



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

July 2017

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 2 - No Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Pulpit – Tanya Best

Lay Reader: Lin Rumer

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: Patrick Rhonemus

Sunday, July 9 – Food Pantry

Pulpit – Phill Talavinia

Special Music: Don Brauen and Sarah Gillen

Lay Reader: Leslie Freed

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, July 16

Pulpit – Tenna Rhonemus

Sue Van Eman – Piano

Lay Reader: Sarah Gillen

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Owen Brauen

Sunday, July 23

Pulpit – George Stultz

Special Music:

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Bev Begg and Jane Benroth

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, July 30

Pulpit – Brauen Family

Special Music:

Lay Reader: Dave Sycks

Greeters: Dwight and Jeanie Nichols

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

Sunday, August 6 - Communion

Pulpit – Rev. Pamela Easterday

Lay Reader: Marilyn Edwards

Mark Your Calendars!

- July – No Session Meeting
- July 16 – Deacons meeting after church
- July 20 – Community Meal
- July 30 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com

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

Relay for Hope



A Word from the departing Pastor:

“No more dreadful driving back and forth”

Oh, what a wonderful morning. It was delightful. It was fun (Sound off! Mr. Sycks). It was musical (thank you for the *stretto*, Dave and Jane) whether “the flock was in the field” or not (good group demise!). But it was heartfelt. It was fun and in all moments it was sacred.

“Dave had hair before we did the hiring.”

It was Sacred. In the end, Sunday, the 11th was us. It was our life together. It was the journey in God which we shared. And so it was in every way a gift from God. Because our time together was a gift.

So I will take my treasure which is memories and friendships, and blessings received, and go to what is next. And so I wish for you: Go with God.

And what does the Lord require of you? But to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.
(Micah 6)

And now a word from the departing Temporary Pastor:

Just to share a story and a truth. I had had musicians come and go in my life. But in 1994 something profound happened. The organist was a profound pianist because she wasn't only a pianist she was a storyteller. She made the keyboard *sing a story*. We began to play piano 4 hands. *And at the same time the church spontaneously generated a band/orchestra.*

And then my interim was over, and I went to the next church – what was I to do? My music partner was gone. I could not generate a band/orchestra. But I did find a new and differently abled musician to work with. Then I went to Indiana in an installed position, and I had a choir of 5 and no large voices. But what blend. And they read. And they dared.

Each time I went somewhere, God sent gifts. **But I could only enjoy the gifts if** I would give up clutching to what was the high point of what went before. If I tried to recreate the past I would crash and burn. Only if I embraced what was next, what was new, could I find the true gift which God gave for the next time. It wasn't the most comfortable of lessons. But it was a truth from God.

And so I bid you well in your **next** Pastoral relationship. Who knows what God has in store for you? I only know **I trust the giver** of the gifts.

Yes, rejoice in the gifts which were given, and **now journey on** to embrace the gifts that will fill your future, with your new Pastor. Your Pastor – departing – rejoices in the gifts which you shared. Your temporary Pastor urges you to take your past and find your future.

I pray every blessing of God upon you. In your new time.

It is your **future**. It is **God's future for you**.

Go with God.

3 I thank my God every time I remember you,
4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,
Philippians 1

And Thank You

And thank you to everyone who brought together Sunday the 11th. The **morning**. The **worship**. The *Lunch*. And thank you all for the significant gift for my retirement.

Pastor Dave



The voice of God

A message from David's wife

I wanted to tell you all how much you have meant to me during the retirement service and the time after but I couldn't. I was going to burst out in tears and end up unable to speak. So, I'll take this time to cry in private as I send you this message.

Your love and care of David was so astounding and comforting for me. During all the trials that we were going through at home, I always knew that he was being cared for in your arms. His well-being was one less thing that I needed to worry about, he was with you all. I have no idea how to express my gratitude to you for your care of David.

Being his wife, I have always known the gifts which he could bring to a church. Many churches chose to ignore the gifts and continue following their path. The strength of your church family allowed him to share his gifts. You made his last church be his best church. You were an amazing gift to me because I knew that David was enjoying your company and talents so much during his time with you. His communications with me were always filled with the wonderful things that were happening at church. When he announced his plan to retire to me, one of my reactions was, why would you leave these people!

Let me express my boundless thanks to you all for your cards and good wishes to me and my father. Dad was so surprised at your outpouring of love and thoughtfulness toward him. His subdued "farm" response was, "Well, isn't that something", which, in translation was, "Wow, this is wonderful". You opened your arms and wrapped them around him with your cards to him. The children's Holy Week book was so nice. He read it over and over. He has never seen such expression of love from a church before.

