



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

March 2014

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 2 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Sue Van Eman, organist

Lay Reader: Cindy Gillen

Greeters: Owen and Kay Ziessler

Acolytes: Libby and Morgan McVetta

Sunday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Acolytes: Tucker Neff and Jacob Szabo

Sunday, March 9 – 1st Sunday in Lent

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Jeremy Szabo

Greeters: Szabo Family

Acolytes: Paige McVetta and Avery Talavinia

Sunday, March 16 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Dave Sycks

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolytes: Sarah Gillen and Megan Sycks

Sunday, March 23 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Tanya Best, Lori Schmidt - Bell Duet

Lay Reader: Tammie Hursh

Greeters: Dave and Shirley Kisor

Acolytes: Wyatt Marshall and James Freidenberg

Sunday, March 30 – 4th Sunday in Lent

Choir

Lay Reader: George Stultz

Greeters: McVetta Family

Acolytes: Will Neff and Jacob Szabo

Sunday, April 6 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Communion/3 Cents a Meal Offering

Acolytes: Libby and Morgan McVetta

Mark Your Calendars!

- March 2 – Youth Group – 5:00-7:00 PM
- March 5 – Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 PM
- March 9 – Daylight Savings Time Begins – Spring Forward



- March 12 – Praise Team Practice – 7:30 PM
- March 13 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- March 16 – St. Patrick's Day Potluck – Following Worship
- March 19 – Deacon Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- March 30 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- April 3 – Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:40 AM – Church Parking Lot
- April 5 – Youth Group – 8:00-10:00 AM
- April 6 – Chili Dinner and Bowling – Following Worship



Announcement Procedure

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

March Worship Leader – Tenna Rhonemus

Coffee Talk

Wednesday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

Choir Practice

Wednesday – Church Sanctuary – 6:30-7:30 PM

Ash Wednesday - Ashes to Ashes and Dust to Dust; And New Life!

Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday evening. We will begin our worship by receiving ashes as we enter the door. Ashes are a reminder of the **human condition**: mortality and falling short. But our worship will then take us into Christ and new life, our **faith condition**! As a part of our worship we will celebrate the “disposition of ashes”, taking them off, as we move to the communion table. Please join us for a celebration of faith and new life as we begin the season of Lenten focus.



It's Lent. What are you taking on?

By the time you read this, Ash Wednesday will be at hand. The Lenten Journey will be beginning. But let me counsel caution before you invest heavily in “giving something up” for Lent. Let me pose the question: is the “faith” problem what you need “to give up”, or is the problem what you need “to take on.” Building a new life requires BOTH.

Lent has traditionally been a season of remorse and penance. But it is also a season of repentance – that is change and new life.

As you may have guessed, for me, the more significant of the two, remorse or repentance, is the latter: the life change of repentance. Faith is about the new life that you are taking on. What you take on (God’s purpose and the “new life in Christ”) helps you to leave the past behind. It not only keeps you busy, it directs your growth. It calls you to God’s future! It calls you further in God’s purpose, rather than leaving you stuck in your own agenda.

Make your Lenten choices wisely as you consider what you will “give up” and what you will “take on.” There is not only falling short to leave, there is a life of faith to pursue.

Lenten Surprises

Lent begins with a surprise. On Sunday, March 9 we will look at the “temptation narrative”, the account of Jesus time in the desert. I will warn you now: it is not about “temptation”. Not about temptation as we use the term. But that is what is intriguing about faith. As we test it, it takes us to new places. Join us for the Lenten journey; I believe it will offer more than one “surprise”.

