



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

June 2018

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, June 3 - Communion**

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

Pulpit: Tenna Rhonemus

Special Music: Don Brauen

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Lay Reader: Lin Rumer

Greeters: Betsey Angus and Tanya Best

Acolyte: Owen Brauen

### **Sunday, June 10**

Special Music: Pastor Karol and Sarah Gillen

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Lay Reader: Sarah Brauen

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Clara Brauen

### **Sunday, June 17**

Special Music: Vocal Ensemble

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Leslie Freed

Lay Reader: Phill Talavinia

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

### **Sunday, June 24**

Organ: Sue Van Eman

Special Music: Clarinet Solo – Pastor Karol

Sound: Jeff Gillen/ Slides: Cathy Carroll

Lay Reader: Jana McVetta

Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall

Acolyte: McVetta Girls

### **Sunday, July 1 - Communion**

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

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken

## Mark Your Calendars!

- June 2 – Open House for Rebecca Winebar and Ishan Mehta – 7:00 to 10:00 PM – at Winebar Home
- June 2 – Graduation Party for Sarah Gillen – 6:30 to 9:00 PM – 5955 Phillips Rd., Bluffton
- June 10 – Potluck – Following Worship
- June 15 – Wheels Festival Dinner – 4:30 to 7:30 PM – Church Lawn
- June 15 – Ignite Movie: *Homeward Bound* – 9:15 PM – Church Lawn
- June 17 – Happy Father's Day
- June 19 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- June 20 – Deacons Meeting – 6:30 PM
- June 22 – Relay for Hope – 4:30 PM to Midnight
- June 24 – Ignite Pool Party, Fellowship, and Picnic – At the home of the Gillen's – 3:00 to 7:00 PM
- June 24 – Newsletter Items Deadline  
[CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- July 22-26 – Vacation Bible School – First United Methodist Church – 6:00 to 8:00 PM

## Summer Sermon Series

Stories of Jesus: Mark 3 – 6

June 10 – July 29

## Small Groups

There will be no small group meetings during June, July, and August. Look for startup dates in September.

## Liturgical Dance

Calling all dancers! Pastor Karol would like to offer the opportunity to participate in a liturgical dance in worship this July. Anyone who is interested in learning more should contact her no later than June 17.

## Pastor's Letter

The PC(USA) 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly is happening June 16-23, 2018 in St. Louis, MO.

I have previously participated in this biennial denominational event as a Young Adult Advisory Delegate, where I had voice and vote in committee, and voice and "advisory vote" in plenary. I went to the following assembly as a Student Assistant, helping with administrative and technological issues behind the scenes.

### WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

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The General Assembly consists of 538 commissioners elected by 170 presbyteries.

Half of the commissioners will be ruling elders, half will be teaching elders (also known as Ministers of Word and Sacrament). It reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

The General Assembly has several specific responsibilities outlined in the Book of Order. The assembly seeks to protect our church from errors in faith and practice, is responsible for assuring that the expression of our theology remains true to the biblical standards in our historic confessions. The General Assembly presents a witness for truth and justice in our community and in the world community. It sets priorities for the church and establishes relationships with other churches or ecumenical bodies. Commissioners are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

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First, reports and recommendations come from the various arms of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly. The Office of the General Assembly, headed by the Stated Clerk, is the ecclesiastical arm of the church. The Stated Clerk and staff work to ensure that the Presbyterian Church maintains itself as a church. The Office of the General Assembly carries out all constitutional, and most ecumenical functions at the General Assembly. Mission

programs are carried out by the Presbyterian Mission Agency which supervises the work directed to be done by the General Assembly and can make certain decisions on behalf of the Assembly.

Overtures from synods and presbyteries are the second source of General Assembly business. These governing bodies use Overtures to bring recommendations and matters of concern before the whole church. Commissioner Resolutions are a third source of General Assembly business. As a commissioner, one is entitled to sign two resolutions which will come before the whole assembly.

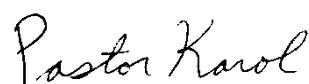
The meeting begins with an orientation on Saturday afternoon and that evening the plenary, or whole General Assembly, meets together to elect a Moderator from among the commissioners assembled. The Moderator presides over the plenary meetings for the rest of the week. Once a Moderator is elected, the assembly breaks up into assembly committees to consider particular kinds of business. Each committee is responsible for considering a number of items, and reporting back to the General Assembly on completed actions or their recommendations.

The combined insights of all those on assembly committees become the recommendations to the whole assembly. If they are approved, they guide the church in the years to come.

