



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## November 2018

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, November 4 – All Saints' Day**  
**Communion / 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Special Music: Lori Schmidt  
Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo  
Liturgist: Carla Montgomery  
Greeters: Tanya Best and Beth Buist  
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

**Sunday, November 11 – Veterans Day**

Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar  
Liturgist: Ryan Brauen  
Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall  
Acolytes: Owen and Clara Brauen

**Sunday, November 18**

Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Leslie Freed  
Liturgist: Linda Rumer  
Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar  
Acolytes: McVetta Girls

**Sunday, November 25**

Special Music: Jeremy Szabo  
Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Liturgist: Jana McVetta  
Greeters: Jeremy and Julia Szabo  
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

**Sunday, December 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**Communion / 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo  
Liturgist: Beth Buist



### Mark Your Calendars!

- November 1 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- **November 3 – Remember to move clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.**
- November 4 – Communion, All Saints' Day
- November 4 – Pledge Sunday – Please bring your pledge card for 2019
- November 4 – Pass the Spirit Fellowship – Hosted by Deacons – Following Worship
- November 4 – Communion service at Maple Crest – 1:30 PM – Patio Room
- November 4 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- November 10 – Reams Display Set-up – 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM – Light lunch provided
- November 10 – Blanket Tying at Maple Crest – 1:00 PM – Craft Room
- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 11 – Faith Formation Committee – Immediately after Worship
- November 13 – Presbytery Meeting – Tecumseh, MI
- November 14 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- November 16-18 – Presbytery High School Retreat – Kirkmont Center in Zanesfield
- November 17 – Children/Youth Rehearsal – 9:00 to 10:30 AM
- November 22 – Thanksgiving
- November 24 – Blaze of Lights Chicken BBQ Dinner Fundraiser – 4:30 to 7:30 PM
- November 25 – Hanging of the Greens – Immediately Following Worship
- November 25 – Newsletter Items Deadline [CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- November 29 – Christian Education Walkers – See Schedule in Newsletter
- December 2 – Children/Youth Rehearsal – 3:30 to 5:00 PM

## Pastor's Letter

At the end of September, I attended a conference called Stewardship Kaleidoscope. One of my most important gleanings from this conference was something rather basic: saying thank you.

Saying thank you is something we teach young children so that they are polite and learn their manners when interacting with others. We teach it as an obligation in response to a gift, with the hopes that the feeling of thankfulness will eventually accompany the expression. As adults, do we sometimes find ourselves in the habit of thanking from obligation, without allowing ourselves to experience the full joy of the feeling of gratitude?

In any long-term relationship, saying thank you can become a rote habit or can fall away completely. That's unfortunate. Feeling real gratitude for what someone else has done can help maintain a strong connection in the relationship. This is true in personal relationships, and it is also true in communal relationships, such as the faith community of the local church.

Many people remain active in the same faith community for a significant portion of their life. What a gift of faithfulness and commitment! It is quite possible that as pastors and church leaders come and go, those members who faithfully serve and give, often in quiet, behind-the-scenes ways, are acknowledged less and less. Hopefully, giving and serving are internally motivated. Nevertheless, it is vital to making all participants feel valued to express thanks in both general and specific ways. All gifts deserve to be acknowledged, and most everyone likes to feel appreciated!

So, as we enter the month of November, when Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, let us be thankful for anyone and everyone who contributes to Bluffton Presbyterian Church in any way: time, talents, and treasures. There is no limit to the methods and number of times in which our thanks can be expressed. In acknowledging the gratitude we feel for one another, let's not forget the first part we learned when we were young: find a way to say thank you!

In Christ,

*Pastor Karol*

## Blessing of the Animals



Thanks to all two- and four-legged creatures who took part in the October 6 Blessing of the Animals!

## Personnel Committee

It is time for our yearly job evaluations of staff. The Personnel Committee welcomes any praises, comments, or suggestions for staff that you may have to be mentioned to us.

Thank you,  
Betsey Angus, Chair  
Jodi Brauen and Tom Edwards

## Small Groups

The Claralice Circle meets every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the BPC Fellowship Hall.

The Sister Min Circle will meet November 9 and November 30 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM at Maple Crest.

## Choir

The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. New members are welcome!

