



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## February 2019

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, February 3**

**Pulpit Exchange: Pastor Wanda Stopher**

**3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Special Music: Julia Szabo

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

#### **Sunday, February 10**

**Guest Preacher: Tenna Rhonemus**

**Food Pantry Offering**

Choir

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Ryan Brauen

Greeters: Tom and Marilyn Edwards

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

#### **Sunday, February 17**

Praise Team

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Leslie Freed

Liturgist: Clair Winebar

Greeters: Dave and Sue Van Eman

Acolytes: Clara and Owen Brauen

#### **Sunday, February 24**

Choir

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Cathy Carroll

Liturgist: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Lynda Best and Helen Hawk

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

#### **Sunday, March 3 – Communion / 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

### Mark Your Calendars!

- February 3 – Souper Bowl of Caring BPC Basement Bistro – Following Worship
- February 3 – Stewardship/Finance Committee Following Worship
- February 3 – Communion Service in Maple Crest Patio Room 1:30 PM
- February 3-24 – Grace and Gratitude Offering
- February 6 – Mission Committee 7:30 PM
- February 6 – New Beginnings 7:30 PM
- February 10 – Fellowship Sponsored by Deacons – Following Worship
- February 13 – Praise Team 7:30 PM
- February 14 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM
- February 17 – Sunday Snacks – Before Worship
- February 20 – Community Chili Cook-Off 5:30-7:00 PM
- February 20 – Deacons 7:30 PM
- February 24 – Newsletter Items Deadline [CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- February 26 – Pastor Karol leads MMH Worship 6:30 PM
- February 27 – Pastor Relations Committee 5:15 PM
- March 3 – Bowling and Lunch – 1:00 to 3:00 PM

### 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.



## Pastor's Letter

On Saturday morning, January 26, fourteen of our church members joined with myself and the new General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke, for a retreat on "Effective Leadership." In a mere three hours, we were presented with insightful points about how to determine, clarify, and communicate the message of our organization, and we also voiced creative ideas for how we might continue to live into our mission in some new and different ways. Here are a few highlights from our time together.

Most organizations know what they do and how they do it. Only some really take the time to figure out why they do what they do. Asking the "why" of why we do everything generally and why we do any given event or program will better direct our time and energy and will be more effective in compelling others to join with us.

Most of the time, plans are made by focusing on tactics and execution. However, four prior steps to better guide those tactics and execution are: attitude, approach, goals, and strategy. These processes may take more time than just deciding what, when, and where we're going to do something (and who's going to do it!). However, if we don't take a step back to remember *why* we are holding an event, offering a program, or making a connection, the outcomes of our efforts may not align with our expectations.

So, a challenge for us as a church in this new year is to ask – like an inquisitive child – "Why?" "Why?" "Why?" Not to be annoying, but to get to the heart of the matter; to revisit again and again our purpose, our mission, our vision.

It is clear that there is great love for this church felt by those who are a part of it. So, let's imagine and practice new ways of sharing our experience with others, that they, too, may desire to belong to this welcoming family of faith.

In Christ,

*Pastor Karol*

## Effective Leadership 1/26/19



## Church Membership

If you are not currently a member of our congregation and would like to find out more, please speak with Pastor Karol. There are 3 paths into active church membership: profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, and certificate of transfer. We have no age restrictions; no one is too old to become a member, and any youth who feels ready for this commitment should talk with their parents and/or myself. Educational opportunities can be made available to become more familiar with theology, governance, and more. But the primary profession of faith for membership is this: *to proclaim Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior*. We are eager to welcome more people as active members of this family of faith, where we are *Growing in Faith and Sharing God's Love*.

## **Nurturing the Faith of Our Children**

Pastor Karol would like to invite a member of the congregation lead the Time for Young Christians during worship once or twice a month. Please let her know if you would be interested in doing so on occasion. She will coordinate a date with you and can provide you with a theme and resources if needed.