If you would like to watch part of the assembly, I recommend livestreaming Opening Worship on Sat., June 16 at 12:00 pm EST or Ecumenical Worship on Wed., June 20 at 10:30 am EST.

Our GA commissioners from Maumee Valley Presbytery are Douglas Holmes, TEC, Palmyra, MI; Gloria Box, REC, Grand Rapids, OH; and Katrina Riepenhoff, YAAD, Ottawa, OH. Please keep them and all the GA commissioners and other participants in your prayers this month.

In Christ,



Pastor Karol

## Summer Office Hours

Pastor Karol's Summer Office Hours:  
Mon 1-4, Tues 9-12, Wed 10-12  
and by appointment.

## Word in the World

Our Word in the World discussion group will continue through the summer! If you have not been able to join us yet, you are still welcome to show up any time. We meet at The Twisted Whisk Café from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Wednesdays. No preparation is needed. However, if you would like to know the text/topic ahead of time, let me know and I will email you. All you need to bring is yourself, and maybe a friend! Please note that we will NOT meet on June 6. ~ Pastor Karol



## Highlights of April Session Meeting

- Church landscaping will be mulched on Saturday, May 19 – Phil Weisenbarger making arrangements for mulch. Volunteers will help spread. Some flowers have been planted at the church. Rest will be planted prior to mulching. Lynda Best and Linda Sycks have agreed to water the flowers. Discussed the possibility of removing the older bushes at front of the church – perhaps when alley is done there would be equipment to pull the bushes. Rheostat in sanctuary was adjusted.
- Community Vacation Bible School will be July 22-July 26 at First Methodist from 6:00 to 8:00 PM – our church is responsible for crafts.
- Approved designating our share of the Pentecost Offering to Ability Baseball League at UNOH in Lima. Making plans for having a free Community Meal on our church lawn on a Sunday evening in July from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Planning to serve hot dogs, shredded chicken, chips, baked beans, and cookies.

Arrangements have been made to have the putt-putt course and corn hole, and are contacting a band.

- Approved to increase nursery worker's pay to \$10.40 per hour (retroactive to January 1, 2018) as per approved in the 2018 budget. Audit of 2017 financial books completed by Jay McCracken and Karol Farris – everything appears to be in order.
- During the past month Pastor Karol made 1 home/hospital/nursing home visit, 2 home Communion visits with Deacon Dave Van Eman, and 9 conversations with church family members. Congregation activities: packing of college care packages, Claralice Circle, committee meetings, Pastor Relations Committee, and Word in the World. Presbytery activities: New Pastor's Group and Professional Misconduct Prevention Training. Community engagement activities: High School Musical, led worship service at Mennonite Memorial Home, and attended BAMA meeting. Noted that vacation days were adjusted to 5/12-5/14 and 5/16-5/19 because of leading Memorial Service for Dale and Carolyn Dickey and to be able to attend the MVP meeting. Reminded that June 1-9 she will be serving the Greater Church by serving as Pastor at Montreat Youth Conference.
- Jay and Ryan have reviewed the revised Terms of Agreement with the Village of Bluffton concerning the alley – additional language was added concerning handicap access. Clerk asked to send the Terms of Agreement to MVP. Approved the revised Manual of Operations. Noted that the Lions have supplied proof of insurance for bounce house during Wheels Festival.
- Approved request from Bill Triplett to use church basement on Friday, July 13 and Saturday, July 14 to prepare materials for Ride to Remember. Approved request from Relay for Hope to have table with promotional information on church lawn on Craft Day. Approved request from Cindy Gillen to use pop up tent on June 2 at Sarah's Graduation Party.



## **Pentecost Offering**

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people and address the needs of at-risk children. Since the offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$14 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more – to inspire, support, and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith. 60% of the offering is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, and Children-at-Risk. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. Our congregation's 40% will be going to support the Allen County Abilities Baseball League. We will receive gifts through June 3.

## **Deacons Report**

- A heart-felt thank you to everyone who chose a name of a homebound member on May 20 during our Share the Spirit event. Those whom you chose will be blessed to receive a card, note, or visit in the coming month. Our next Share the Spirit will be held in August.
- Remember to look for a Big Birthday Card in the back of the church for Helen Hilty in the coming weeks. She turns 105 years old! Let's help her celebrate with warm wishes.
- The Deacons voted to use some of the money received from this year's bake sale to make a \$300 donation to the Bluffton Area Food Pantry. In addition, the Deacons also have given \$100 to Pastor Karol to purchase gas gift cards to give at her discretion to those in need.

## **Building and Grounds**

Building and Grounds is making a master list of who has a key to the church. If you have not already been contacted and own a key, please call the office to let Cathy know or call Tom at 419-722-4811. Thank you.