## Highlights of October's Session Meeting

- Electronically approved request for Fultz Sign Company to create and install three church signs (front 4x6 with two posts, white office sign, and sign for rear of building) at the cost of \$2,685 with money to be taken from Triplett Presbyterian Foundation money with remaining amount from 2017 Richard Evans' Bequest (9-0). Electronically agreed to keep front bushes (9-0). Approved to remove Katie McCracken from "other" list since she joined the Roman Catholic Church in September. Review of Membership roll completed by Pastor and Clerk. Received official letter from MVP sharing that the Urban Toledo Project was unable to secure enough funds and therefore project is not moving ahead – releasing us from our three-year commitment.
- There are small cracks in floor of basement bathroom shower – various options discussed. Approved to purchase "Shower Floor Repair Inlay" for approximately \$100 to be installed by Kim Best. New faucet has been purchased to replace leaky sink faucet in the manse basement. Crack in paint in upstairs bedroom closet – to be repainted. Owen Ziessler working on putting an electrical outlet on the outside of the garage. Church had a small water leak in basement overnight on October 6; water is gone; likely cause is outside drain blocked by leaves. Drain grate has been cleared of leaves. Batteries were changed in all detectors. House of Hindenach said cleaning speaker grills would be very difficult since they are secured in the attic. Old paint cans and broken chairs were removed from furnace room area. Light bulb changed in motion detector light. Brush in pine trees by parking lot was removed. Lynda Best trimmed bushes at church.
- Alley – Stamped concrete has been laid and sealed. Alley is now open and handicap entrance is accessible. Ryan was meeting with group concerning "plantings". Church signs – have been installed.
- Pastor Karol was given a Panera Gift Card for Pastor Appreciation Month.
- During the last month Pastor Karol participated in the following – Pastoral Care Activities: 5 home/hospital/nursing home visits, 5 conversations, 8 cards sent. Home communion: 2 visits with Deacon Helen Hawk. Congregational activities: Word in the World discussion group (weekly), Claralice Circle, Sister Min Circle, Community Picnic, led Sunday LIFT, Blessing of the Animals Service, Pastor Relations Committee, and committee meetings. Presbytery activities: Presbytery Meeting FPC Huron, New Pastors' Gathering (twice). Community Engagement: met with another pastor and BAMA Meeting. Shared highlights from Continuing Education Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference. Approved granting Continuing Education for Pastor Karol to attend CREDO: October 15-21, 2019 and October 12-19, 2020 at cost of \$500 per year. Event is sponsored by Board of Pensions and requires a two-year commitment.
- Presbytery met on September 16 in Huron – very warm non-air-conditioned church! Pastor Karol elected to serve on the Commissioned Ruling Elders Committee. Approved raising Presbytery's Per Capita portion \$1 for 2019 (noted that money from Per Capita does not cover expenses – using bequest money to make up difference). Approved that the Reverend Doctor Matthew David Meinke be employed for the position of General Presbyter for MVP beginning November 1 – approved terms. Youth Triennium to be held at Purdue University in July – promoting to send group from our presbytery. Welcomed – Rev. Ann Wasson (Defiance), Rev. Thomas James (Toledo Eastminster) and Rev. James Hodsden (Norwalk). Rev. Lynn Bova, Interim Presbyter for Common Life through October 31, was recognized for her work in the presbytery for many years. She will be serving as Interim Pastor for church in Miami Valley Presbytery. Rev. Roy Pneuman was remembered for his most recent service with Committee on Ministry. Time spent discussing/sharing ideas for Presbytery reorganization – based on three geographical areas with three main committees. Churches would have liaisons from these committees.

- Information shared on the proposed “Electrical Easement Request” – In order to power the alley and the Blaze lights from a new electrical service and remove these loads from the churches electrical service an easement will be necessary to mount the electrical panels. Looking at an approximate 6' wide easement along the grass portion of our property between the handicap ramp and the parking lot. Village would write up the request and Jay McCracken has agreed to review. MVP has been consulted and feels Session has power to approve this request. Approval given for Village to use church yard for Reams Display – November 3 and 10 – Lynda will talk with Jessie about proof of insurance. Church’s 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be in 2019 – discuss possible activity next year.



