



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

March 2013

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 3 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Communion Sunday

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Joel Kimmel – Clarinet

Greeters: Kay and Owen Ziessler

Acolytes: Will and Tucker Neff

Sunday, March 10 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Food Pantry

Don Brauen – Special Music

Greeters: The Hursh Family

Acolytes: Vanessa Compton and Skyler Scoles

Sunday, March 17 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Praise Team

Greeters: Lynda Best and Helen Hawk

Acolytes: Molly McCracken and Tayler Nowak-Valentine

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

Choir

Greeters: The McCracken Family

Acolytes: Wyatt Marshall and Jacob Szabo

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Sunday

Choir

Greeters: Dave and Myrna Engelhardt

Acolytes: Samantha Scoles and Avery Talavinia

Sunday, April 7 – Holy Humor Sunday

Communion Sunday

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Greeters: The McVetta Family

Acolytes: Libby and Morgan McVetta

Reminder: No Sunday School on Easter.

Mark Your Calendars!

- March 3 – Potluck Lunch Sponsored by Deacons – Following Worship
- March 10 – Daylight Savings Time Begins – Spring Forward



- March 10 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- March 13 – Praise Team Practice – 7:30 PM
- March 17 – One Family Fun Night/Chili/Bowling – Following Worship
- March 23 – Deacon's Annual Bake Sale – 9:00 to 12:00 noon – Citizen's National Bank
- March 25 – Prayer Luncheon – 11:00 AM
- March 28 – Maundy Thursday Service – 5:45 PM
- March 29 – Good Friday Procession of Cross – 11:30 AM
- March 29 – Community Service at First Mennonite at Noon
- March 29 – Evening Service – 7:00 PM
- March 31 – Easter Breakfast – 8:30 – 9:45 AM
- March 31 – Easter Egg Hunt – 9:28 AM
- March 31 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com



Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month of March, get it to the church office and it will be announced by our Worship Leader for the month.

March Worship Leader – Darlene Hey

Holy Week Services

We have an exciting and full Holy Week planned this year at Bluffton Presbyterian. Members of the church family and extended community are encouraged to join us for services and events as their time and interests permit.

Sunday, March 24 – Palm Sunday

We will be having an Intergenerational Procession of the Palms remembering Christ's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. All those, of any age, who want to process are encouraged to gather together outside (weather permitting) the front doors before 10:15 AM. We will then be processing into service to special music. In case of inclement weather, we will be gathering in the Green Room.

Monday, March 25, Tuesday, March 26, and Wednesday, March 27 – Open Prayer

Pastor Matthew will have the church sanctuary open for prayer over an extended lunch time from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM. Guided prayer sheets will be available for those who want them and a pastoral prayer will be shared each day at 12:30 PM.

Thursday, March 28 – Maundy Thursday

Service remembering the Last Supper at 6:00 PM – There will be an open sharing of music and prayer in the sanctuary starting at 5:45 PM. At the hour, we will be going to the fellowship hall for dinner and service commemorating the Last Supper. Families are encouraged to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the hall for attendance so we know approximately how many to prepare for. However, last minute attendees are most welcome!

Friday, March 29 – Good Friday

Community Procession of the Cross 11:30 AM – Starts at English Lutheran then finishing at St. Mary's Catholic Church. All are welcome and encouraged to commemorate this most solemn walk in the life of Christ.

Community Services at St. Mary's Catholic Church 12:00 Noon – The annual community Good Friday service is hosted by Bluffton Area Ministerial Association (BAMA).

Evening Services at Bluffton Presbyterian 7:00 PM. This is a time where we reflect on the sacrifice of our Lord Christ on the Cross.

Saturday, March 30 – Holy Saturday

Everyone is encouraged to take a few minutes in personal or family prayer, remembering the events of Holy Week and the blessing of Easter Morning.

Sunday, March 31 – Easter Morning

Easter Breakfast – 8:30 to 9:45 AM. The men of the church will be cooking and serving breakfast Easter Sunday. Join us in celebration of the joy of Easter morning!

Easter Egg Hunt – Starting at 9:28 AM. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth. Weather permitting, it will be outside.

Easter Day services at the normal worship time of 10:15 AM. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special, joyful occasion!

This Sunday will also be our One Great Hour of Sharing. This will be a special time to remember those who are in need throughout the world. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Church joins with a number of other denominations to work together against world hunger and poverty. This Sunday, there will be a special offering to help with this global effort.

Sunday, April 7 – Holy Humor Sunday

On this day we are going to have a special worship service dedicated to the special gift from God that we call humor. So we will be joking and laughing. There are going to be special times during worship when we will tell jokes to each other. Those who want to share a joke are encouraged to bring them to worship (please have jokes that are appropriate for all ages, thanks!).

