 15 – Elders Communion Training Workshop – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- October 16 – Potluck – following worship service
- October 16 – Kid's Club – 2:00 to 3:30 PM – Church Basement
- October 18 – Afternoon Small Groups – 2:00 PM – Church Basement
- October 18 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Maple Crest
- October 25 – Afternoon Small Groups – 2:00 PM – Church Basement
- October 25 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Maple Crest
- October 29 – Fall Cleaning Day – 8:00 AM to noon
- October 30 – BPC Band Rehearsal – 8:30 AM
- October 30 – Newsletter Deadline
- November 1 – Afternoon Small Groups – 2:00 PM – Church Basement
- November 1 – Evening Small Groups – 6:30 PM – Maple Crest
- November 6 – Time change – Remember to move clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Have you noticed how much it has been raining recently? It makes me think of that adage: "April showers bring May flowers." Well, seeing that it is October, I'm not sure that we'll be seeing any new flowers any time soon, but maybe it will at least stop raining.

However, the rain does remind me of something that is very important, but a little underappreciated: windshield wipers. We all really need windshield wipers when we are driving on these rainy days. Without them, the rain obscures our vision, creating a real hazard. How great is it that, at the flip of the switch, we have these devices that continually clear away our vision to help us find our way. But we don't tend to think about them (at least until they stop working). And these wonderful devices do their job without attracting much of our attention - that would be distracting. Their job is to let us see, not to impede our vision.

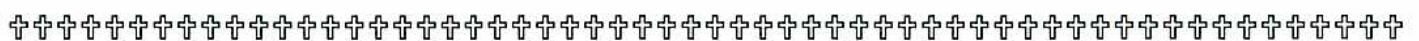
We also need windshield wipers in our daily travels of life. Most of us have days where we could describe our personal lives as drizzly, rainy, or even out-right storming! I know I've had a few thunderstorms myself. All those little annoyances, problems, and frustrations can cloud our vision. They make it hard for us to see the Way that we are trying to follow. "Before we know it, we can find ourselves in a spiritual ditch or having a head-on collision with another driver." (Drew Leder, Sparks of the Divine) So we need to find our own spiritual windshield wipers; those little things that we do in order to keep our way clear.

Eugene Peterson shares in The Message, paraphrasing Matthew 6:31-34: "*People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met. Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.*" God will help us find our way, if we look to God for direction. He has provided so many ways to clear our vision through prayer, singing, open worship, and sometimes even crying and laughter. Let us remember to turn to God for help in our dark and stormy times.

Friends, I'm so pleased to be able to share with you today after being so warmly welcomed into Bluffton Presbyterian Church. I look forward to knowing you better and I hope you feel free to seek me out. I pray that the Lord grants us all a clear vision through all of our rainy days.

In the Peace that is Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke

In addition to my pastoral letter, I hope to share something with you each month so you might get to know me and my family a little better. But I need to know what your questions are - so if you have a question that you'd like me to answer in next month's newsletter, let me know by email or dropping a note in the box on my office door. I'll try to answer one to two a month.



## 2011 Peacemaking Offering



The Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Peacemaking Offering celebrated their thirtieth anniversary in 2010. The Offering was organized following the adoption by the General Assembly of Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling, which called for an emphasis on peacemaking across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Make this year a time to renew your commitment to peacemaking as part of your calling as a follower of Christ, who not only taught us the ways of peace but is our peace. We will be collecting the Peacemaking Offering through the month of October.

### CARE Ministry Begins this Fall

The mission of a deacon can be described in one word: caring. And because the deacons of Bluffton Presbyterian Church care for you and your family, we are developing a ministry that we call Christian Action Reaching Everyone.

With the CARE Ministry, the congregation (members and friends) is divided into groups of families. Each deacon will then be assigned a group and will contact the families several times throughout the year just to keep in touch and to ask, "How is everything going?" Initial contact will be made by phone. When you are contacted, if you prefer email to the phone, just let your deacon know. And if you prefer to be contacted less regularly – or not at all – you may let your deacon know that as well.

We want to celebrate with you in good times and help you feel loved and supported in difficult times. We've all felt the need for genuine love and friendly fellowship. With CARE, we can foster an even more supportive environment within our church. Regular, personal contact is a good way to keep our congregation connected.

The deacons will begin this ministry this fall. Please contact Diane Winebar (419.957.4046 or [dwinebar711@gmail.com](mailto:dwinebar711@gmail.com)) if you have questions.

In Christ,  
Bluffton Presbyterian Church Deacons  
Betsey Angus, Lynda Best, Tom Edwards,  
Barbara Fett, Shirley Kisor, Diane Winebar

### Deacons

We will have a potluck after church Sunday, October 16, please bring a dish to share and your own table service.

