



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## August 2019

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, August 4**

##### **Communion / 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Special Music: Don Brauen and Sarah Gillen

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Pastor Karol

Acolytes: Brauens

#### **Sunday, August 11**

##### **Food Pantry Offering**

Special Music: Linda Sycks

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Phill Talavinia

Acolyte: McVettas

#### **Sunday, August 18**

Special Music: Lori Schmidt

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Talavinias

Liturgist: Marilyn Edwards

Acolytes: Brauens

#### **Sunday, August 25**

##### **Back to School Blessing**

Special Music: Julia Szabo

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Cathy Carroll

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

#### **Sunday, September 1**

##### **3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo



### Mark Your Calendars!

- August 4 – Stewardship/Finance Committee – following worship
- August 6 – National Night Out at Bluffton Community Pool – 4:00 to 8:00 PM
- August 21 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- August 22 – Worship Committee – 5:00 PM
- August 22 – Mission Committee – 7:30 PM
- August 25 – Back to School Blessing
- August 25 – “Share the Spirit” Fellowship following worship hosted by Deacons
- **August 25 – Newsletter Items Deadline**  
[CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- August 28 – Choir Rehearsal – 6:30 PM
- September 6 – Senior Center Community Meal – 6:00 PM
- September 8 – Communion will be served

### Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to be shared in worship or in the bulletin, please get it in to the church office by Thursday morning.

### Small Groups

Small Groups will not be meeting during the summer months. If you would like to talk to someone about joining or starting a small group in September, please see Pastor Karol, Beth Buist, Jayne McGarrity, Jeanette Warren, or Diane Winebar.

### Choir

The church choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary and sings twice a month in worship. Following a break for the summer, the first rehearsal for the fall will be August 28. New members are welcome!

## Pastor's Letter

With my approaching wedding, I've had to make a decision (okay, I've had to make hundreds, but here's a biggie): whether or not to change my name.

With a fiancé who would support whatever choice I made, I was able to choose without pressure from him or anyone else. Ultimately, I have decided that I will take his last name (Schilling) as my own, and I will move my maiden name to my middle name. After over thirty years, I couldn't get used to the idea of dropping Farris completely, so I decided to keep it and add on after it, which is also what my own mother did with her name upon marriage.

This change is representative of my identity as well. In marriage, I will not be erasing my former self in favor of someone new; I will bring my full self into relationship with another, and we will create a new life together, that lets us remain individuals yet enables us to enter into a partnership that will grow, change, and develop in the years to come.

Several name changes are found in the Bible as well. God turns Abram and Sarai into Abraham and Sarah, as they prepare to become the ancestors of many nations. Jacob becomes Israel, the ancestor of God's covenant people (who nevertheless struggle with God). Saul becomes Paul, as he embarks on a new journey of spreading the good news of Jesus, the one he had formerly persecuted.

As I adjust to changing my name after marriage, it is comforting to know that I will be in good company with so many ancestors in the faith: people whose new names signal new growth, opportunities, and partnerships that God had prepared for them.

I don't know whether Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, and Paul ever forgot about the change and let the former name slip out, but I'm sure that will happen to me for a while.

Adjusting to a new name provides an opportunity for us all to be gracious to one another, laughing together over how quickly or slowly we each adapt to the change. Whether you have ever experienced a name change, either by marriage or by claiming and later rejecting a nickname, know with confidence that one name or "label" belongs to each of us and can never be erased: Child of God. We're always and forever God's children, and I'm still

*Pastor Karol*



## Back to School Blessing for Students, Teachers, and Staff

Another fall is approaching, which means it is time for students, teachers, and staff to return to school. We will offer a special Back to School Blessing during worship on August 25. Come and prepare for the start of another great year.

## Sermon Videos Available Online

Did you know that if you miss worship, you can still hear the message that was shared? Most sermons from recent months can be viewed on our website: [www.blufftonpc.org/sermons](http://www.blufftonpc.org/sermons).

