



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

February 2017

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 5 – Communion
3 Cents a Meal Offering
Special Music: Linda Sycks - Oboe
Lay Reader: Clair Winebar
Greeters: Dusty and Leslie Freed
Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, February 12
Food Pantry
Choir
Lay Reader: TBD
Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll
Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

Sunday, February 19
Bell Choir
Lay Reader: Sue Mathewson
Greeters: Talavinia Family
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, February 26
Choir
Lay Reader: Pam or Phil Weisenbarger
Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar
Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

Wednesday, March 1 – Communion
Ash Wednesday Service



Sunday, March 5 – Communion
3 Cents a Meal Offering

Mark Your Calendars!

- February 3-4 – Youth Group Overnight Retreat – Virtual Mission Trip to Ireland – Church Basement
- February 5 – BPC Basement Bistro – Immediately Following Worship – Hosted by Youth Group
- February 8 – Worship Committee Meeting – 7:30 PM
- February 9 – Session – 7:00 PM
- February 10 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- February 12 – Deadline for Giving Catalog Collection
- February 15 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- February 22 – Chili Cook Off – 5:30-7:00 PM – Bluffton Middle School Cafetorium
- February 24 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- February 26 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- March 1 – Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 PM
- March 12 – Bowling and Lunch – Following Church Service



Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month, get it to the church office by Wednesday morning so it will be announced by our Lay Reader.

Small Groups

Claralice Circle:
Tuesday – BPC Library at 6:30 PM

Coffee Talk

Thursday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

Walking the dog - in the dark

We are in the season of light, but in the dark of the year. I have now been walking the dog in the dark for over 2 months. (My desired time for taking care of the dog in the morning is 6:30 or 6:45. It's not even twilight.)

It is in that context of waiting for the dark to be done that **I bring you light!** That is, I call you to it. The promise of light is the promise of **joy!**

So let me give you two pictures. One is from yesterday. Don Brauen singing "In the Bleak Midwinter" is playing in my mind from Sunday, "snow had fallen snow on snow". It is 7:30 and I am throwing Frisbee in the dawn twilight. As Fritz runs across the lawn, there are little "poofs". The ultra-fine snow explodes under her feet and kicks up: "poof".

But the crucial element is the light. As the Sun breaks the horizon it illuminates her every footstep. **Each exploding footstep is illuminated.** The day went on to be hard work and not necessarily successful (as days are wont to do). But for that moment, the light made all the difference and I had a vision of **joy!**

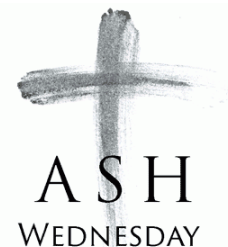


There is one other lighted moment. Yesterday, after throwing for Fritz, I went to stack wood. And I recalled the day in October, when I went back to the woods to cut. The breeze shook the trees, the leaves shimmered and the **bright, dry sunlight of fall** flittered across and **pierced through the leaves.** It was magical. It was sacred.

The **God of light** was moving through the trees. And I was moving through God with my mortal purpose. (Okay, you can say I am laying it on pretty thick – but it is my job to call forth sacred moments. So deal with it.) For that moment, the light broke through the forest and my work; **God was present.** God was there; I had a vision of **JOY!**

God is waiting to break in on your life. In moments great and small. And in this season at the back edge of the dark, God-is-light coming to us each day. To illuminate. To measure. And to bring joy!

Pastor Dave



Ash Wednesday Service

Join us **Wednesday, March 1, at 7:00 PM** for the Ash Wednesday service. It is a devotional service which reflects our entry into the Lenten season of preparation. We will receive the ashes as we enter, and focus on a variation of the renewal of baptismal vows which will lead to "disposition" of ashes as we move to the communion table. The tone of the service is reflective. Let us gather in reflection as we begin our Lenten focus, renew our faith promises and share the Lord's Supper.

Expressions of Appreciation from Congregational Meeting

- Elders/Deacons whose terms ended (Cindy Gillen, Tom Hursey, Tom Edwards, Diane Winebar, Marilyn Edwards) for their years of faithful service.
- Efforts by committees to continue church programs, as well as dream of new ideas.
- New Beginning group for their years of dedication to the task. Dave Sycks and Jana McVetta will be ending and Dick McGarrity is joining. Ryan Brauen commented that there is room for an additional person and anyone interested should speak with him.
- Pastor Dave for his ministry with our church family.
- Dick McGarrity, Tenna Rhonemus, Diane Winebar, Carole Enneking, and Roy Pneuman for their willingness to create our church's Mission Information Form (answered four mission questions about our church). Session was very impressed with the finished product which accurately describes "who we are". Session approved this document in January and it was forwarded to Committee on Ministry which approved it at their January meeting.
- Gift of music – Jayne, Linda, Sue, choir, and other professional musicians which are part of our church family – certainly one of our church's assets!
- Jayne McGarrity for leadership in creating an additional small group which meets at Maple Crest.
- Tenna Rhonemus for sharing her talents of working with our youth.
- Deacons for the excellent care they give to members in our church family and community.
- Dick McGarrity, Leslie Freed, and Tenna Rhonemus for being willing to preach.
- Sarah and Ryan Brauen for their energy/enthusiasm which they contribute regularly and to Carole Enneking for working with them to create "Ignite!"
- Those who tend to the planting/up-keep of the flowerbeds around the church making it very attractive.
- Stewardship committee for their wonderful work – much of it completed behind the scenes.
- Gillen Family for taking down the Christmas decorations and to Cindy for her continued, excellent work as editor for the church's newsletter.
- Laura From for faithful work on the church's bulletin boards.