### August Financial Report

August 2011	
Beginning Balance	\$ 8,889.42
Receipts	7,100.67
Expenses	(5,735.89)
Streetscape Paid	(3,312.00)
Balance	\$ 6,942.20

Borrowed to be paid back \$27,507.50

## INSTRUMENTALISTS!

(and wannabees)

Please join us in making a joyful noise.

BPC Band will play on Reformation Sunday, October 30.

Rehearsal on Sunday morning, October 30 at 8:30 AM

See Dave Sycks for music.

## Elders Communion Training Workshop

On October 15, starting at 9:00 AM and running until about 3:00 PM, we will be hosting at Bluffton Presbyterian, a workshop on Elders Communion Training provided by Maumee Valley Presbytery. Lunch will be provided on a free will offering basis.

In this workshop, elders who are interested in attending will learn how to do the communion liturgy. In addition to helping or presiding for worship, this training will also qualify elders to do visitation communion (without having to take the communion directly from the church service to those receiving the communion). This is very useful for us here at Bluffton, as it allows more of the congregation to take an active role in this sacrament, as well as fill-in when necessary and allow for greater visitation.

To participate in this training, one needs only to have been an elder. It doesn't matter if you are currently a ruling elder or not. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Matthew. If you would like to attend, please let the office or pastor know.



## Work Day!

Come to the church bright and early on October 29, to help with a Fall Clean-Up! This will be a chance for any interested individual to help out with a few odd tasks, small repairs, and general clean up around our building before the Holidays. We will start at 8:00 AM, so plan on dropping in then or any time afterward to lend a hand. We are planning to be done before lunch.

## Weekday Christian Education Walkers

If anyone is willing to volunteer as a Weekday Christian Education Walker, please see Tenna Rhonemus.

We have several spots to fill on Friday, October 21 and Thursday, December 8, please contact Tenna Rhonemus.



## World Communion Sunday

On World Communion Sunday, Christians from around the world gather in worship to partake of the elements of bread and wine in remembrance and celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is also the time to bear witness to the unity of Christians everywhere as we seek to live out Christ's command to work for justice and peace in a world that is deeply divided in conflict and war. As we gather on this Lord's Day, let us remember and pray for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s 165 partner communions and other organizations worldwide who will be receiving Communion.

## Church Ladies with Typewriters

*These sentences (with all the bloopers) actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:*

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

# Happy Birthday!!



- October 1 Owen Scoles
- 2 Mary Emma Triplett
- 4 Olivia Sneary
- 5 Robbie McGarrity
- 7 Anne McCracken
- 8 Val VanderNaald  
Phil Weisenbarger
- 10 Mariah Pneuman
- 15 Terry Mullenhour
- 18 Jean Triplett
- 20 Don Carroll
- 30 Tonya Best  
Tayler-Nowak Valentine
- 31 Carolyn Dickey
- November 2 Molly McCracken
- 7 Gayle Marshall  
Nathan Hursh
- 8 Ray Niswander  
Morgan McVetta



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Thank you for all the food and help serving the Benroth and Moyer funerals.

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## Joys and Concerns

**Prayers of Sympathy** with the family of Rodney Winkle.

**Prayers** for our members and friends serving overseas; Billy Marshall and Andrew Warner.

**Prayers** for Peace in our lives and in our World.

**Prayers of Healing** for Bryan Champion, Tyler and Laura From, Mary Emma Triplett, Karen Long, Matthew Moritz, Mike McAuly, Norma Best, Tim and Susan Hamilton, Martha Sycks, Louise Reichenbach, Alan Begg, Renee Smith, Judy Reichenbach, William Mills, Wendell Dunn, Emily Parker, Janet Triplett, Gary Williams, Ropp Triplett, Bev Begg, Jerry Chavalier, Michael Chavalier, Kaye Anderson, Jillian Hammer, Marilyn Bullock, and Yvonne Fisher.

**If you would like to send a card or word of encouragement.**



Tyler and Laura From  
 9440 Sterling Rd.  
 Jerome, MI 49249  
[www.caringbridge.org/visit](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit)  
 password: tylerfrom

## Important Information

Rev. Matthew's office hours will be Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM or by appointment.

Rev. Matthew's contact information:  
 Email address: [revdrmz@gmail.com](mailto:revdrmz@gmail.com)  
 Cell phone: 567-835-3973

Please do not use [bpcpastor@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcpastor@wcoil.com); it is no longer a valid address.



## Kid's Club

**WHO:** Children preschool through Fifth Grade.  
**Please feel free to bring your friends!**

**WHAT:** We will learn about God's love and direction in our lives through Bible lessons, Crafts, Games, Music, and Snacks.