What is Lent?

Friends in Christ, every year before the Christian Passover of Easter we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community. We thus begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. You are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

— adapted from the Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church, USA



Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Season, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form included in the bulletin to make a monetary donation.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter Lilies and other items needed during the Easter season. The money can be given in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Please place your completed form in the collection plate or send it to the church office at P.O. Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817.



Annual Easter Bake Sale

It's the bake sale Bluffton waits for each year! The Deacons' Annual Easter Bake Sale is Saturday, March 23 in front of Citizens National Bank from 9:00 AM to noon. Everyone is invited to help by either donating baked goods or volunteering to staff the tables. We're seeking donations of delicious treats for Easter dinner tables, including pies, cakes, breads, homemade noodles, pickled eggs, marshmallow treats, candy, and cookies. Do you have Easter crafts you'd like to contribute? We'll be happy to help them get to a good home!

Please take your contributions to the church kitchen before that Saturday, or take to the bank between 8:30 and 9:00 AM that morning. See your Sunday bulletin insert to sign up, or contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046). If you would like to contribute, but are unable to take your treats to the church or the bank, please contact Diane or any of the deacons. Proceeds from the bake sale will be used for local mission projects and to help send our youth to the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University this summer.



One Family Fun Night Chili and Bowling

The next One Family Fun Night will be on Sunday, March 17 following worship. We will gather in the basement for chili and hot dogs and then have a brief program. We will then head to Southgate Lanes for bowling from 1:00 – 2:30 PM.

Not able to bowl, please stay for the lunch and program. Can't stay for lunch, join us for bowling at 1:00 PM. Please sign the sheet in the back of the church so we can be sure to have enough lanes reserved.



Dear Church Family

Thank you for all of the Birthday and Get Well cards I received. I appreciate all of the phone calls and food that was brought in.

Colletta Mullenhour

Expressions of Appreciation

- All who helped with the extensive remodeling project – Owen Ziessler, as well as many others in the church family.
- Those who clear church sidewalks on wintry days – Owen Ziessler, Mike Rhonemus, and others.
- All who continue to share their gifts of music.
- Great cooks in our congregation.
- Cathy Carroll for management of the church office.
- Cindy Gillen for editing our newsletter.
- Nathan Hursh for his electronic contributions.
- Tenna Rhonemus for her continued dedication to our youth.
- Chairs of all committees for their dedication and serving with grace. Committee members for being willing to serve.
- Pastor Matthew for leadership with committees and strengthening our “family bond”.
- Deacons for their awesome work in the past year.
- Everyone in the church family for donating their gifts, time, and talents to our church.

Highlights of February Session Meeting

- Approved “Expenditure Approval Policy” – person requesting to be reimbursed for church expense will need to submit receipt and paperwork.

- Approved “Sexual Misconduct Policy” – requirement of General Assembly. Both policies will be included in our Manual of Operations.
- Approved request by Carole Enneking to use tables for sale at BFR in early March.
- Church will be hosting Session Minutes and Records review session for Maumee Valley Presbytery on February 23.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery held a called meeting to review two churches in the presbytery who wish to leave PCUSA – Ada and Bucyrus. An Administrative Commission was approved to assist in the process. Approved vacation time for Pastor Matthew – February 26-28. Deacons will be available for emergencies.
- Moderator – Shirley Kisor, Secretary – Shirley Kisor, Nominating Committee – Don Carroll, Funeral Dinners – Darlene Hey and Lin Rumer, Bake Sale – Diane Winebar, Prayer Chain/We Care Ministry – Diane Winebar.

Pastor’s Letter

Dear Friends,

If you grabbed a dozen people, young and old alike, off of the streets of Bluffton or Findlay and asked them: “list ten things you think of when you hear the word ‘Easter’”, what do you think you’d hear? Certainly you are likely to hear Christ, Church, and/or church frequently. But what else? Flowers? Eggs? New clothes perhaps. Family, likely. Certainly Easter Baskets and Candy.

It’s likely that over the dozen people, the majority of their ten Easter-related things that church and faith images will be in minority. That’s not to say that the other things on people’s lists are bad things. Family and chocolate are very good things! (Particularly chocolate.) However, they can be distractions.

We aren’t the first people to be distracted at Easter. Basically all the way back to the first Easter, people have been distracted by the world around them, so much so that they are unable to give the proper attention to the spiritual revelation happening before them.