## Hanging of the Greens

Mark your calendars! Sunday, November 25, immediately following worship will be the annual decorating of the church for Christmas. The more volunteers we have the quicker it goes.

## Deacons Report

As we enter the month of November we reflect on how vital it is for us to give thanks for all the Lord’s blessings. The Deacons would like to thank everyone who chooses a name from the baskets passed during the November 4 Pass the Spirit Moment for Mission. Those whom you chose will be blessed to receive your card, note, or visit in the coming month. It is wonderful to be able to share Christ’s love with one another.

A \$300 donation was given to the Bluffton Food Panty to help with upcoming holiday needs.

We are continually looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping to provide transportation for our elder members to church services. It would only be one Sunday a month. If you are interested in helping please contact Pastor Karol or any Deacon.



## Christian Education Walkers

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to walk the children so far this year. Here are the upcoming dates and times. If you are willing to volunteer, please sign up in the back of the sanctuary or contact Tenna Rhonemus.

Thursday November 29 Grades 1-5	Thursday December 20 Grades 1-5
8:50- 9:20 Jeff Gillen 419-378-0735	8:50- 9:20
9:25- 9:55 Jeff Gillen 419-378-0735	9:25- 9:55
12:25- 12:55	12:25- 12:55
1:00- 1:30	1:00- 1:30
1:45- 2:15 Rev. Karol Farris 419-581-9232	1:45- 2:15
2:25- 2:55 Rev. Karol Farris 419-581-9232	2:25- 2:55



## Little Free Pantry

We are in need of supplies for the **Little Free Pantry**. Items you may consider donating: boxed food, (cereal, etc.), dry mixes, rice, noodles, peanut butter, personal hygiene items, paper towels, Kleenex, baby items. Please drop off directly in the pantry or in the church office.





- Members of Ignite passed out candy and glow sticks on Trick or Treat night in Bluffton.
- Forgot to get a picture, but a great time was had by all at the home of Don and Cathy Carroll on Saturday, October 27. Rain and cold weather prevented a bon fire, but had a great meal and fellowship inside.
- Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful and the start to a season of giving. Please join us as we warm the hearts of our neighbors with a smile and their palates with some hot cocoa. The group's next planned event is the Blaze of Lights. We plan to hand out free hot chocolate on the big day, Saturday, November 24. Please contact Sarah Brauen, 419-236-0099 or [snbrauen@gmail.com](mailto:snbrauen@gmail.com), if you are interested in volunteering or donating. For donations, we will need canisters of hot chocolate, coffee cups/lids, and Redi Whip.
- Ignite members will be participating in the Blaze of Lights Chicken BBQ headed up by Mission on Saturday, November 24. See Lynda Best to volunteer.
- Ignite is planning to visit those who are homebound to share Christmas Carols in December. Please watch for more details to be shared at worship and in the bulletins.

## Mission Committee

We will be having a chicken dinner at the Blaze of Lights on November 24 from 4:30 to 7:30 PM. Session has voted to give the proceeds to Laura and Tyler to go towards a newer accessibility van. We will be promoting it as a fundraiser. Anyone who would like to help work or donate pop can contact Lynda Best by November 10 at 419-296-2790. We will also need help selling tickets. You can pick up a pack to sell or buy at church beginning Sunday, November 4.

We will work on tying blankets at Maple Crest on Saturday, November 10 at 1:00 PM for about an hour and a half. Everyone is welcome, it will be in the craft room downstairs. We could really use at least one volunteer, please contact Lynda Best. We will be tying the blankets for Family Promise and Adopt-a-Family. If you can't make it to Maple Crest and would still like to make some blankets, we would appreciate it. There will be some fleece in the back of the church, but also feel free to buy your own.

The Reams display will be set up on our church lawn on November 10 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Anyone wanting to help with setting up the display would be greatly appreciated, please sign up in the back of the church. The church will be fixing a light lunch for those helping set up. We could use 4 dozen cookies and 3 packages of hamburger buns. If you would like to donate, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church.

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

## Adopt a Family

We will be adopting families through the Bluffton Community Assistance Program again this year to provide Christmas gifts. Please watch for more details to be shared at worship and in the bulletins.



