



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

March 2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 3 – 3rd Sunday in Lent, Communion,

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good
Liturgist: Phil Weisenbarger
Special Music: Don Brauen
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus
Slides: Linda Nelson
Acolyte: Morgan
Greeters: Carole Enneking and Helen Hawk

Sunday, March 10 – 4th Sunday in Lent, Cents-Ability Offering

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good
Liturgist: Tenna Rhonemus
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Rev. Dave Good
Acolyte: Robbie
Greeters: David and Barb McClurg

Sunday, March 17 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Pulpit: Rev. Matthew Zuehlke
Liturgist: Clair Winebar
Special Music: Kerry Fremont
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen
Slides: Michele Talavinia
Acolyte: Bowen
Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good
Liturgists: Owen and Clara
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolytes: Owen and Clara
Greeters: Betsey Angus and Phil Bowers

Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays:

Sunday School 9:00 AM – Pre-K-6th Grade

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary

Children's Church – Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays: Claralice Circle 6:30 PM

Wednesdays: Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Mar 6 – Mission Meeting at 7:30 PM

Mar 9 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Mar 14 – Session Meeting at 7:00 PM

**Mar 24 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by
end of day**

Mar 28 – Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 PM

Mar 29 – Good Friday Community Cross Walk

Mar 31 – Easter Breakfast 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Mar 31 – Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 AM

Mar 31 – Easter Service 10:10 AM



Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Rev. Dave Good
Greeters: Jeff and Cindy Gillen

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday/ Resurrection of the Lord

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good
Liturgist: Phill Talavinia
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolyte: Avery
Greeters: TBD

Pastor Nominating Committee Announcement

The Pastor Nominating Committee would like to nominate Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke to become pastor of Bluffton Presbyterian Church. Pastor Matthew has had 16 years of experience as a pastor, two years and four months of which were spent at Bluffton Presbyterian Church between August 2011 and December 2013. He departed at that time because his wife, who was a Registered Nurse with advanced certifications, was not able to find suitable career opportunities in this area. He is now a single parent of two children.

Pastor Matthew has a deep love of God and the Scriptures. He has studied for many years, earning his BA, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry. He has a deep affinity for music, enjoying everything from Classic Rock to Vivaldi. When not at church, you can find him pursuing his love of photography or woodworking.

Pastor Matthew will preach at BPC on March 17 and, if elected at the Congregational Meeting afterwards, he will begin his ministry with us on May 19, 2024, at an effective salary annually. After the Congregational Meeting, we will have our regular coffee hour at the back of the sanctuary sponsored by the Fellowship Committee so that you can become acquainted (or reacquainted) with Pastor Matthew.

Between now and March 17, members of the PNC will remain in the sanctuary after the service to answer any questions you may have. Copies of Pastor Matthew's full resume (10 pages) are available in the church office.

Thanks for your patience and support!
Dick McGarrity, Craig Bowman, Ryan Brauen,
Marilyn Edwards, and Linda Nelson

SESSION

Highlights of February's Session Meeting

- Remote control fan installed on projector in sanctuary to keep it from overheating and shutting off. As in past years, the annual financial audit is being conducted by students from the Ohio Northern University audit class. The audit started in late January and will be completed during April.

- Approved that beginning in 2024, dividends and interest earned by the following funds will be credited to the general fund: a) the Edward Jones money market account, b) the PILP CD, c) the Chase savings account, d) the Presbyterian Foundation account (Edyth Cupp), and e) the New Covenant Fund. These dividends and interest are expected to be between \$ and \$ during 2024. Previously, dividends and interest earned by these accounts were credited to the fund/bequest that had provided most of the funds used to buy the investment (Triplett Bequest, Bixel & Magee, etc.). Increases and decreases in the market value of investments, including reinvestment of Vanguard account dividends, will continue to be kept within the investment funds (not charged/credited to the general fund).
- With Dave Good serving as pulpit supply during Lent, he has offered to provide brief Lenten studies following church and/or home devotions. Agreed to pay Dave Good \$ for providing the Lenten studies/home devotions.