## **Word in the World**

You are invited to the weekly Word in the World discussions with Pastor Karol. Join us any time you are free on a Wednesday from 9-10 AM at the Twisted Whisk Café. We enjoy connecting God's word to today's world! We will meet each Wednesday this month EXCEPT February 6.

## **Sunday Snacks at Bluffton Presbyterian Church**

Coffee and pastries will be served at 10:00 AM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month throughout the year. These refreshments will be served in the back of the sanctuary and may be consumed there or may be taken to the pews as worship begins; cup holders will be available. We hope you'll join us for this new fellowship opportunity!

## **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 seen and heard on our church website: [www.blufftonpc.org/video](http://www.blufftonpc.org/video). Thank you to Ryan Brauen and our audio/visual technicians for assisting with this project.

## **BPC Greeter Instructions**

Thank you to everyone who serves as a greeter! Here are a few things to remember for your assigned Sunday.

### **Before the Service:**

1. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to worship.
2. Station one greeter at entry to downstairs and one in front of sound tech.
3. If you see someone come in through handicap entrance, take them a bulletin.
4. Welcome people and hand out bulletins.
5. Make sure to talk to guests. Welcome them and ask their name.
6. If first Sunday of month, remind people to pick up their newsletter.

### **After the Service:**

1. Go back to your greeting stations and make sure you thank any guests for joining us, offer them a visitor packet (located on back cabinet behind sound tech), and welcome them to come back soon.

## **Small Groups' Winter Schedule**

Claralice Circle will have meetings every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the BPC Fellowship Hall.

Sister Min Circle will meet in the Family Room at Maple Crest the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 2:00 to 3:00 PM.

## **Choir**

The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. New members are welcome!

## **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 \$33.20 per member in 2019. Thank You!

## Highlights of January Session Meeting

- Approved 2019 Mission Pledge (MVP \$4,248 - GA \$1,699 – Synod \$ 219 – total of \$6,166). Approved 2018 General Assembly Statistical Report – membership/finances. Necrology report submitted to MVP – Rev. Dale Dickey, Rev. Carl Wolf, and Rev. Roy Pneuman will be remembered during February's Presbytery Meeting.
- In December, Pastor Karol made 5 home/hospital/nursing home visits, 7 conversations with church family, and sent 30 cards. Congregational activities include: Word in the World discussion group (weekly), Claralice Circle (weekly), Ignite Caroling, Young Adult Gathering, BPC Quintet, Christmas Eve service, and committee meetings. Community Engagement activities include: lunch with BAMA colleagues and BAMA meeting. We will have BAMA pulpit exchange on Sunday, February 3 – Pastor Karol will preach at First Mennonite and Rev. Wanda Stopher will preach at BPC. Decided not to have Communion that Sunday since Pastor Karol will not be here. Approved request of \$100 from Continuing Education funds for online course 1/21 – 2/15 through Pittsburgh Theological Seminary – “Parables for the Future: Scenario and Strategic Planning”.
- Deacons have reorganized for 2019: Moderator – Helen Hawk, Funeral Dinner Coordinator – Tanya Best, Nominating Committee Representative – Marilyn Edwards, CARE Cards – Bev Begg, Community Meal Coordinator and Financial – Dave Van Eman, and Prayer Chain Coordinator – Jeanette Warren.
- Community Annual Chili Cook Off will be Wednesday, February 20 at the Middle School. Proceeds will go to the Bluffton Community Assistance Program.
- Year ended well financially – receipts/expenses were almost even. Financial books for 2018 will be audited by accounting students from Ohio Northern University – Clair and Darin will meet with them on January 22. Have a CD at Citizen's National Bank maturing on February 5; however, Edward Jones presently has a higher rate. Approved to designate authority to Stewardship & Finance committee to reinvest this CD when it comes due. BPC received a \$3,047 assessment from the state of Ohio Collections Bureau in late December for 2017 payroll withholding income tax, interest, penalty, and fees. The assessment was apparently triggered by BPC initiating payroll income tax withholding in 2018 and filing the annual Ohio Employer Reconciliation of Income Tax Withheld return. No tax is due for 2017 because employees paid income taxes on their own rather than through withholding by the church. Darin promptly filed a 2017 employer return reporting \$0 tax due to the Department of Taxation and Clair sent an abatement request and explanation to the Collections Bureau. The Collections Bureau indicated it may take several months to clear the situation.
- Old tables (11) have been sold (\$325.00). Rebate from Menard's (\$94) will be given to Buildings & Grounds to purchase supplies - light bulbs, garbage bags, furnace filters, etc. Pastor Karol asked each newly elected Elder (Sarah, Lynda, and Clair) to briefly share their personal faith. Each new Elder affirmed they were willing to serve. Approved that having examined the new Elders, they be approved for Installation/Ordination on Sunday, January 13.
- Following reorganizational items were addressed. Elected Lori Schmidt as Clerk. Approved Darin Leugers as Treasurer for 2019. Agreed to continue meeting on the second Thursday at 7:00 PM. Elected Sarah Brauen to serve as one co-chair for Nominating Committee – will elect other one at February's meeting. Elected Lori Schmidt as Presbytery Commissioner. Approved that the Composition of 2019 Session includes three males and six females which is representative of our congregation in terms of age/gender. Approved nominating these elders to the congregation to serve as Officers of the Corporation – President – Tenna Rhonemus, Treasurer – Cindy Gillen, and Secretary – Lynda Best.