Open your bibles and take a look at John 12:20-36. This passage happens in the last few days of Jesus' ministry on earth and at the height of his popularity. He's on the top. He's getting all the attention. Even outsiders ("Greeks" in the reading) are coming and wanting to meet this special teacher that has set this little corner of the world on fire. When Jesus of Nazareth comes to town, everyone goes to listen.

Keeping this, and the Triumphal Entry in mind, you can just feel the excitement that everyone must be feeling. They might be turning to each other and asking: "Is this the time?" "Will he become the next king?" "Are we finally going to kick out the Romans?" And a host of other questions.

In this middle of all this hope and excitement, Jesus tries to tell them that what is coming next isn't quite what they have been expecting! He tells them that:

- the prince will be driven out,
- he will be lifted up (but I doubt that the cross is how they were expecting!),
- the kernel will fall and die (and even *needs* to die!),
- and that this is the very reason he came.

All of which shares that something is coming around the corner that the people can't quite see. Not only that, but this thing is going to be very, very challenging for them all. Truly, at the cross, most of the followers scatter!

Many a time, we can be much the same way as those people following Jesus over two thousand years ago. It can be easy for us also to become caught up in all the excitement of the Easter Season: family and friends, special music, waving palms, and of course CANDY! It can be easy to be wrapped up in all the excitement of the season, much like we can get wrapped up in the excitement of Christmas, and forget the underlying purpose of the holiday.

This season, it is our challenge to remember that Christ chose death upon a cross as a willing atonement for all of us. When we meet this challenge, we begin to understand what Christ intended when he said: "whoever serves me must

follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." (vs 26)

The challenge will be for us to walk with Jesus in his last weeks, sit with him at the last supper, and even walk with him up to the cross on Good Friday, and then be willing to sit in darkness awaiting his Easter return. Let us affirm this year that we are steadfast followers and walk the whole way. We will watch out for the distractions. Perhaps even enjoy them for a while, but ultimately refuse to become caught up in them. We will strive, to not get lost in the excitement, but remain true to Christ.

In the Peace of Christ,
Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke

Did you see that the colors in the church changed for Lent? No longer using the green for Ordinary Time, we are now hanging purple banners and Pastor is using purple stoles. What does purple signify to you in the story of Easter? How does its use make you feel?



*For God so loved
the world that he
gave his one and
only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

Relay for Life Team

We are looking for a volunteer to start a Presbyterian Relay for Life team. The relay is June 21 at Bluffton College Stadium. Anyone interested can contact Lynda Best 419-358-5858 or lbst43@embarqmail.com



Mission to Richland Manor

In response to the expressed desire for more hands-on mission projects, the Mission Committee is inviting members of the congregation to engage in mission at Richland Manor. We know there are residents of that facility who do not enjoy regular or frequent visits from family members. We propose, therefore, that members of Bluffton Presbyterian church adopt Richland Manor as a place to provide friendly visits and life-enriching experiences.

Our plan is that members and groups from our congregation visit Richland Manor on the first Saturday afternoon of each month. We expect that different groups might provide different kinds of experiences for the residents. For example, on the first Saturday of our commitment to Richland Manor, April 6, we propose that members who own friendly pets, especially dogs, bring them to the facility for visits to residents who enjoy interactions with pets, but don't have them available. The Richland Manor staff has suggested that the hours between 1:00 and 2:30 PM would work best, so we'll plan to meet at the facility around 1:00 PM with pets in tow.

If you are interested in participating in this new opportunity, please speak with Pastor Matthew, Beth Buist, Shirley Kisor, or George Stultz. We hope this new congregational mission opportunity will be an entrée to continuing and lasting relationships between our members and Richland Manor residents.

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next opportunity for members to serve at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is April 4. Plan to meet in the church parking lot at 9:40 AM to carpool. Anyone who would like to volunteer that day, please contact Shirley Kisor.

Hospice Volunteer Training Courses

Bridge Home Health and Hospice, a non-profit organization providing home health care and hospice services, will offer training courses for prospective volunteers beginning on Tuesday, March 12.

The training will be held in the Wenner conference room at Birchaven Village, located at 15100 Birchaven Lane in Findlay, and will take place for six consecutive Tuesdays from 1:00 to 3:30 PM.

Courses will cover topics such as the basic principles of hospice, understanding the special needs of patients and their families, effective communication, patient care, pain and symptom management, spiritual care giving, and understanding grief and loss.

No previous hospice experience is necessary; however, volunteers must be at least 18 years old.

Following training, volunteers can choose a special area of involvement such as caregiver relief, bereavement, nursing home visitors, gift of dreams, hospice care center, or clerical work.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to request an application packet, contact Julie Tiell, Bridge Hospice volunteer coordinator, by phone at 419-423-5351 or by email at jtiell@bvhealthsystem.org.

