



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

January 2017

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 1 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music

Lay Reader: Sarah Gillen

Greeters: Gillen Family

Acolyte: Jake Szabo

Sunday, January 8

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Tanya Best

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, January 15

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Helen Hawk

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, January 22

Choir

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Brauen Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, January 29

Special Music

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

Sunday, February 5 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering



Mark Your Calendars!

- January 5 – Community Meal – Senior Center – Hosted by Bluffton Presbyterian Church
- January 7 – BPC Task Force – 10:00 AM – Meet at Church
- January 8 – Ordination of Officers – During Worship
- January 12 – Session – 7:00 PM
- January 13 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- January 11 – Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- January 18 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- January 21 – Youth Group – Scene 75 – 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM – Meet at Church
- January 27 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- January 29 – Annual Congregational/ Corporation Meeting – Following Worship
- January 29 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
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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



"When the dog bites, when the bee stings"

So happy New Year. And what a new year it will be, when my opening meditation is the dark side of the song "A few of my favorite things". I mean Rogers and Hammerstein had a good thing going with "raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens. "Perhaps a bit saccharin, but when Julie Andrews sings it, it is as good as with "a teaspoon of sugar helps the medicine go down." But what I really wanted to address is: what happens when the dog bites, when the bee stings? Lately there have been enough dark days, although no dog bites, and this is not the season for bee stings. But in the middle of dark times, I just wanted to suggest what a comfort it is when I read the words of the confessions:

***You are with us** as we struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. And so, throughout life we grow to maturity in love and faithfulness, through Christ. And in this faith journey we find freedom and good cheer. So, we stand forth to give witness on both good and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.*
(Confession 9.21 adj)

or when I read the words of the Christmas carol:

*"In Bethlehem a Babe was born
with love enough for all.
But, miracle of miracles,
the Baby lives today.
In each new heart that hears
love coming through the years."*

**God being with us – changes everything.
God becoming love in our hearts - changes everything.**

And the words of the worship service each week are...well they are actually what you need to know, what you need to hear. These words change everything.

One of the delights of Sunday mornings across these last years has been the moments when I read the bulletin and I get it! And my mind says, "Yes!! That's it!! That's faith. That is life that matters!"

And then my mind says, You silly! **You** wrote that, you picked that.

But another part of me says, "No, (this is the Confessions and a hymn) **God wrote that, so that it could lead us to the fullness of life. New life in Christ.**"

Now that, God's words of life, the journey of faith – is a happy New Year.

May you find faith and faithfulness in our worship together this year. As God is with us and calls us forward to share love!

Pastor Dave

Extraordinary!

Either you were there or you missed it. I mean really missed it. What did I miss? Did I miss it? Worship on Sunday the 11th of December. You know, the youth service during Advent. Oh, another year; another youth drama (yawn)? Which is my point exactly. Did you miss it?

What I saw was Sarah and Megan, in their last church play together and they nailed it! They were the joy and shouting of faith; that is, they were Elizabeth and Mary. They were exuberant. And we have watched them grow as *dramatis personae*! And at the same time we watched Libby and Jake and Paige. Imagine what they will do as they grow! And all the while I watched the skill and heart of the writer, arranger, and director – Tenna Rhonemus.

I have been to lots of churches. And I have seen a lot of church plays. But the skills of which Bluffton Church partakes on a regular basis is EXTRAORDINARY!!!

Thanks Tenna Thanks youth group...
Wow thanks!

And meanwhile, while you weren't watching.

God bless Tom Hursey. This is not to overlook all of the volunteers and officers who make contributions to the church life BUT...the chair of the Property Committee is just a whole lot of attention to everything from toilets that run, to squirrely holes in the gutter boards, to contract negotiations with Contractors, to ceiling tile replacement, and putting away the air conditioners. And that was last week. God bless you Tom, for the attention, the effort, the vigilance, and the love of the church which you bring to your "job", your work for us. Thank you.

Ordination/Installation of Officers

Congratulations to newly elected church officers: Elders Tom Edwards, Tom Hursey, and Cindy Gillen and Deacons Marilyn Edwards and Donnas Stone. Installation/Ordination for the Elders/Deacons will be January 8.

Mission

Mission has been busy gathering blankets and are very pleased to have 20 blankets to distribute. We adopted more families in the adopt-a-family program after finding out there was a need for more help. We are working on having a Chili cook off in February with other local churches to raise money for the food pantry.