Deacons

During the January meeting, the deacons chose the following lead positions: Laura From – Moderator, Mike Rhonemus – Prayer Chain and Prayer Box Coordinator, Barb Fett and Laura From – Funeral Dinner Coordinators, Marilyn Edwards – Nominating Committee Representative, and Diane Winebar has volunteered to do the Big CARE Cards for the year.

Our church hosted the Community Meal on January 5. Thank you to all who volunteered that evening and to those who provided delicious pies. Many helping hands made for light work! Thank you also to those who make monetary donations to help offset the cost of the meal. The support shown by our congregation was wonderful and greatly appreciated.



Highlights of January's Session Meeting

- The proposed lease for Bluffton Community Preschool was reviewed by Jay McCracken who suggested two very minor changes. Session approved the revised lease. Representatives of the Bluffton Community Preschool were present to sign the lease, as well as tour the facilities.
- Upcoming Family Promise dates for Bluffton are April 23-29 and September 24-30. Tenna will connect with Emmanuel and request the Monday meal since that works well with our church activities. She will contact St. Mary's to get their dates. New Beginnings Committee is in transition as Dave Sycks and Jana McVetta have retired and Dick McGarrity will be joining the group. Discussion about having our anthem as part of Sunday service on website – checking with Jay concerning, since electronic media is his specialty and other churches are posting their entire service.
- Outside water faucet at the church is dripping and needs a new valve. Approved to have M + R install the same key format system. Window has been purchased for the manse. Still need to purchase insulated storm door (with up/down screen)/external door with window.
- Youth Group plans include – Scene 75 in Dayton, virtual mission trip during retreat on Feb 3-4 (Ottawa and Defiance youth have been invited), and Feb 5 – Souper Bowl of Caring.
- Mission Committee is coordinating a community church “Chili Cook Off” for Wednesday, February 22 in the Middle School Cafetorium. Proceeds will go to the Bluffton Food Pantry. Reams display is now down except for lights. Future is in question due to lack of volunteers to set up/take down display. Participating in Presbyterian Mission Giving Projects through Valentine's Day. Adopt a Family Christmas gifts were donated – served 5 families – 10 people. Blankets created by church family were distributed to Family Promise, our Adopt a Family, and Bluffton Community Assistance.
- Approved to serve communion the first Sunday of each month and Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.
- Following reorganizational items were addressed - Elected Lori Schmidt as Clerk. Approved Darin Leugers as Treasurer for 2017. Agreed to continue meeting on the second Thursday at 7:00 PM – no stated meeting in July. Approved Cindy Gillen and Tom Edwards as Co-chairs for Nominating. Elected Lori Schmidt as Presbytery Commissioner. Approved that the Composition of 2017 Session includes five males and four females which is representative of our congregation in terms of age but not representative in terms of gender.
- Approved Pastor Dave's request for a special offering, designated as “New Life Project” which will go to a recovering heroin addict who has spent 6 years in prison and Pastor Dave has served in a Prison Ministry. Person now has job, apartment, child, and was selected as counselor for addiction counseling program, but needs money to assist until the first paycheck and deal with unpaid bills from seven years ago.



Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service

Members of Ignite Group met on Thursday, January 26 at Common Grounds to plan events for 2017.

Mark your calendar for lunch and bowling, Sunday, March 12, after church service! More details to come.

Mission

There will be a Community Chili Cook-Off on Wednesday, February 22 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Bluffton Middle School Cafetorium. A donation of \$5 per person includes chili samples and a drink. All proceeds will go to the Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry. You can help by providing your "special recipe" chili, volunteering to serve, or by selling alternative options (ex. chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, salad, desserts, or chips). There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please contact Lynda Best to learn more or for any questions lbst43@embarqmail.com or 419-296-2790.

The Mission Committee is asking that the congregation take part in the **Giving Catalog Collection**. There are lists showing what items can be purchased with your donation on the bulletin board (ex. \$25 family of chickens, \$40 piglet or container garden). Pull a dollar amount you wish to give or designate your own amount. Please return your gift by placing it in the offering plate or sending it to the church office by February 12.

Aluminum Can Recycling

Remember to save your aluminum cans. The Mission Committee sells recyclable cans and uses the proceeds to support mission causes in our area, most recently for a shelter and feeding ministry in Lima. Bring the cans to the church basement and contribute them to a worthy cause.

Personal Information

Don't forget to let Cathy Carroll know when you have a change in address, phone number, and/or email address.

If your birthday or you know of a birthday that does not show up in our newsletter, please let Cindy Gillen know.