## Guest Speakers

We welcome two guest speakers in August while Pastor Karol prepares for and enjoys her wedding celebrations. Rev. David Bartley is a retired Pastor in Maumee Valley Presbytery. He served the Eastminster United Presbyterian Church for 28 years and is currently the Treasurer of Maumee Valley Presbytery and the Stated Clerk and Treasurer of the Synod of the Covenant.

Jim Boroff comes to us from Tiffin. He and his wife, Bonnie, owned a publishing business and produced a weekly newspaper for twenty years. Jim served on Tiffin City Council for eight years and later as Mayor from 2008 – 2012. Since leaving office he has been substitute teaching in the elementary schools.

## National Night Out – Tuesday August 6

This is a great way for our congregation to be visible in the community. Volunteers are needed from 4:00 to 6:00 PM and 6:00 to 8:00 PM to assist with serving food and helping with kids' games. Contact Carole Enneking, Sarah Brauen, or Lynda Best for more information.



## June 2019 Financial Report

### General Fund Budgeted Items

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

## Mission Committee

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in August. The items needed this month are **Kleenex and canned fruit**. This is not to say that we don't welcome other items, but these are the items they need the most at this time. We are also participating in Pack the Pews summer challenge all month long.

The Mission Committee will be collecting Elmer's glue, Kleenex, and 24 Crayola crayons for families through the Bluffton Community Assistance Program's **Back to School Supplies**. Please have items turned in this Sunday, August 4. Thank you!

## Help Needed

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church to help trim bushes and trees, and pull weeds at the church on Monday, August 5 at 6:00 PM.

## Little Free Pantry Going Strong!

Our church's Little Free Pantry is making a difference in the lives of those who use it. The LFP's mission is to help people with immediate food needs. Church members (and even people from the community) keep the LFP stocked. We are grateful for your support!

When donating items to the LFP, please remember: **no glass jars or bottles**, which can break if dropped. Instead, consider donating non-perishables in cans or boxes: vegetables, canned chicken, beef, or salmon, cereal, oatmeal, pasta, canned pasta sauce, rice, noodles, granola bars, dried fruit, Tuna Helper, mac and cheese, etc. Personal care items are also appreciated: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, baby care items, toilet paper, tissues, etc.

For safety's sake, please check the expiration dates of the items you donate. Your contributions can be placed inside the LFP or taken to the church office. Thank you for your help as we work together: neighbors helping neighbors!

## Pack the Pews

Pack the Pews summer challenge is an effort of Bluffton Area Ministerial Association, of which BPC is a part. Each church is collecting items for Bluffton Food Pantry during a month in the summer; our month is August! We will designate the front pews as the collection place on Sundays, August 4-25.

Feel free to include your 2nd Sunday items, as well as a little something extra to help the food pantry assist those in need during the summer months when donations are typically the lowest. Let's see how full we can Pack the Pews!



## **Heard in Small Group: “How was your week? Did you see God?”**

Our conversations run from mundane to inspirational. We talk about:

- A new potluck recipe
- That scary MRI diagnosis
- The cat’s latest antics
- Family connections (or disconnects)
- Annoying things on Facebook
- Career challenges of someone close
- Another gun tragedy
- A Pinterest idea for a craft project
- A vacation setting that moved us
- Something from our past that deeply affects us
- A friend’s wedding
- The hilarious remark little Johnny made over the weekend
- A worship service that stirred us
- Bullying in our day and now
- Attending someone’s end-of-life moments
- A news story about an ordinary young man saving a child’s life

Small group is about sharing and exploring how the Bible is relevant in our lives. In small group you can share or not share. There’s no right or wrong answer because we look at the Bible using an inductive method—reading scripture as if for the first time, having the group interpret what it means to them and then applying it to our lives.

Currently BPC has two women’s groups. Who’s to say that men can’t share too! We could consider a general men’s group, a men’s special interest group or a work/projects group. We could also consider a mixed group or a couples’ group. If there’s a lot of interest, we can start another women’s group!

If you’d like to join an established group or become part of a new group, please speak to someone on the Small Group Steering Committee: Beth Buist, Jayne McGarrity, Jeanette Warren, Diane Winebar, or Pastor Karol.