## **Opportunity to Serve our Children**

Pastor Karol would like to have a member of the congregation lead the Time for Young Christians 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.

## **Youth Group**

The youth group will be taking a break from our monthly meetings for summer and will resume in the fall.

## **30 Hour Famine Follow-Up**

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth and the 30 Hour Famine! With your help we were able to raise \$504 dollars and because of matching grants received by World Vision this amount will be quadrupled. That means 50 children will be fed for an entire month!







**ignite**

Fellowship/Action/Service

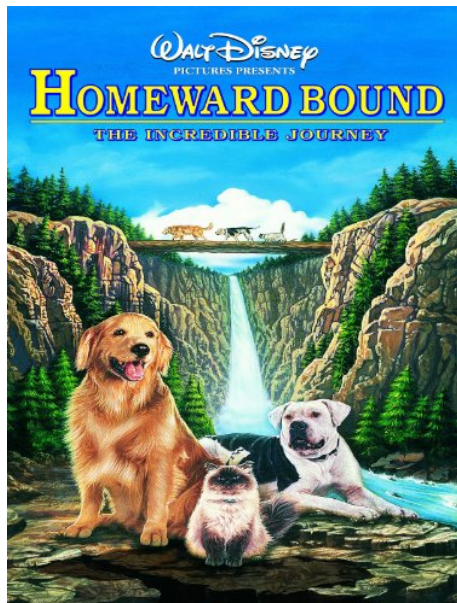
**Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service**

➤ **MOTHER'S DAY TEA**



➤ **MOVIE ON THE LAWN**

We will host a Movie Night on the Church Lawn after the Festival of Wheels on Friday, June 15! We have secured a license to play the movie *Homeward Bound*. This will be a community event, so please support us by dusting off your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and bringing your neighbors, family, and friends! For questions, please see Diane Winebar or Sarah Brauen.



## Wheels Festival

We will be serving a dinner on the church lawn for the Wheels Festival Friday evening from 4:30-7:30 PM on June 15, with proceeds going to the General fund. Ted's Market in Pandora will be providing chicken dinners. Hot dogs, brats, desserts and drinks will also be available. More information on donations and signing up to help will be in next newsletter and church bulletins.

Any questions please call:

Lynda Best 419-296-2790 /

[bestlynda568@gmail.com](mailto:bestlynda568@gmail.com) or

Cindy Gillen 419-358-5331 /

[CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com) or

Lori Schmidt 419-236-1071 /

[schmidt1bath@gmail.com](mailto:schmidt1bath@gmail.com)

## Mission Committee

We are working on the Bluffton for Hope Relay and would like to mention a little about Relay: What is Relay for Life? Relay is when a community comes together to celebrate and support survivors and remember those who have passed from cancer. We spend the evening as a community coming together and celebrating while raising money to help the fight against cancer. The money raised goes towards cancer research, patient support services, prevention, education, and treatment programs. So, if you are wanting to participate, some of the ways you can are to come volunteer that night: come walk and enjoy activities, entertainment, and food; participate in the 5 K glow run; sponsor someone who is going to walk; or just donate. There is something for everyone that night so please come help us in the fight against cancer. ~ Lynda Best  
[bestlynda568@gmail.com](mailto:bestlynda568@gmail.com) for info or questions.

Thank you to all who contributed to the Pentecost offering our share will be going to Lima Abilities Baseball League of Allen county for children with disabilities.

Please save your aluminum cans so we can turn them in to get money for movie passes for families who use the food pantry.

A big thank you to all who helped with flowers and mulch for the church; it looks wonderful!

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in June. The items needed this month are **cereal, tooth paste, and soap**. This is not to say that we don't welcome other items, but these are the items they need the most at this time.



## Little Free Pantry

Thank you for supporting our Little Free Pantry! Items you may consider donating: boxed foods (cereal, etc.), dry mixes (soup, etc.), rice, noodles, personal hygiene items, paper towels, Kleenex, baby items. No glass, please.

## 3 Cents A Meal Offering

Three Cents a Meal invites every member of our congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Ideally, contributions come from "living more simply so that others may simply live." Participation in Three Cents a Meal is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus' command, "You give them something to eat." Daily participation is a reminder of the reality of hunger for millions of our sisters and brothers in the world. As the money accumulates, those participating become aware that small, regular acts can result in significant responses to hunger and that there is great strength in working together with other Christians. We collect this offering on the first Sunday of each month.