So, I hope you can see how special are to me. Your cards and letters were timed so that they came at just the right moments to be comforting to me even when no one else knew that I needed comfort. You might not have seen it or heard God saying, "Jane needs a note right now" but you

allowed your life to be used by God even in ways that you might perceive as small. They were not small to me.

For this, I thank you for being the voice of God to me.

With the love of God, Jane

Bluffton Community Preschool Begins to Set Up Space

If you have been in the nursery or library recently, you've seen quite a few boxes and children's equipment. The scene will continue to evolve during July and August as Bluffton Preschool prepares to begin its school year on August 28.

The nursery will continue to be used as a nursery during Sunday services, but during the week it will be utilized as a classroom for 3-year-olds from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The BCP school year is the same as the public school year. The library, (formerly the green room) will continue to be available weekends for Sunday school and meetings, but on weekdays it will be used as a classroom for 4-year-olds.

Last year BCP enrolled approximately 75 students, but because there are four sessions, there are no more than 21 children at school at any one time. BCP has been operating for 45 years as a public charity and pays \$400 a month for the use of the space.

Having the preschool in our church is part of the New Beginnings effort which seeks to reach out to and serve the community. We are hopeful that as a result of this program many new opportunities for service will be available to us.

Session has appointed three Elders – Tenna Rhonemus, Lori Schmidt, and Dick McGarrity to coordinate the transition of BCP to our church. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Watch for more updates.

Highlights of June's Session Meeting

- Pastor Dave expressed appreciation for the time off around his brother's death, as well as the support of the congregation during the last two months.
- Pastor Nominating Committee is working on reviewing our third set of 30 Pastor Information Forms. Interviewed 2 via Skype at Ryan Brauen's office. Meeting 1-2x a week.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery met on Tuesday, May 16 in Adrian, Michigan. Several pastors leaving – Mark Rich (Market Street – new position), Jeanine Hopkins (McComb - retirement), and Dave's retirement will be recognized in September. Approved Lynn Bova for ordination. Welcomed interim at Norwalk. Investigative Committee formed for allegation against pastor. Topic – Racism – Growing up black in white America – moderator spoke to topic and then pull out sessions followed.
- Approved request from Ignite to use church sanctuary for showing movie on June 16 if weather does not allow to be shown outside. Approved request by Sycks' to borrow tables for Graduation Party. Approved electronic request (8-0) from Bluffton Preschool to use church basement for couple of days in the fall to store Yankee Candles for distribution. Received \$12,154 from Richard Evans' estate. Dave asked to connect with Jeremy Mann (BAMA) to have communications sent to Clerk during time without a pastor. Notified that Roy Pnueman will serve as our Moderator until we have a full time pastor.
- Relay for Hope Picnic netted \$326. Ignite group is responsible for Bounce Houses at Relay for Hope on June 23/24. M+R are donating Putt Putt course which will be manned by the Lutheran youth. Our church is responsible for evening meal at Family Promise on Monday, June 19 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- New front door at manse needs to be installed now as present lock is no longer working. Pastor Dave will have moved out of the manse by June 15 so renovation work may begin at that time. Manse committee has selected paint color, laminate countertop for kitchen, and flooring for the kitchen and bathroom. Still need to select sink, tub, and lights. Need to organize work dates for people to help with work at the manse.
- Community VBS will be July 16-20. We are responsible for preschool area – will need 8 volunteers. Graduates were recognized during Worship Service and reception – received devotional and gift card.
- Approved serving every other month during time w/o pastor – next times would be August, October. Pulpit supply secured for June, July, and August with many dates being filled by members of our own church family.
- Craft show proceeds were \$787.25 – previously agreed to split half with Bluffton Preschool.
- Bluffton Preschool has now moved items into our church. Lori, Dick, and Tenna will work to keep open dialogue with them. Tenna attends the Preschool's monthly board meetings. Discussed items we are willing to donate to Restore – old TV, two old love seats in poor condition. Agreed to purchase 2 lightweight plastic tables which can be used for church needs in library area – expense to come from first month's rent.

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.

Deacons Report from June Meeting

- A reception was held for family and friends following Bob Angus's memorial service June 19. The Deacons would like to thank those who helped by providing food and services. We would also like offer a special thanks to Lin Rumer for creating lovely table centerpieces.
- We plan to update our Deacon Church Directory with member addresses, phone numbers, emails, and birthdays. You may receive a call over the next few weeks from your deacon if they need to verify your information. These new updates will help us, as well as our new Pastor when he comes.

It's Community Meal Time!

It's Bluffton Presbyterian's turn to host the Community Meal on Thursday, July 20, at the Senior Center. The deacons are organizing a great picnic-themed meal and will be there to prepare the meal, meet, greet, and serve, but more help is needed!