Highlights of December's Session Meeting

- Will be taking out the window air conditioners in the church and storing them in the garage at the manse. Phil will check with Tom Edwards/Wendell Badertscher as to progress of work at manse.
- Members of the congregation made 15 blankets which will be blessed on Sunday. These will be given to our Adopt-a-Family, Family Promise, and Bluffton Food Pantry. Lap blankets made by Min Lindsey will be given to area nursing homes. There is additional need for more families which have not been adopted by the community. Because our members have already given to support two different families, Lynda may use local mission money to adopt additional families. Organizing a Chili Cook Off on February 22 in the MS Cafetorium. Proceeds will go to the Bluffton Food Pantry. Initial letters have been sent out to churches.
- Approved giving Christmas checks to staff.
- Approved serving Communion on Christmas and New Year's services.
- Pastor Dave led 4 worship services at BPC, one service at Mennonite Home, made visitations to church family members, officiated at Richard Evan's funeral, attended two celebrations for Min Lindsey's life, serving Communion at Maple Crest, attended high school play (youth participated), helped with Blaze of Lights and hanging of the greens, and worked with COM.
- Installation and ordination of officers will be January 8. Approved holding Annual Congregational Meeting/Corporation Meeting on Sunday, January 29 following the morning worship service.



Fellowship/Action/Service

Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service



Ignite fellowship at the Enneking's after Caroling.

Children and Youth Sunday School

Sunday School will start again on January 8. The class has decided to explore various Bible stories. We will discuss some of our favorites and some new ones from both the Old and New Testaments. Please come and join the fun as we explore God's message for us today through the stories from our past!

Youth Group

The youth group will be off to a busy start in January and early February!

January 21 – A group trip to Scene 75 in Dayton! We will leave from the church at 9:00 AM and return by 6:00 PM. This will allow us about 4 hours of game time and time to eat "Lupper" or "Linner" as a group at Smash Burger. Below is a link to the web site, so you can explore the game options and determine how much money you might need. Transportation and \$10 towards dinner will be provided. You may bring one guest to this event. Each participant must have a permission slip signed by their parent. Please see Tenna for a permission slips. Parents, I may need an additional driver to help with transportation. Please RSVP to Tenna by January 15 so proper plans can be made. Tenna will communicate with the group if weather becomes an issue that day.
<http://www.scene75.com/dayton/>

February 3-4 – Virtual Mission Trip to Ireland from the comfort of our church basement. This will be a joint event with Ottawa and Defiance Presbyterian Church Youth Groups. More details to come.

February 5 – Souper Bowl of Caring and BBC Basement Bistro!

The Souper Bowl of Caring

The youth group will be hosting a BPC Basement Bistro on Sunday, February 5 immediately following worship. The youth 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!



It's Community Meal Time!

Bluffton Presbyterian's next turn to host the Community Meal is Thursday, January 5, at the Senior Center. The deacons are organizing a great meal and will prepare the food, but more help is always needed and appreciated! Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary. How can YOU participate in this all-church effort?



- 1. BAKE A PIE** – Ten are needed to feed the estimated 80 guests.
- 2. ADD YOUR NAME** to the list of cheerful workers. People are needed to help serve the meal, act as "runners," clean up, and take care of any number of small tasks.
- 3. DONATE FUNDS** to help cover the cost of food and all necessary supplies. A basket for monetary donations is on the table with the sign-up sheets. Or you may donate by check. (Please write 1/5/17 Community Meal on the memo line.)

THANK YOU for your support of this worthwhile Bluffton ministry!

Hats by Min Lindsey



Min Lindsey's hats are still keeping kids warm! Min wanted the last of her hats to go to Leipsic Elementary School, and the deacons delivered over 300 hats! Students in Ms. Frick's 1st grade say, "Thank you, Min!"



Thank you to all those who contributed to the adopt-a-family program for Christmas! Your generosity toward this mission outreach is greatly appreciated!

Thanks for elders/deacons whose terms have ended - Cindy Gillen, Tom Edwards, Tom Hursey, Diane Winebar, and Marilyn Edwards.

Congratulations to the following officers who were elected - Elders Cindy Gillen, Tom Edwards, and Tom Hursey and Deacons Marilyn Edwards and Donnas Stone.

Thank you to all those who helped decorate the sanctuary.

Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift. It's such a joy to contribute to the wonderful music at BPC!

Jayne

Prayer Requests

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

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.

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.



Happy Birthday!!

January	3	David Sycks Chad Carroll
	7	Dwight Nichols Barb Fett
	10	Sue Basinger Addie McGarrity
	13	Chris Gable Matthew Zuehlke
	21	Colletta Mullenhour
February	25	Shirley Kisor
	29	Richard McGarrity
	30	Tammie Hursh
	2	Jodie Parker
	5	John Marshall

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 Needed

Volunteers will be needed on Tuesday, January 2
from 8:20-9:30 AM, 10:05-2:30 PM and
Thursday, January 26 from 8:50-9:55 AM and
1:45-2:55 PM. In addition, 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.

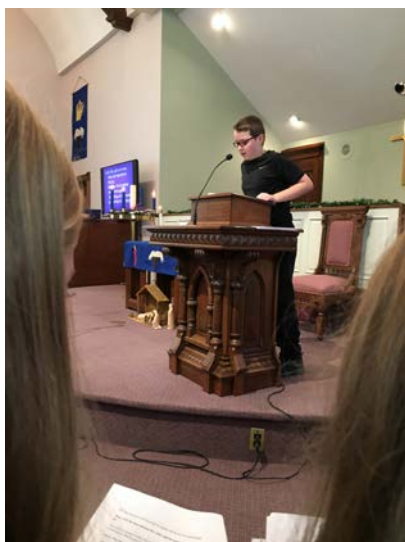
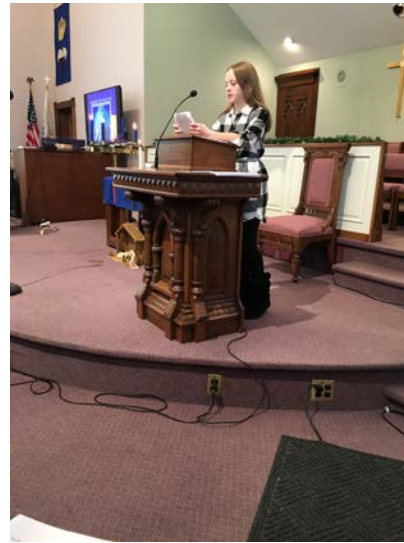
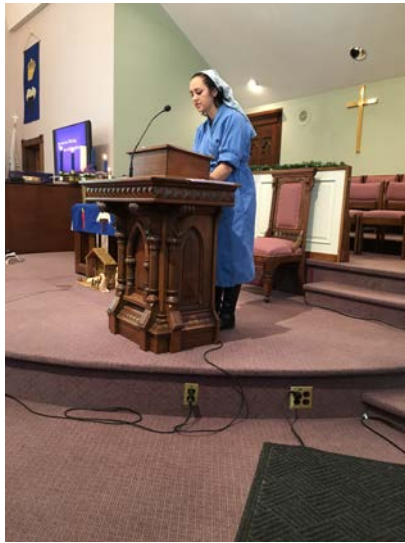
Contact Carole Enneking (419-348-7691) for
more details or sign-up on the bulletin board.

Bluffton Area Food Pantry

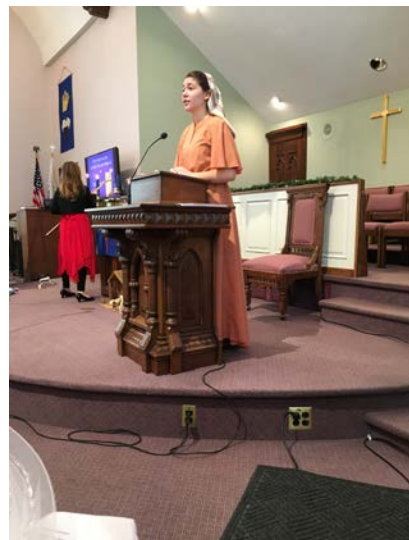
The Bluffton Area Food Pantry thanks you for
your continued support. Listed below are some
items to consider for the pantry:

Lotions and Creams
Cereals
Soups and Crackers
Spaghetti and Sauces
Macaroni and Cheese

Youth Service



Youth Service Continued



Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817
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

2016 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 –
Personnel – Bob Angus
Presbytery Commissioner
Worship – Cindy Gillen
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Lori
Schmidt, and Phil Weisenbarger

Board of Deacons

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