Meetings start in early September: Claralice Circle meets every Tuesday 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the BPC Fellowship Hall, and Sister Min Circle meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month between 2:00 and 3:00 PM in the Maple Crest Family Room.

We’d love for you to be part of the conversation!

## **“Our Daily Bread” Mobile Meals**

Mennonite Memorial Home and Hilty Home both offer a mobile meals program known as “Our Daily Bread.” Through this program, a hot noon meal is delivered Monday through Friday within a 5-mile radius of Bluffton and Pandora. Cost is just \$5/meal. Call 419-358-1015, Ext. 218 for more information.

## **Highlights of July Session Meeting**

No Session meeting was held for July.

## **Word in the World**

Wednesday World in the World gatherings will take a break until September. Thanks to all who have come to ask questions and share thoughts on how the Word impacts us and our world.

## **Church Security**

Bluffton Police Chief Ryan Burkholder met with Pastor Karol, Don Brauen, Lori Schmidt, and Clair Winebar to discuss church security. Topics included: security during worship service, security during week, financial security, evacuation plans for fire/weather emergencies, staff background checks, and emergency contact list. If you are interested in helping to create our church’s plan, please contact Pastor Karol or Lori Schmidt.

Due to an increased focus of preventative security measures, Pastor Karol will be implementing a new practice of locking the external office door when no one else is in the building. If you would like to enter the building during the week and do not have a key, simply knock on the door; Pastor Karol will come meet you at the door if she is here.



BECAUSE YOU HAVE SHARED IN THEIR LIVES  
WITH YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE

*Karol June Farris*  
&  
*Christopher Lawrence Schilling*

REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE  
AT THEIR WEDDING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

2:30PM CENTRAL TIME

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PARIS  
241 WEST COURT STREET  
PARIS, ILLINOIS

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW  
O'SHAUGHNESSY HALL  
SAINT MARY OF THE WOODS, INDIANA



RSVP by July 19 at [www.theknot.com/us/karolandchris](http://www.theknot.com/us/karolandchris), or  
call 567-226-1123. More details can be found on our website.

More details can be found at [www.theknot.com/us/karolandchris](http://www.theknot.com/us/karolandchris)



**Reception for Karol Farris and Chris Schilling  
Sunday, September 15, after Worship**

Mark your calendars! We'll all gather on the church lawn to congratulate Pastor Karol and Chris, who will be married August 10. In case of rain, the party will be moved into the fellowship hall. Details in upcoming newsletters and Sunday bulletins.

You are invited to contribute toward a Love Gift for the happy couple, which will be presented at the reception. Please make checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, and write Love Gift on the memo line. Mail to the church, place in the offering plate, or bring to the church office. Cash gifts, in an envelope marked Love Gift, may be brought to the church office or placed in the offering plate.





## Prayer Requests

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Jeanette Warren on the loss of her brother, Elwood James.

**Prayers** for our members and friends serving in the armed forces: especially Kyle Begg, Andrew Warner, and Lucas Woodward.

**Prayers of Healing** for Laura & Tyler From, Mark From, Bob McVetta, Wally Herald, Jeremy Szabo, David Fisher, Scott Benroth, Mark Blunk, Connie Burr and Bonnie Carlson, Addison McGarrity, Kary Sanders, Lisa Hughes, John Warren, Jodi Best, Janice Wright, Anthony Lutz, and Jim Mullan.

## We Lift Our Prayers



Put a prayer request in – take a prayer request out. Look for prayer request slips in the pews and near the prayer box. Or use your own paper. Requests can be as simple as “I’m having back pain,” or “My son is looking for a job.” The slips can be placed in

the box or in the offering plates. Prayer requests can be submitted anonymously. Allow someone in your church family to support you in private prayer.

## BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Jeanette Warren (419-722-3793). PLEASE leave a message if no answer. If you can’t reach Jeanette, please call Helen Hawk (419-516-3125). PLEASE leave a message, if no answer. Or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and we will pass along the information. If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain other than yourself, 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 Jeanette or another deacon.