Expressions of Appreciation Shared at Congregational Meeting

- Dave Good for providing pulpit supply for two Advent seasons and two Lenten seasons.
- Deep appreciation of our church staff and church family who have picked up additional responsibilities during the time we are without a pastor.
- Administrative Assistant Cathy Carroll for extra communications with all who have filled in as pulpit supply – Dave Good, Jim Boroff, Tenna Rhonemus, and others.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

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 March 24. You will be able to take your flowers home after our joyful Easter Sunday worship service.

DEACONS

Highlights of Deacon's February Meeting

No meeting was held in February.

FAITH FORMATION

The Chosen

We are showing **The Chosen** to the Sunday School, The Chosen, which started on February 18 is a 12-week series, that is also available on Netflix. The series is an American Christian historical drama television series. Primarily set in Judea and Galilee in the 1st Century. The series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him. It is intended for ages 8 and over.

The series is a multi-generation presentation and parents and family (over 8) are invited to come with their child to watch the series. We will also be presenting this series to the congregation and Bluffton community on Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. starting April 7.

BPC Youth Group

Our Youth Group met at Southgate lanes on February 23, led by Brooklyn Phillips. Ten youths participated, including four from families who are not members of the church.

Christian Ed Walkers

We are in need if Christian Ed walkers on Thursday, April 4 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (these are a half-hour commitment). If you could help with, please contact Linda Nelson. Thank you!

Little Free Pantry

Feb 26-March 3 – Sarah Noland
March 4-10 – Diane Winebar
March 11-17 – Jodi Brauen
March 18-24 – Jayne McGarrity
March 25-31 – Sue Van Eman

Please consider the following items for the pantry this month. Baby food (in plastic containers), canned fruit, Knorr rice and pasta sides, and toilet paper. You can drop your donation in the Little Free Pantry container in the front of the sanctuary. Thank You!

MISSION



Thanks to Don and Cathy Carroll and Betsey Angus, and Phil Bowers for covering February Pizza Night at Lima Rescue Mission. We saw another big increase this month with 35 men. They sure do appreciate the pizza! Thanks as well to everyone who continues to help with donations.

We have coverage for March and May, and are looking for servers for April 13. Anyone interested in helping or donating soda, water, variety pack chips, candy bars, 10" plates, or gallon ziplock bags, please call or text Bob Hursh.

If you donate money, please submit a check (memo: LRM) to the church office or give online (www.blufftonpc.org/give). Thanks!



One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People, all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Bluffton Presbyterian's Church Family Directory

Bluffton Presbyterian's Church Family Directory (contact information) has been updated. Printed copies of the 2024 Church Family Directory are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please contact the church office if your address, phone numbers, or email changes.



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

January 2024 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2024	\$
January offerings and receipts	
January expenses	()
January 31, 2024 balance	\$

Thank you for supporting BPC's ministries!

Per Capita Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has provided a 2024 per capita offering! If you have not had a chance and would like to, you are invited to do so anytime this year.

What is per capita?

Per capita funding helps provide services provided to all members and clergy by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Examples include:

- ❖ Support for youth events such as Triennium
- ❖ Support for Camp Kirkmont
- ❖ Support for congregations in transition
- ❖ College ministry support
- ❖ Pastoral training, guidance, and support
- ❖ Matthew 25 mission grants
- ❖ Cost assistance for commissioners and delegates to General Assemblies
- ❖ Preserving church history through the Presbyterian Historical Society
- ❖ Support for Korean-speaking councils
- ❖ Administrative cost assistance for the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Here's a breakdown of BPC's 2024 per capita charge:

Maumee Valley Presbytery	\$26.05
Synod of the Covenant	\$3.25
General Assembly	<u>\$9.80</u>
Total	\$39.10

Offering Options

Thank you for sharing your Spiritual Gifts, including financial resources, to support BPC's ministries. In addition to placing your gift in an offering plate during worship service, we have several other giving options. ***Please use whichever option is most convenient for you!***

- ❖ You may mail a check, or make an online request with your bank to mail a check, to the church office (Bluffton Presbyterian Church, PO Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817).
- ❖ You may drop an offering envelope in the black Treasurer's lockbox in the church office. The lockbox is located on the wall next to the office door.
- ❖ You may provide an online offering via an electronic draw or credit card through BPC's website at <https://www.blufftonpc.org/index.html>. Once on the site, click the Giving Link dropdown under the Give tab. After you arrive at the giving page, you may select the box of the fund for which you would like to give (General Fund, Little Free Pantry, etc.).