Food Pantry Meal Sunday

Reminder: Our church continues to support the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. With the reorganization of the food pantry, our congregation is encouraged to continue to emphasize the 3Cs: cereal, crackers, and cookies. There is also a current need for canned fruit. If you would like to continue to support this mission, please bring donations the second Sunday of each month. Our church has also been placed on the program coordinator's list – so stay tuned for opportunities to help organize donations during local events promoting our local food pantry.



BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or dwinebar711@gmail.com), and she will begin circulating the request. You may also call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and they will pass along the information.

Do you feel drawn to this ministry? If you would like to be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Diane or another deacon.



Prayer Luncheon

"Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet." (James 5:13-15)

Pastor Matthew will be hosting a Prayer Luncheon in the church basement. Come for a simple meal, followed by a time of guided prayer for our church family, community, and world concerns. We will be having a similar Prayer Luncheon on the last Monday of each month at 11:00 AM.

This is a wonderful time for those in the prayer chain, in caring ministries, and those who just feel that they would like to join to come together in support.

The next Prayer Lunch will be March 25, at 11:00 AM. Everyone welcome!

Prayers of Sympathy with Geraldine Sullivan-Clark and the Zuehlke family on the recent death of Margaret Giordano.

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

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Robert Braden, Gordan Diller, Kathryn Wade, Stella Tomlin, Robert Winebar, Kerry Dickey, Jeni Spikerman, Donna Joyce, Bill Gable Sr., Bob Angus, Mariah Pneuman, Mary Barnett, Linda Flores, and Richard Hine.

Happy Birthday!!



March	2	Emily Sycks
	3	Jacob Szabo
	4	Claralice Wolf
	8	Myrna Engelhardt
	9	Tom Hursey
	14	Erin Hotmire
	16	Jana McVetta
	23	Jeremy Scoles
	24	Darrel Hotmire
	26	Laura From
	28	Drew Gable
April	31	Lindsey McCracken
	1	Megan Sycks
	2	Danielle Rhonemus
	3	Brian Edelbrock
	4	Beth Buist
	5	Helen Hawk
	8	Ashlin Gable

Youth Group

The Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, March 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for our monthly meeting. We will discuss our roles in helping to lead the Good Friday Worship Service.



Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

Thursday – Maple Crest at 1:30 PM

Saturday – Maple Crest at 9:30 AM

Contact Beth Buist, George Stultz, Jeanette Warren, Jayne McGarrity or Roy Pneuman for more information.

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group is in need of yarn. Any odds and ends of yarn you would like to donate would be greatly appreciated.



January Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 13,087.87
Receipts	8,221.20
Expenses	(10,115.61)
Balance	\$ 11,193.46

To be paid back \$ 740.00

Per Capita

It's not too late 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 \$27.95 per member in 2013. Thank You!

April 14 Fellowship for Debt Pay-Back!

The Session and the Stewardship Committee are pleased to announce that BPC's debt pay-back will be fully paid off in March or early April! Completion of pay-back is an important blessing, and we are very thankful for your gifts and diligence necessary to reach this milestone.

In celebration, please plan on attending worship on April 14 when Pastor Matthew will reflect on this milestone. We will also have fellowship with cookies and drinks following the service.

Thanks to your generosity, completion of pay-back will allow our church to further ministries in other areas. If you have regularly directed pledges or occasionally directed extra donations towards pay-back, please prayerfully direct future gifts to the general fund or to BPC's other ministries.

Pay-back trivia! Did you know?

- We owed the debt to ourselves. The general fund borrowed funds from the special funds (memorial and building funds) during times when the general fund lacked the resources to fully pay bills.
- Session approved the first borrowing in 2006.
- At its height, the outstanding pay-back balance reached \$29,720.
- Pay-back of the debt took several forms, including:
 - Special gifts
 - Designations of pledges
 - Designations of fund-raiser proceeds
 - Month-end transfers from the general fund
 - 2011 and 2012 special year-end transfers from the general fund

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
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419-358-5806

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke
Email: revdrmz@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 567-825-3973
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30-1:00

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

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

2013 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Owen Ziessler
Christian Education – Jay McCracken
Finance – Clair Winebar
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Mariah Pneuman and Tom Edwards
Personnel – Kay Ziessler
Presbytery Commissioner – Darlene Hey
Worship – Rhonda Moor
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Mariah Pneuman, and Donnas Stone

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Shirley Kisor
Members: Don Carroll, Laura From, Darlene Hey, Lin Rumer, and Diane Winebar.