## Praying for You Cards

The Deacons have started a program with “Praying for You” cards available in the pews for you to write notes to others. Ideas for who to write to include: homebound members, those on our prayer list, and our Church Person of the Week. Upon receipt of a card in the offering plate, the Deacons will mail it during the following week to the recipient you have indicated. Let’s send some kindness to those who could use our prayers!

## Birthdays

August	4	Judy Miracle
	11	Bev Begg
	12	Tom Edwards
	18	Gene Mathewson
	19	Kay Ziessler
	20	Bob Hursh
	21	Lynda Best
	24	Emily Parker
September	4	Jeremy Szabo
	5	Jay McCracken



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Thank you to Kay Ziessler for taking care of BPC’s Community Market receipts rewards program. Through this program, our church earned \$489 in 2018 and \$263 through June of this year.

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Dear Partners in God’s Mission,

We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus around the world through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation, education, and witness. On June 7, 2019, we received \$1,174.33 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Your congregation’s giving, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need.

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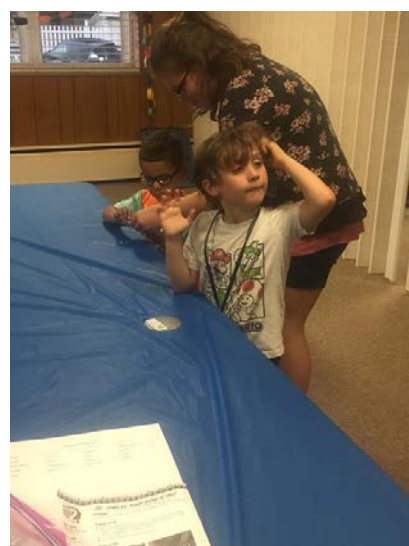
## Vacation Bible School 2019

A big thank you goes out to all those who helped during Community Vacation Bible School! Approximately 90 children attended each night. The event had a superhero theme and the hero verse for each night was Psalm 34:14b: "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!"

The children learned about a different Hero Code through the Bible Stories, games, crafts and even the snacks each night. The story of Samuel anointing David taught them God's heroes have heart. Abigail saving the day taught them God's heroes have courage. Jesus going to the temple taught them God's heroes have wisdom, while the Beatitudes taught God's heroes have hope. On the final night they learned through the Pentecost story that God's heroes have power. It was a fun and faith-filled experience.

The money collected from the mission project will be used to enhance the children's section of the Bluffton Public Library.

Again, a huge thank you goes out to all our planners and volunteers: Jay McCracken, Linda Sycks, Chris Hochstettler, Rev. Karol Farris, Helen Hawk, Jodi Brauen, Tammie and Bob Hursh, Betsey Angus, Mike Rhonemus, Carole Enneking, Cindy Gillen, Diane and Clair Winebar, Lori Schmidt, Jayne McGarrity, Amanda Leugers, and Libby and Paige McVetta. We could not make this event happen without you.



**Bluffton Presbyterian Church**  
**112 N. Main St., P.O. Box 149**  
**Bluffton, OH 45817**  
**419-358-5806**  
[blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

Summer Schedule  
Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris  
Phone: 419-581-9232  
Email: [pastor@blufftonpc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonpc.org)  
Office Hours: Mon 2-5, Tues 9-2,  
Wed 10-12 and by appointment

Secretary: Cathy Carroll  
Email: [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com)  
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30-12:30

Treasurer: Darin Leugers  
Email: [dleugers8319@yahoo.com](mailto:dleugers8319@yahoo.com)

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman  
Choir Director: Linda Sycks  
Nursery Helpers: Kori Phipps and  
Shawna Anderson  
Custodian: Tony Carmack

## **2019 Church Officers**

### *Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt  
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey  
Faith Formation – Tenna Rhonemus  
Finance & Stewardship – Clair Winebar  
Mission – Lynda Best  
New Beginnings – Sarah Brauen  
Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Cindy Gillen  
Personnel – Betsey Angus  
Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt  
Worship – Cindy Gillen  
Members at Large – Jodi Brauen, Sarah Brauen,  
and Tom Edwards

### *Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Helen Hawk  
Members: Tanya Best, Craig Bowman, Marilyn  
Edwards, Dave Van Eman, and Jeanette Warren