Please let Clair Winebar, Treasurer, know if you have any questions.



Prayers for:

Those who live alone or in care facilities and are less able to engage in meaningful connections with others, including Jane Benroth, Ralph Middleton, Ben Miracle, Hazel Rodabaugh, and Owen Ziessler.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

Diplomacy, peace, and hope in the world.

Victims of violence around the world.

Prayers of Sympathy for:

The family of Joe Gillen (Jeff Gillen's brother) who passed away this past week.

Prayers with Jeff Sycks (Dave Syck's brother) on the recent loss of his wife.

We Pray for God's Healing for:

Lynda Best
Jodi Diller
Sue Mathewson
Mariah Pneuman
Lois (friend of Dave and Jane Good)
Sylvia (Diane Winebar's sister)
Dr. Sharon Cole (Darlene Hey's doctor)
Ethan Fedde (Bev Begg's great granddaughter's husband)
Linda Francies (Bev Begg's daughter)
Nancy and Larry Frost (Cindy Gillen's cousins)
Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey's daughter)
Eileen Rhonemus (Mike's mother)
Taylor Zsiros (Jeff and Kerry Fremont's son's fiancé)

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, 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 Mike or another deacon.



Bluffton Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. We depend on our repeat donors to keep our door open. God bless you for your kindness and generosity!

I would like to thank everybody who has served as liturgist. Your willingness to serve has made my job coordinating the monthly list easier. I would also like to invite anyone else who might be interested in serving as liturgist to please contact me either in person or by text or call.

Thank you, Dan Noland

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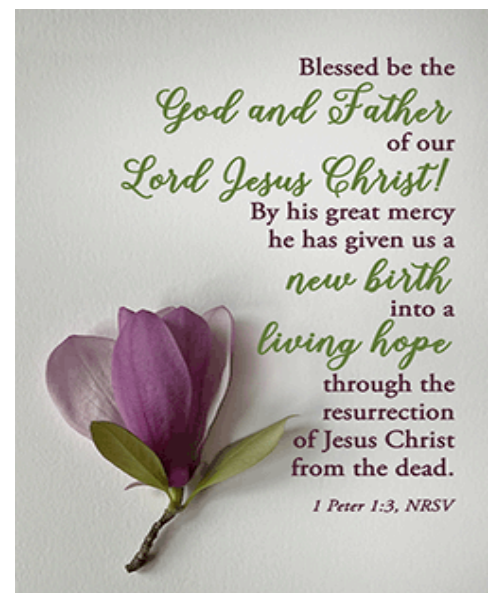
Fellowship

Easter sunrise breakfast will again be hosted by the men of our church. It begins at 8:30 a.m. Hot breakfast items, coffee cake, and beverages will be served. Please contact Don Carroll if you would like to help in the kitchen.



Birthdays

Mar	1	Greg Culbertson
	2	Jane Benroth
		Emily Sycks
	3	Jacob Szabo
	9	Tom Hursey
	12	Phil Bowers
	13	Hazel Rodabaugh
	14	Erin Hotmire
	16	Alec Culbertson
		Paul Culbertson
		Jana McVetta
	24	Darrel Hotmire
	26	Laura Elwood
	28	Drew Gable
	30	Victoria Wagner
Apr	1	John Hochstetler
		Megan Sycks
	4	Beth Buist
	5	Helen Hawk





Emmanuel and St. John's UCC Lenten Meals

Emmanuel and St. John's UCC churches extend an invitation to Bluffton Presbyterian Church to attend their annual **Lenten meals** from February 21 to March 20. All meals will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Emmanuel UCC.



Emmanuel UCC Fish Fry

Emmanuel UCC (8375 Phillips Rd.) will have a Fish Fry on Friday, March 8 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dine in or carry out is available. Cost is \$12 per meal.