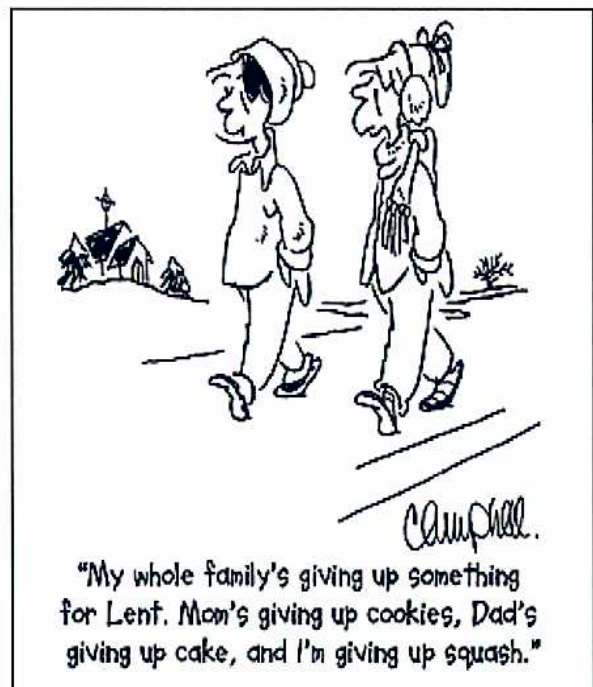
And, Thank You!

Thank you for your warm welcome as I have arrived in Bluffton and landed on Sunset Drive. I am enjoying your vibrant worship, your open minds, and your laughter.

Come see me any time! My office hours are coffee at McDonalds on Wednesday at 8:30 AM, office: Wednesday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, and Thursday through Saturday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. My phone number is 765-993-7791. (If you screen with caller ID, note that my number is an Indiana area code!)

I am glad to be in Bluffton.

Rev. David Good



Highlights of February Session Meeting

- General Assembly statistical reports were submitted online. Received letter from Bismarck Presbyterian Church stating they had contacted the Board of Pensions and asked that our account receive a credit for half of January dues. We have received verification that our account has been credited. Approval given to Michelle Talavinia to use church basement on March 1 for Girl Scout cookie distribution.
- Our church's financial information was submitted to a tool provided by the Presbyterian Foundation which assessed our church's financial health. Report was shared which showed our results – doing well in all areas.
- Lori Schmidt, Diane Winebar, and Gerry Sullivan-Clark attended the “Come and See” for “New Beginnings” – What is God calling your congregation to do and be in this time and in this place? Our church will be required to complete either “New Beginnings” or a Mission Study prior to beginning the search for a new pastor. “New Beginnings” provides the tools/training needed to gather information needed to complete the Ministry Information Form. Assessor (from outside Maumee Valley Presbytery) would conduct the on-site assessment one day during April 21-25. Report would be compiled and shared with church. Leader Cluster Training event would be June 27-28 somewhere in our presbytery. Our church would be expected to send about 7 leaders to be trained. They in turn would facilitate small cluster meetings where members would be asked to attend one cluster meeting to share their thoughts. Price for participating is \$2,800 (if more than one church in MVP participates) or \$3,800 if only one church. Cost covers time/travel expenses for assessors/trainers for cluster training and 10 copies of various reports/information. Approved that BPC would participate in “New Beginnings” at the cost of \$2,800 following the timeline presented by Maumee Valley Presbytery.
- Trash was taken out of manse/garage and the bathtub was re-caulked. Met with M+R because new ovens would not fit space – cabinets were refigured to allow the space needed for the ovens. Non-slip mat was purchased for the front entryway at the church so the tile floor would not be slippery. Because of our wintry weather it's been necessary for the sidewalks on Main St./Cherry St. to be cleaned numerous times - \$40 per time and additional \$15 for calcium chloride if icy. Our snow blower is presently being stored in the Senior Citizen's shed. Bob Neff has been contacted to get names for local general contractors for Building Restoration Project. Tom Hursey is making arrangements for meeting with them to provide information about our proposed project.
- Approved to continue having Session meetings on second Thursday of each month during Pastor Dave's duration.

2014 Per Capita Dues

2014 per capita dues are \$28.10 per member, or a total of \$3,653 for our 130 members. If you are able, please contribute by noting “per capita” with your payment for your family or for others that may not be able to contribute. Of the \$28.10 total dues, \$7.02 supports General Assembly, \$3.25 supports the Synod of the Covenant, and \$17.83 support Maumee Valley Presbytery.

Stewardship Campaign and 2014 Commitments

The Stewardship Committee and Session thank you very much for your 2014 commitments/pledges which so far total 37 commitments for \$83,712. If you have not yet had a chance to turn in your commitment, we encourage you to still do so. As a reminder, commitments can be updated throughout the year to reflect changes in circumstances. Expressing your commitment helps Session budget for the best use of projected funds.