- Approved serving Communion in 2019 on the following dates – first Sunday of each month (except February), Ash Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday.

## Deacons Report

**“Be willing to help and care for each other because of Christ. By doing this, you honor Christ.” Ephesians 5:21**



The Deacons are searching for volunteers to help transport members to church who are unable to drive themselves. They may need some assistance when entering certain vehicles. Your participation in this program will continue to allow us all to worship the Lord together as a family. If you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Karol or any Deacon.



## Mission Committee

- Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in February. The items needed this month are **peanut butter and macaroni & cheese**. This is not to say that we don't welcome other items, but these are the items they need the most at this time.
- The Community Chili Cook-Off is to be held Wednesday, February 20. We still have some items we need and job assignments to be filled. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the Church and on the bulletin board by the office.

This will be the third year that our church has coordinated this fundraiser for the Bluffton Food Pantry. Everyone is invited to help or attend! Donations (non-perishable food or personal items) for the Food Pantry will be accepted that night.



## Little Free Pantry Update

Church members (and members of the community) keep the LFP stocked with food and other necessary items, and we are grateful for your support!

Now that winter is here though, we need to switch out the types of items we stock. That means **no canned foods** (vegetables, meats, sauces) and **no glass jars or bottles**. Instead, think about boxed or bagged food: pasta, cereal, granola bars, rice, noodles, boxed mixes (Tuna Helper, mac n' cheese), oatmeal, cake mixes, dried fruit, nuts, etc.

Personal care items are also appreciated: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, baby care items, toilet paper, tissues, etc.

Your contributions can be placed inside the LFP or taken to the church office.

*Thank you for your help as we work together as neighbors helping neighbors!*



## Souper Bowl of Caring February 3

The youth will be hosting a BPC Basement Bistro to support the Souper Bowl of Caring. Join us in the basement fellowship hall immediately after worship on February 3 for a soup luncheon. We will offer a variety of soups, salad, and bread for the meal, followed by some sweet treats for dessert. Our friendly waitstaff (the youth) will provide great service while you enjoy visiting with your fellow guests. We will collect a free will offering and all proceeds will be given to the Bluffton Community Assistance Program.

## LIFT and Adult Sunday School

Join us Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the Basement Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome to join us for Bible study, play, worship, and a light breakfast.

The adult class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the first classroom of the education wing.