Andy Beningo Comedy

Saturday March 2 9AM

Where Shannon Theatre Bluffton

Tickets \$10
937-243-4484

With over 3500 career performances, world wide, Andy Beningo has established himself as one of the most in demand comedians today. Hailed for his clean and "every man" style, Andy has performed for Fortune 500 companies, on cruise lines and in some of the top comedy clubs in the country. Along the way, he has been named one of the 40 BEST up and coming comedians in the country as well as "Best Comedian" by Detroit Metro Times and Detroit Hour Magazine.

St. Mary is hosting a clean comedian to come to Bluffton. His name is Andy Beningo. He will perform at the Shannon Theatre at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday March 2. His act is not religious, but he is known for his clean comedy. We would love for you to promote this event to your parishioners, family, and friends. We are looking forward to this being a positive community event! Tickets are \$10, concessions will be available for purchase at the theatre.

Et Cetera, Inc. 50th Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, March 10, 2:00 p.m. – "Celebrating 50 Years of Fashion". We are celebrating Et Cetera, Inc. 50th anniversary this year, and one of our events will be a style show, at the Bluffton Middle School Cafetorium. The afternoon will feature local models wearing styles from the decades (all donated to Et Cetera), and Ten Thousand Villages will have a segment with their models titled "The Future is Fair Trade". There will be a silent purse auction (cash or check only), door prizes, including two \$50.00 Et Cetera gift cards, Ten Thousand Villages retail sales table, Book Reviews table, refreshments, and lots of laughs! Doors will open at 1:30 p.m., so come early to browse through our retail tables, look over the purses and make your silent bids, and enjoy the refreshments while you visit with your friends and neighbors before the show. Tickets are pre-sale only - \$5.00 each, sold at Et Cetera Shop, Book Reviews or Ten Thousand Villages. Please visit their new link: <https://fmcbluffton.org/et-cetera-shop-50/#>

CarFit now offered at AAA3

Mobility Management and the transportation team at AAA3 is proud to now offer CarFit. "CarFit is an educational program developed by AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. The program provides information and materials on community-specific resources that could enhance their safety as drivers and/or increase their mobility in the community." Those who attend CarFit events are guided through a 12-point checklist which looks at items such as driver distance from the steering wheel, blind spots, and seatbelt positioning.

AAA3 has assisted with and/or coordinated two events, one in Allen County in October 2023, and one in Putnam County in November 2023, serving approximately 20 older drivers. Individuals who attend the event are given the opportunity to mail in a post-event questionnaire. From the questionnaires received from the first event, 5 older drivers indicated the event was "excellent" and 5 reported making changes to their vehicles.

Mobility Management and the transportation team plan to hold at least one event in each of our seven core counties in 2024. For information about the programs at Area Agency on Aging 3 please call the agency at 419-222-7723.

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help beautify the sanctuary for Easter,
use the form below to make a monetary donation.
Please return your completed form and gift by **March 24**
to have your dedication included in the Easter bulletin.

Please make checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church,
with "Easter flowers" on the memo line.
Place forms in a collection plate, drop in the Treasurer's box in the office,
or mail to the church (PO Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817).
To donate online: Go to blufftonpc.org and click on GIVE.
The Worship Committee thanks you!

I/We wish to donate \$ _____

I/We would like this gift to be given in MEMORY OF:

I/We would like this gift to be given in HONOR OF:

Your Name(s): _____



BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
112 N. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 149
BLUFFTON, OH 45817
(419) 358-5806

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

OFFICE HOURS

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email:

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

Treasurer: Clair Winebar

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Custodians: Chris and John Hochstetler

2022 Church Officers

Elders on Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Sycks

Faith Formation – Linda Nelson

Fellowship – Kerry Fremont

Mission – Jade Hochstetler

Nominating – LeAnn Carr and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Lynda Best

Elders at Large – Sarah Brauen and LeAnne Carr,
Tom Edwards

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

Members: Jodi Brauen, Cindy Gillen, Rob McGarrity,
Tenna Rhonemus, Mike Rhonemus