Building Restoration Project Commitments

We are making steady progress on commitments/pledges for the much needed Building Restoration Project.

- Estimated total project cost: \$110,000
- Amount to be paid from memorial and special funds: \$30,000
- Amount to be raised from member and friend commitments/pledges: \$80,000
- Payment period for commitments begins now and runs through December 2015

Please remember that it is important for the church office to hear from each member and friend household/family. All commitments are important regardless of size, even if your commitment cannot be financial and needs to consist of moral support! Please be sure to pick up a commitment card located at the sanctuary doorways or print one on your own (see below in newsletter) and drop in the offering or send to the church office.

Thank you for your prayerful support of this necessary and worthy project!



St. Patrick's Day Potluck Hosted by Deacons

Stay after worship on March 16, and enjoy a meal and a time of fellowship. There will be an opportunity to learn about Celtic Christian traditions as Pastor Dave shares information about Celtic crosses that he and his wife, Jane, create for use in their art ministry. Come see samples of their work!

Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Beverages will be provided.

Deacons

- Renewals for our church's two subscriptions to Presbyterians Today, our denomination's monthly magazine, have been ordered. The magazines are in the narthex. Feel free to borrow a copy for a short time.
- We are still in the process of collecting birthdates and anniversary dates from our members and friends. If you haven't already provided this information, your CARE deacon will be asking for it in the coming weeks. We want to be able to celebrate milestones together.
- Thanks to Gerry Sullivan-Clark for volunteering to be a prayer warrior on the BPC prayer chain.
- The deacons' annual Easter Bake Sale will be held Saturday, April 12 (Palm Sunday weekend) from 9 AM to noon in front of Citizens National Bank. This all-church effort is always a Bluffton crowd pleaser! Sign-up forms will be in the bulletins beginning later this month, or you may call a deacon to let us know what you can donate. We'll gladly pick up your goodies if you can't make it to town.



One Family Fun Night Chili and Bowling

The next One Family Fun Night will be on Sunday, April 6 following worship. We will gather in the basement for chili and hot dogs and then head to Southgate Lanes for bowling from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. Not able to bowl, please stay for the lunch and program. Can't stay for lunch, join us for bowling at 12:30 PM. Please sign the sheets in the back of the church so we can be sure to have enough lanes reserved.

Weekday Christian Education Walkers

Our next assigned day to provide the walkers to escort the students to Weekday Christian Education is Tuesday, March 25. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex if you are available to help.

Youth Group

The youth group will be meeting on Sunday, March 2 from 5:00-7:00 PM for our monthly meeting. Our April meeting will be on Saturday, April 5 from 8:00-10:00 AM, please note this is a time change. A meal will be provided at each meeting, along with a Bible study and games.

The April meeting will serve as the "Kick-off" to the fund raising for the 30 Hour Famine to be held May 2-3. If you have friends that would like to participate in the 30 Hour Famine invite them to the meeting on April 5, so they can learn about the event. Please let Tenna know if they will be attending the meeting, so appropriate plans can be made.

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen serving date will be **Thursday, April 3**. If interested in serving others, please contact Shirley Kisor (419-358-0085). We typically meet at the church parking lot around 9:40 AM and return around 12:30 PM.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

If you are interested in teaching either of the youth classes for the Spring session (April and May), please see Jay McCracken or any other member of the Christian Education Committee.

Presbytery Commissioner

We are in need of a Presbytery Commissioner to represent our church at Maumee Valley Presbytery meetings. MVP meets about 4-5 times a year in various parts of our presbytery – northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Only requirement is that you must be an Elder (does not have to be currently serving). If you are interested, please contact Lori Schmidt, Cathy Carroll, or Pastor David Good.

Nursery Care

The church has hired Lynsee Lawler and Kori Phipps to provide child care during Sunday School and Worship. This will create a more consistent environment for the toddlers and allow all families to participate in worship.

Bulletin Boards

If anyone would like to do the bulletin boards in the downstairs hallway, contact Jeanette Warren at 419-358-6263. They need to be changed for the different seasons and holidays, and church calendar or church events.