Mark your calendars for an afternoon of bites, strikes, and Ignite! Join us at Bluffton's Southgate Lanes for lunch and bowling on Sunday, March 3. Bowling starts at 1:00 PM, but stop by any time to order food or watch the BPC bowling pros, or amateurs in action. RSVP to Cathy Carroll, Sarah Brauen, or on the sign-up sheet at the back of church if you are bowling so we can reserve enough lanes. Everyone is invited!



\*\*\*\*\*  
It was so thoughtful of you to remember me with a Christmas gift. I look forward to sharing my love of music with the congregation in the new year!

Sue Van Eman

\*\*\*\*\*  
Thank you for the Christmas Gift. I really appreciate it!

Cathy Carroll

\*\*\*\*\*  
Thank you so much for your very generous gift to the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. Your gift helped us to help a number of families during the holidays when the need in our community is greatest. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$1,000 to our renovation project. As you know, our new building will give us much needed space for sorting and retail selling. The Proceeds go to support the mission of MCC to help those suffering from poverty, conflict, oppression, and natural disasters.

Since its inception, the Bluffton Et Cetera Shop has sent more that \$1.5 million dollars to MCC. We hope that you will visit the Et Cetera Shop when it opens at its new location to see what your financial support has helped to enable.

Sincerely,  
Arman Habegger, Board Chair

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Dear Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for the Christmas gift. I am grateful to be among you, and I appreciate the generosity you show, especially during the season of Christmas.

In Christ,  
Pastor Karol

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Dear Rev. Farris and Blaze of Lights supporters,

The Bluffton Presbyterian Church plays such an important role in the chamber's Blaze of Lights festival. Thank you so much for your enduring support of this much-loved community Christmas display and event.

The church yard is looking especially glorious with the additional lights, thanks to the hard work of so many volunteers and the Village of Bluffton. In the evenings, I find myself steering my car down Main instead of other routes , so that I can take another look.

Wishing you a merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Paula Scott

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Thank you to all those who helped take down the sanctuary decorations.

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Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, and cards that we received celebrating the birth of our daughter Ella. The support of the congregation is appreciated.

With Love,  
Dustin, Leslie, and Ella Freed

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## **Lima Area - Habitat For Humanity News and Needs**

Our mission states: Seeking to put God and love into action: Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. So how can you help? Here are three ways:

1. Donate new or gently used household goods and building materials to the restore. The restore truck will even pick up larger items at your house at no cost to you.
2. Come volunteer at the restore (550 W. Elm Street - visit the Habitat website to sign up at [www.habitatlima.org/volunteer/](http://www.habitatlima.org/volunteer/) or call the Habitat office at 419-222-4937.
3. Donate funds to the affiliate and know that your donation goes to those in need of decent, affordable housing. You can send a check or donate on-line at <https://www.habitatlima.org/donate/donate-now.html>.

Our next build will take place in Elida later this spring. Thank you for considering a generous gift of materials or time or money to those in need of decent, affordable shelter.

### **New Address:**

Mary Barnett  
Mennonite Home, Dogwood 16-1  
Bluffton, OH 45817  
419-358-1015

Sally Reeder  
The Springs of Lima  
370 N. Eastown Rd. Apt. #508  
Lima, OH 45807

## **Expressions of Appreciation**

- All musicians (vocal and instrumental) for sharing their gifts. Considering the size of our congregation our music is exceptional.
- Pastor Karol for her leadership throughout the year.
- Ryan Brauen for leadership of New Beginnings and New Beginnings committee members for dreaming initiatives and investigating to see if they are feasible for our congregation.
- Tenna Rhonemus for her continued faithfulness and dedication for working with our Youth for many years.
- Members of our church family who help to meet the needs in our community by faithfully volunteering for mission projects.
- Deacons for actively caring about our church family and Moderator Laura From for her leadership and positive spirit.
- All the volunteers in our church family who give of their time and talent to support our congregation.