## Community Vacation Bible School

The Bluffton Community Vacation Bible School will be hosted by the Bluffton First United Methodist Church. It will be held July 22-26 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM each night. Our church is in charge of crafts this year. We are asking anyone who is willing to make a donation towards the purchase of the supplies. We will have donation boxes in the front and back of the sanctuary. If you write a check please put "VBS Supplies" in the memo line. We will also need donations of time. Prior to VBS we will have some project days to do the preparation work for the crafts. We will also need four volunteers each night to help lead the craft area and another 2-3 volunteers to serve as walkers, leading the children to the various activities. We will have sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary or you may contact Tenna Rhonemus, Jay McCracken, or Linda Sycks if you are able to volunteer.

## A Special Thank You!!!

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Thank you for the delightful and delicious English Tea on May 13!

Jean Szabo and Harriette Moyer

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## Prayer Requests

**Prayers of Sympathy** with John and Gayle Marshall and family on the recent loss of John's mother Avis.

**Prayers of Sympathy** with the family of Carl Wolf.

**Prayers of Celebration** with our graduates Sarah Gillen, Emily Sycks, and Jane Sycks and the Class of 2018.

**Prayers of Celebration** with Rebecca Winebar and Ishan Mehta on their wedding.

**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 Michael Lee Bucher, Tyler and Laura From, David Rempelsmucker, Dr. Howard Shelly, Peggy Hursey, Jean Best, and Linda Benroth.



June	1	Michelle Zuehlke
	3	Carla Montgomery
	4	Dusty Freed
	6	Sheila Hurlburt
		Donnas Stone
	10	Andrew Van Horn
	12	Lori Schmidt
	17	Jeremy Enneking
	19	Don Brauen
	22	Sue Van Eman
July	1	Brandie Carroll
	5	Dave Van Eman
	6	Lisa Culbertson

## BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus (419-358-8148 / [rhonstar@juno.com](mailto: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.

## Graduates



**Emily Sycks, Jane Sycks, Sarah Gillen**

### **Teacher Position for Release Time/Weekday Christian Education**

Release Time/Weekday Christian Education Board of Bluffton is seeking to fill a teaching position in its Grade K-6 program, specifically 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes. This position consists of approximately eight, 30-minute classes per week. The program runs weekly from the third week in September through the second week of May and is a paid position. Curriculum is provided. The teacher would work closely with the other three teachers.

A teaching degree is not required, but Christian Education teaching experience would be preferred. The applicant is expected to be a committed Christian with a heart for children and willingness to work with children from varied denominational backgrounds, as well as no church background. The applicant must have a desire to carry out the Christian Education program mission to give children a dynamic understanding of God through Jesus Christ, His Son, and thus create a desire to respond to faith in love, responsible living, purposeful service and Christian witness.

If interested in the teaching position, please contact Mark Yoder, President (419-236-5172) or any of the teachers, Mary Ina Hooley, (567-226-1247) Janice Basinger, (419-296-5041), Jodi Conley (419-358-9929) or Jill Lemley (419-358-9722) for questions or an application.

## **Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio Volunteer Opportunities at Bluffton and Pandora**

MHCO invites families with children, students, couples, singles, and retirees for an array of meaningful activities. These include assisting with games, help with appointments, worship and bible studies, delivering snacks/water and more. Please contact Jessica Strahm, Volunteer Coordinator at 419-358-1015 ext. 248 if you would like to have a rewarding opportunity to make new friends and make a difference in the lives of others.

### **Hospice Volunteer Training**

Bridge Home Health and Hospice is pleased to offer another Hospice Volunteer Training Class. Many of our current volunteers are very active in the church community, which speaks highly of the religious community in encouraging parishioners to minister to other people who may be in need. We have many volunteer opportunities, such as Patient/Family, Hospice Care Center, Bereavement, Gift of Dreams Team, and Vigil Team, to name a few.

The training will be held on six Thursdays beginning June 14 and concluding July 26. The sessions will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 PM in the Hub Conference Room at Birchaven Retirement Village. Pre-registration is required. The minimum age is 18, but no previous hospice experience is required. Please contact me at 419-423-5351 or [jtiell@bvhealthsystem.org](mailto:jtiell@bvhealthsystem.org) should you have any questions about the Volunteer Component of Bridge Home Health and Hospice. Thank you, in advance, for your support of this service to the community.