Bluffton Presbyterian Church 2013-15 Building Restoration Project

Recognizing the key role of our church building in the life of our congregation, I/we prayerfully commit as follows towards the critical maintenance project required to keep our building sound. Commitments may be made as an immediate lump sum or periodically between December 2013 and December 2015.

\$_____ total commitment to the project, pledged in the following manner:

\$_____ one-time payment or gift, \$_____ weekly, or \$_____ (monthly)(quarterly)

(signature[s])

(name[s] printed)

This commitment may be updated due to changes in circumstances.



Many thanks to the Congregation of this Church for the cards, letters, prayers, food, and condolences after my father's death. It was a difficult time for my family, but knowing that we were not alone and had many friends who cared has made all the difference. We are very grateful for this Congregation and the warmth of its people.

Tammie Hursh, the Hursh Family, and the Family of Charles Johns

Ladies of the Presbyterian Church,

We would like to thank you for the wonderful meal you provided after Myrna's funeral service. It was very good. I was also very kind of you to do this for the family.

DJ and Dave Engelhardt

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for your recent donation to our shelter. Your kindness and support are truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Samaritan House

New Address

Joel Kimmel
Room 303, Hilty Memorial Home
304 Hilty Dr.
Pandora, OH 45877
Phone: 419-384-3104



Prayers of Celebration as we welcome Rev. David Good to our Congregation.

Prayers of Sympathy with Tammie, Bob, Nathan, Madison, and family on the recent loss of Tammie's father Charles John.

Prayers of Sympathy with Darlene Hey and family on the recent loss of her brother Harold Crouse.

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Gordan Diller, Brenda Anderson, Curtis Champion, Jill Burkholder, Michael Lee Bucher, Claralice Wolf, and Joel Kimmel.



BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or dwinebar711@gmail.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 Diane or another deacon.

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 11.

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 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, care center, 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.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. Because of your donations we were able to make a donation of \$145 to the Bluffton Area Community Assistance Program.

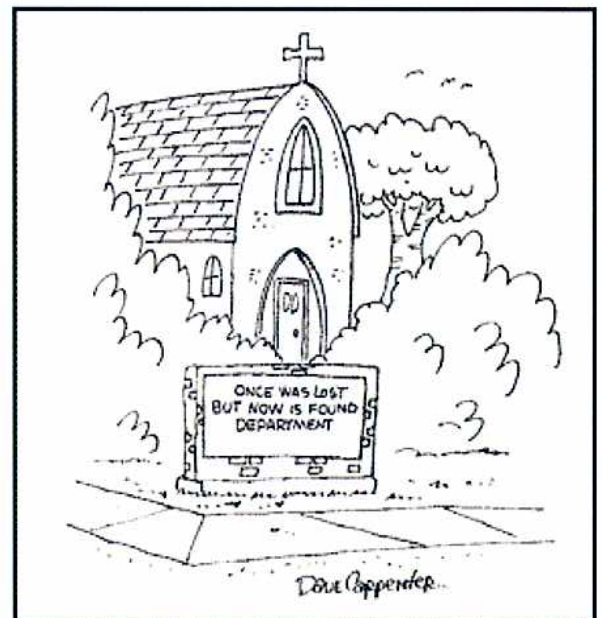
Lost and Found

Someone left a bow in the office (from a stringed instrument) since Christmas Eve. See Cathy Carroll to get it back.

Happy Birthday!!



March	1	Greg Culbertson
	2	Emily Sycks
		Jane Benroth
	3	Jacob Szabo
	4	Claralice Wolf
	6	Deejay Aquirre-Jones
	9	Tom Hursey
	13	Hazel Rodabaugh
	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



Attached photos of children in George Stultz's daughter, Eth's, 4th grade class in Columbus Public Schools showing them sporting the hats, mittens, and scarves Min Lindsey and others knit for them last Christmas.



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

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

2014 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey
Christian Education – Jay McCracken
Finance & Stewardship – Cindy Gillen
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Dave Kisor and Cindy Gillen
Personnel – Lori Schmidt
Presbytery Commissioner
Worship – Jeanette Warren
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Rhonda Moor, Donnas Stone, and Dave Kisor

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Diane Winebar
Members: Don Carroll, Laura From, Lin Rumer, and Kay Ziessler.