## **Weekday Christian Education Walkers**

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with Release Time/ Weekday Christian Education. We have filled our spots for February and are looking ahead to our March dates. We will have 3 days to fill in March, with a variety of grade levels. Please consider volunteering for this Mission Outreach. If you are willing to help, a sign-up sheet is in the back of sanctuary or you can contact Tenna Rhonemus at 419-358-8148 or [tlrhonemus@gmail.com](mailto:tlrhonemus@gmail.com).

<b>Friday March 8 Kindergarten</b>	<b>Thursday March 14 Kindergarten</b>	<b>Thursday March 21 Grades 1-5</b>
<b>8:25- 8:55</b>	<b>8:25- 8:55</b>	<b>8:50- 9:20</b>
<b>9:25- 9:55</b>	<b>9:25- 9:55</b>	<b>9:25- 9:55</b>
	<b>10:00- 10:30</b>	
		<b>12:25- 12:55</b>
		<b>1:00- 1:30</b>
		<b>1:45- 2:15</b>
		<b>2:25- 2:55</b>



## Prayer Requests

**Prayers of Sympathy** for the family of Helen Hilty.

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Gayle Marshall and family on the recent loss of her sister-in-law Kathy Cook.

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

**Prayers of Healing** for Mary Barnett, Sue Mathewson, Sally Reeder, David Rempelsmucker, Dr. Howard Shelly, Laura & Tyler From, Blake Stutzman, Carolyn Dahms, Sarah Ransome, Linda Smith, Teresa and Kathleen Edelbrock, Dick and Carole Edelbrock, Nicole Jones, Pat Croskery, and family of Bob Neff.

## 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 (419-358-6263) 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 Jeanette or another deacon.



## Birthdays

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



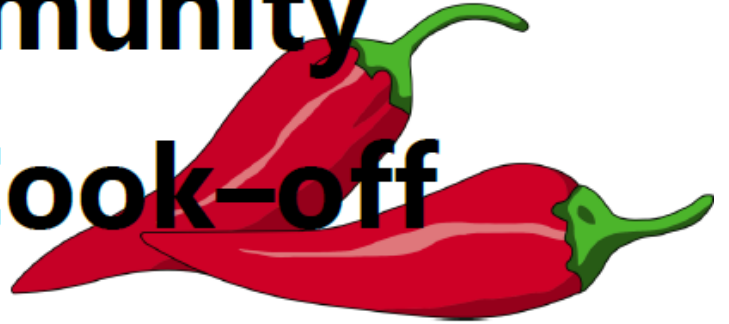
Save the Date!

Karol Farris and Chris Schilling  
August 10, 2019 | Paris, Illinois  
Formal Invitation to Follow

[www.theknot.com/us/karolandchris](http://www.theknot.com/us/karolandchris)



# Community Chili Cook-off



**Wed., February 20, 2019 5:30-7:00 p.m.**

Bluffton Middle School Cafetorium

A community event to benefit the

## **Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry**

### **Cost:**

\$5 includes chili tastings,  
drink and vote for Best  
Chili

### **Ala Carte concessions:**

Shredded Chicken  
Sandwiches, Hot  
Dogs, Chips, Desserts

**People's Choice  
Award for the  
best Chili Recipe**



### **Free Entertainment:**

5:30PM Dancers Elite

6:15PM Krysti's Music  
Studio

### **Gift Basket Drawing:**

those who donate canned/  
boxed food items for the  
Food Pantry receive a  
chance to win

Bring the entire family for a meal, entertainment AND to support a valuable community resource. For more information, visit the Bluffton Presbyterian Church Facebook page or contact Lynda Best 419-296-2790.

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

Faith Formation: 9:00 AM  
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)

Organist: Jayne McGarrity  
Choir Director: Linda Sycks  
Youth Group Director: Tenna Rhonemus  
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  
Nominating – Sarah Brauen and TBD  
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: Bev Begg, Tanya Best, Marilyn  
Edwards, Dave Van Eman, and Jeanette Warren