**WHERE:** Bluffton Presbyterian Church Basement.

**WHEN:** From 2:00 to 3:30 PM

October 16	November 20
January 15	February 19
March 18	April 15

**WHY:** Proverbs 22:6 tells us: Train a child in the way they should go and when they are old they will not turn from it.

**REMEMBER:** Our fun can be messy so wear play clothes!

There are Kid's Club flyers located in the back of the Church sanctuary.

## Youth Group

The youth group will begin their monthly meetings in October. We will meet the first Sunday of each month from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. We will begin our meetings by sharing a meal together. Our time together will include a Bible study, games, and a lot of opportunities to grow in your relationship with God and each other. Please join us! If you have any questions, contact Tenna Rhonemus at 419-358-8148 or [tlrhonemus@hotmail.com](mailto:tlrhonemus@hotmail.com).

## Youth Sunday School

Starting January 8, there will be some changes to the youth's Sunday school groups due to the start of confirmation for the middle school/junior high age group. Once confirmation begins, the middle school/junior high age will be replaced with an older elementary which will consist of 2nd graders-4th graders. We will continue the early elementary group, which will consist of children ages 4 through 1st graders. We do need Sunday school teachers for the early elementary age only, starting January 8 until the end of May. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for this age group on October 9 and 16.



## Nursery Help Needed

We are looking for adult volunteers for the nursery which consists of age's newborn through kindergarten. We ask that once children move into full-time school age, which is 1st grade, parents strongly try to have their children attend church service. We currently have 7 paired adults, but the first of the year this will drop to 5. If we can get this up to 8 paired adults, it would require being in the nursery 8 times out of the year. If you are interested in helping those families who have little ones in the nursery so that the parents have the opportunity to attend service throughout the year please contact Stephanie Scoles.

## Highlights of September's Session Meeting

- Matthew began office hours the week of September 6. Rev. Matthew presided at Richard Moyer's funeral. Deacons served Funeral Dinner afterwards. Matthew has initiated a "Breakfast Club" which meets at the Common Grounds on Monday mornings at 8:30 a.m. - all are invited to drop in.
- Permission was granted to Sneary's to use church basement. Thank you letters were sent to the three pastors who were willing to provide emergency pastoral care in August. Financial audit for 2010 was completed by Clair Winebar and Dick McGarrity with no recommendations. Noted that the Treasurer was accurately tracking financial activities and reasonable controls were in place and being followed.
- Furnished water for the Hancock County Bicycle Club on September 11 - utilized alley area. Following items were completed at the manse - bathroom faucets replaced, dishwasher panel fixed, new window blinds installed, carpet cleaned, entire house cleaned, garage cleaned, yard/flowerbeds cleaned. Work completed by Cathy Carroll, Darlene Hey, Kay/Owen Ziessler, Jeanie/Dwight Nichols, and Mike/Patrick Rhonemus. M+R still needs to check the water softener. Approved having Patrick Rhonemus continue mowing the manse (\$20 per time) this fall and the session will make future decision during winter. Streetscape project is now complete and bill was paid (same amount as originally expected).
- Sunday School classes have started - early elementary, older elementary/MS, HS, and adult. Kids' Club and Youth Group will start in October.
- August Yard Sale netted \$669. Unsold items were donated to Angels for Animals for their garage sale.
- Mission used their designated money for the yard sale to purchase 10 rider bus tickets (\$9 each ticket) for Samaritan House.

### **Newsletter Distribution**

If you would like to have your copy of the Newsletter sent to you via email, please send your email address to Cathy at [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com) or Cindy at [cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com](mailto:cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com).

**PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for the next newsletter is Sunday, October 30.**

Ideas, suggestions, photos, family news or special celebrations are always welcome

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Or [GILLEN3072@roadrunner.com](mailto:GILLEN3072@roadrunner.com)

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419-358-5806

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Email: [bpebluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpebluff@wcoil.com)  
Fax: 419-358-1090  
Website: [blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 AM**  
Sunday School: 9:00 AM

## **2011 Church Officers**

### *Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt  
Buildings & Grounds – Owen Ziessler  
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and  
Stephanie Scoles  
Fellowship – Min Lindsey  
Finance – Clair Winebar  
Membership – John Marshall  
Mission – Beth Buist  
Nominating – Beth Buist and Min Lindsey  
Personnel – Jodi Brauen  
Presbytery Commissioner – Darlene Hey  
Worship – Darlene Hey

### *Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Betsey Angus  
Members: Barb Fett, Tom Edwards, Lynda  
Best, Shirley Kisor, and Diane Winebar