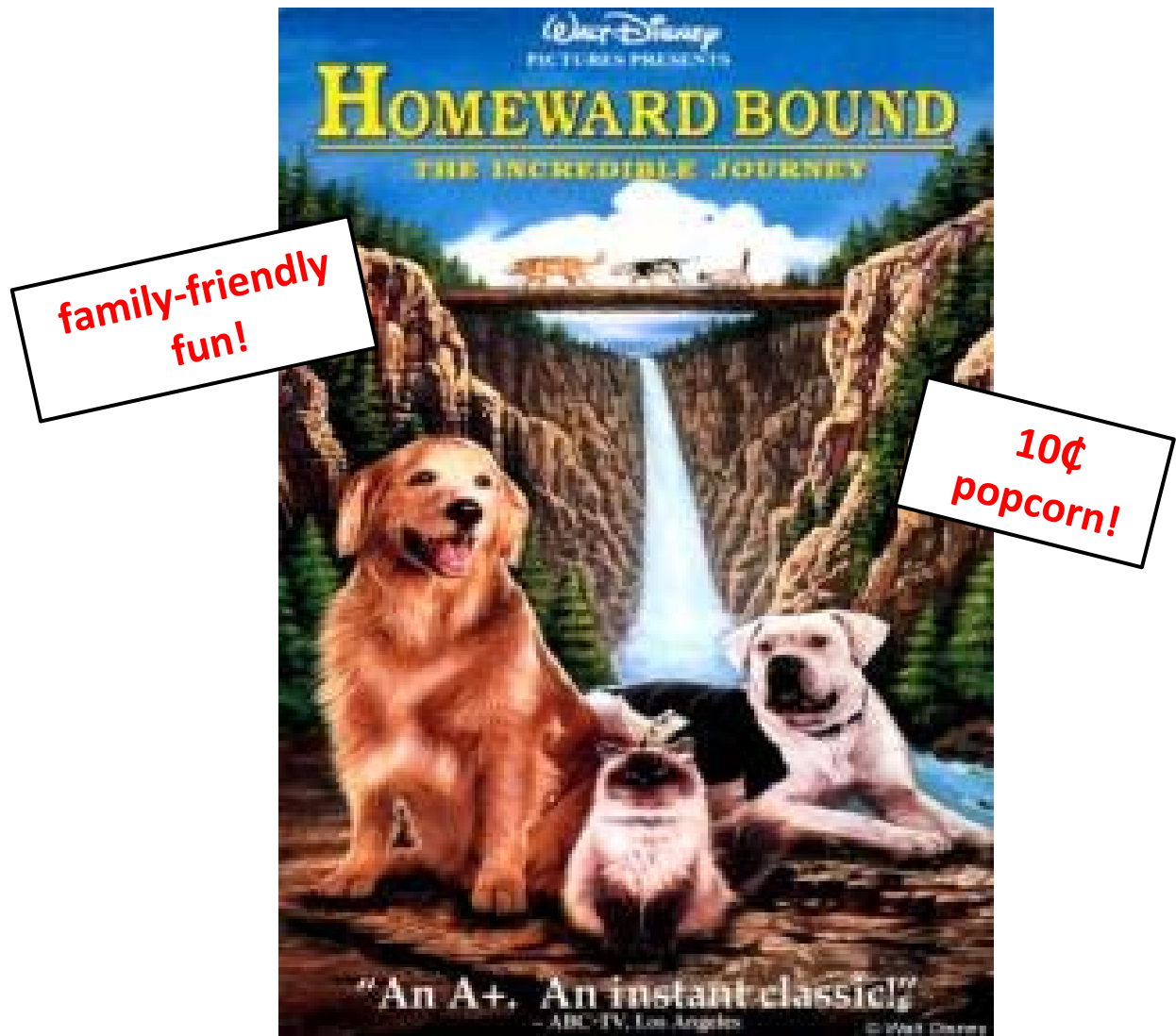
Sincerely, Julie M. Tiell, Volunteer Services  
Coordinator

### **Personal Information**

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



**FREE Community Movie on the Church Lawn!**  
**Friday, June 15, 9:15 pm**



**Bring blankets or lawn chairs.**  
**Tell your friends and neighbors! See you there!**

**Sponsored by Ignite,**  
**merging fellowship, families & service.**

**In the event of rain, movie will be shown in the church sanctuary.**

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

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris  
Phone: 419-581-9232  
Email: [pastor@blufftonpc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonpc.org)  
Summer Office Hours: Mon 1-4, Tues 9-12,  
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 Choir Director: Sue Van Eman  
Youth Group Director: Tenna Rhonemus  
Nursery Helpers: Kori Phipps and Shawna  
Anderson  
Custodian: Tony Carmack

## **2018 Church Officers**

### *Session*

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

### *Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Laura From  
Members: Tanya Best, Marilyn Edwards,  
Laura From, Helen Hawk, Mike  
Rhonemus, and Dave Van Eman