Bluffton Area Food Pantry

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry thanks you for your continued support. Listed below are some items to consider for the pantry:

Lotions and Creams
Cereals
Soups and Crackers
Spaghetti and Sauces
Macaroni and Cheese
Paper products: TP, Paper Towels, Kleenex
Canned Fruits
Canned Vegetables (No corn or green beans needed at this time)

Personal Hygiene Products: Deodorant, Shampoo, Hair Care Items (No bath soaps or toothpaste needed at this time)
Spaghettios and similar canned foods
Canned Meats
Hamburger Helper
Tuna and Tuna Helper

Thank you for your interest in Bluffton Area Food Pantry.

Weekday Christian Education Walkers

The WCE program is now being offered to Kindergarten classes. Our church is responsible for three Fridays (February 17, March 10, and April 28) from 8:25-9:55 AM.

Contact Carole Enneking (419-348-7691) for more details or sign-up on the bulletin board.

Youth Group Top 10

The youth group had a great time at Scene 75! They call themselves "The Largest Indoor Entertainment Centers in the Country" and they did not disappoint. Here is a list of our top 10 things from the day. They are in no particular order. Ask the youth for more details about our trip, if this list peaks your curiosity!

1. Sarah falling (she wasn't hurt)
2. Jake and Blake in 4-D Horror Park
3. 4-D Zombie Adventure
4. Laser Tag (We lost by 10,000 points, apparently killing isn't our thing)
5. Go- Karts
6. Black Light Miniature Golf
7. Two-Player Shooting Arcade Games
8. SMASH BURGER!!
9. Slushies and blue mouths
10. Motorcycle/car driving arcade games



The Souper Bowl of Caring

The youth group will be hosting a BPC Basement Bistro on Sunday, February 5, immediately following worship. We will serve a meal of assorted soups, salad, bread, and some sweet treats for dessert. A free will offering will be collected and the donations will be given to the Bluffton Community Assistance program. Please plan on joining us for a meal to warm your body and fellowship to warm your heart!



New Adult Exploration to Begin *Living the Questions 2.0*

Join the adult Sunday School class for a presentation of *Living the Questions 2.0* beginning in February.

This popular DVD video series – featuring 30 acclaimed scholars, theologians, sociologists, and other experts – raises historical and theological questions that will help us explore together how Christianity can be relevant in the 21st century. Each weekly session includes a 20-30-minute video that is crisp, to the point, and anything but boring. Discussion questions will keep you thinking about your faith throughout the week!

The first seven units are listed below:

- Feb. 12 – An Invitation to Journey (Unit 1)
- Feb. 19 – Taking the Bible Seriously (Unit 2)
- Feb. 26 – Thinking Theologically (Unit 3)
- March 5 – Stories of Creation (Unit 4)
- March 12 – Lives of Jesus (Unit 5)
- March 19 – A Passion for Christ: Paul (Unit 6)
- March 26 – Out into the World (Unit 7)

The adult Sunday school class meets in the library at 9:00 AM. Can't make a Sunday? Come when you can!

“Living the Questions seeks not to provide easy answers but to be a resource for people who are in the midst of a lifelong conversation about the mysteries of faith and life.” Intrigued? See you on Sundays!



Per Capita

You are invited to help cover the per capita cost of your membership by making a special donation through our congregation as part of your discipline of stewardship. The per capita amount is \$30 per member in 2017. Thank You!

Prayer Requests



Happy Birthday!!

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus (419-358-8148 / rhonstar@juno.com), or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and they 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 Mike or another deacon.

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.

February	2	Jodie Parker
	5	John Marshall
	7	Jessica Hough
		Darin Leugers
	8	Michelle Talavinia
	9	Lylah Aguirre
		Owen Ziessler
	11	Katie McCracken
	12	Samantha Rhonemus
	14	Geraldine Sullivan Clark
	16	Carl Wolf
	18	Jane Sycks
		Jeanette Warren
	22	Lin Rumer
	23	Toni Aguirre
	24	Louis Best
		Clair Winebar
	25	Libby McVetta
March	28	Jodi Brauen
	1	Greg Culbertson
	2	Jane Benroth
		Emily Sycks
	3	Jacob Szabo



Dear Session,

Thank you so very much for your kind and generous Christmas gift! I love leading the choir. It is truly a joy and a blessing! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with such fun and talented people!

Sincerely,
Linda

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
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419-358-5806

Pastor: Rev. David Good
Phone: 765-993-7791
Email: mangendave@frontier.com
Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:30
Website: blufftonpc.org

Treasurer: Darin Leugers
Email: dleugers8319@yahoo.com

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

2017 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and
Carole Enneking
Finance & Stewardship – Dick McGarrity
Mission – Lynda Best
Nominating – Tom Edwards and Cindy Gillen
Personnel – Bob Angus
Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt
Worship – Cindy Gillen
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Lori
Schmidt, and Phil Weisenbarger

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Laura From
Members: Marilyn Edwards, Barb Fett, Laura
From, Gayle Marshall, Mike Rhonemus, and
Donnas Stone.