How can you participate in this all-church effort?

- 1. BAKE A PIE** - This is our biggest need right now. Thirteen pies are needed to feed the estimated 100 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 in the narthex. Or you may donate by check. (Please write 7/20 Community Meal on the memo line.)

Sign-up sheets for both pies and volunteers will be in the back of the church.

THANK YOU for your support of this worthwhile Bluffton ministry!

Mission

- The Relay is over and was a success. The rain kept some people away and we could not do the big bounce houses, but thanks to Sara and Ryan who brought small ones the kids loved. We broke record on pie auction, the silent auction and chair went well too. Thanks to all who attended and helped. It is a year-long project, but so worth the work to help fight the fight against cancer.
- The Manse remodel is in full swing, giving the manse a much needed remodel. We have work days scheduled and if you happen to have any carpentry skills to donate it would be appreciated, as well as cleaning and outside work. You can contact Lynda Best 419-296-2790 if questions.



Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service

The Outdoor Community Movie Was Great!

The rain stopped, a double rainbow was seen in the sky, and about 75 people gathered on the church lawn to see the movie "Sing" on the evening of June 16. A big thank you to **Ted's Market** of Pandora for the use of its movie equipment, including a giant screen that we draped over the side of the building. Thank you, too, to Lynda and Kim Best for letting us use their fabulous popcorn maker. It lent the perfect touch and was kept popping most of the evening! A good time was had by all, and we appreciate all the support!



Clair Winebar - The popcorn master



A nice crowd enjoyed "Sing"!



Plenty of kids were on hand. These are eagerly waiting for the movie to begin.



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

Vacation Bible School



Registration is underway for this year's Community Vacation Bible School - Operation Arctic is the theme for the evening program (6:00 to 8:00 PM) to be held at English Lutheran Church (Grove Street, Bluffton) on Sunday, July 16 through Thursday, July 20. Children ages 4 through grade 5 are welcome for this free ministry. This year, eight community churches are working together - Bluffton Presbyterian, Emmanuel UCC, English Lutheran, First Methodist, First Mennonite, St. John UCC, St. Mary's Catholic, plus Trinity Methodist. Registration Forms are located in the back of the sanctuary; turn in completed forms to Carole Enneking. On-site registration begins at 5:30 PM on Sunday, July 16

Our church is working with St. John UCC to organize the Pre-schoolers. We will be presenting the Bible Story and Games each night. If you can lend any of the following items, let Carole Enneking or Tenna Rhonemus know:

Small lighted trees
 Whiteboard
 Small wading pool
 Children's mittens
 Duplo(c) blocks
 Bingo markers
 Small parachute
 Hula hoops
 Pool noodles

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.

Prayer Requests

Prayers of Sympathy with Betsey Angus and family on the recent loss of Bob.

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

Prayers of Healing for Michael Lee Bucher, Carl Wolf, Tyler and Laura From, Autumn Sprunger, Bob and Jean Braden, Francis Schmidt, Walter Schmidt, Dorothy Hursey, John Vrooman, Dortha Radabaugh, Connie Claybaugh, Scott Hey, Angie Wenger, Peggy Hursey, Keith Buist, and Edna Gossard.

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 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.

Happy Birthday!!

July	1	Brandie Carroll
	5	Dave Van Eman
	6	Lisa Culburtson
	8	Kim Best Stephanie Scoles
	9	Jillian Hough
	10	Bill Gable
	11	Kathleen Edelbrock
	14	Jason Fifer
	16	Diane Winebar
	19	Ryan Brauen
	23	Bill Culbertson
	24	Betsey Angus
	28	Dave Engelhardt
	29	Brennan Leugers
	30	Mike Rhonemus Teresa Rhoads
August	1	Dale Dicky
	2	Haley Bloom
	4	Judy Miracle

Thank You!!!

I want to thank all my church family for the prayers and help Bob and I received during his health problems. They worked. Even the doctors said they did. I had many more weeks with him. It meant so much to me. Our family commented on what good support I have! Pastor Dave was really there for me. Extra thanks to Helen, Terry, Dwight, and Darlene for animal and lawn help. Jodi, Don, Helen, Darlene, and Cathy for my mental and physical support.

The funeral dinner was great and the service was the best. Thanks Don, Jayne, and Linda for pulling Hallelujah off with such short notice. He would have loved it. Church friends are the best!

Thanks,~Betsey~

Thank you to all those who prepared food and helped host the Family Promise meal at St. Mary's! The families seemed very appreciative of the meal and fellowship. Our next opportunity to host will be at Emmanuel UCC the last week of September. More details will be shared as we get closer to the date.

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-5806

Pastor:
Phone:
Email:
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

Adult 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 –
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.