Dear Friends,

It seems like the Stewardship/Finance Committee is in the habit of asking you for donations – at least once a year – but we rarely report back to you to let you know what has become of the money you give. So, we would like to do that now. You are probably already aware that much of the budget goes for ensuring that on Sunday we're inspired by wonderful music and provocative thoughts from Pastor Karol. But did you know that:

- This year for the first time we allocated some of our budget to marketing – in other words to raising the community's awareness of our church. For example, since early this year, preview ads at the Shannon Theater include a message from us. This enables us to talk to families – many of them with young children – about what is going on at our church.
- Our support helped make the village alley beautification project next door possible. It isn't quite complete, but you can begin to imagine what it will look like when it's finished. The alley might be put to any number of uses. For example, it could become a Music Alley where a guitar player might plunk away during lunch time and people who usually eat a sandwich at their place of work might instead come out and listen.
- Have you seen the new signs? For a long time, we have relied on the sign at the corner to give basic information about us to the community. It has done a good job, but it doesn't reach everyone. For example, those traveling south on Main or parking their cars in the lot might miss it.
- Further, we are embodying Jesus' command to care for "the least of these" by serving the community meal at the Senior Center and participating in the Family Promise program of caring for the displaced at local churches.

Some projects have been supported by the current year's budget and some by memorial funds given earlier. We felt comfortable putting memorial funds to work since our current year's budget is in balance.

As you prayerfully consider your gratitude for all that this congregation offers to you and others, we hope you will take a few moments to discern your personal ability to support the church, and then complete your pledge card for next year. When you bring your pledge card to worship on **November 4**, please remember that a generous donation will help us to reach out sufficiently to our community again in 2019.

Sincerely, The Stewardship Committee  
Rev. Karol Farris, Barbara Fett, Dick McGarrity,  
George Stultz, Clair Winebar

## Sunday LIFT

Have you tried our new inter-generational learning experience, Sunday LIFT? If not, please join us in the basement fellowship hall from 9:00 to 10:00 on Sunday mornings, for Bible Study, play, prayers, and a light breakfast. This is a time for all ages to come together and grow their faith in an interactive environment.

If you have tried Sunday LIFT and enjoyed the experience, we would like you to consider hosting a Sunday experience. We will provide you the session plan, we have a closet full of supplies, and we can help coordinate partners to help supply breakfast. If you would like to volunteer, please see Pastor Karol or Tenna Rhonemus.

## Children / Youth Service

The children and youth will be leading worship on Sunday, December 9. We will have rehearsals on Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 to 10:30 AM, Sunday, December 2 from 3:30 to 5:00 PM, and Saturday, December 8 from 9:00 to 10:30 AM.

## Youth Group

The youth group will meet from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on November 4. Following a meal together, we will continue our discussion of discipleship. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend!



## Prayer Requests

**Prayers of Sympathy** for Chris Hochstettler and family on the recent loss of her father-in-law Paul Hochstettler.

**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 Sue Mathewson, Sally Reeder, David Rempelsmucker, Dr. Howard Shelly, Blake Stutzman, Carolyn Dahms, Cheryl Martin, Kathy Cook, Tanya's cousin Martha, Sarah Ransome, Anne Badertscher, Grant Kinsinger, Brandon Koch, and Linda Smith, Allison Spangler.

## 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.

## Birthdays

November	2	Molly McCracken
		Julia Szabo
	7	Gayle Marshall
		Nathan Hursh
	8	Morgan McVetta
	10	Owen Brauen
December	15	Jeff Gillen
	26	Madison Hursh
	28	Clara Brauen
	29	Olivia Parker
	4	Marilyn Edwards
		Jim Enneking
	5	Ariana Zuehlke



\*\*\*\*\*

## THANK YOU!

I’m so thankful for the kindness and support you’ve shown me for Pastors’ Appreciation Month! Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. I’m grateful for this call to serve among you.

In Christ,  
Pastor Karol

\*\*\*\*\*

## Receipts Reminder

If you have Community Market receipts, please bring them in and place them in the baskets on the bulletin board or in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you to Kay Ziessler for coordinating our congregation’s participation in this rewards program.

## Paper Recycling

Please note that paper recycling is available in the front and back of the sanctuary. Place any unwanted bulletins, etc. in the blue bins, and all other trash in the trash bins. Thank you!

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

Faith Formation: 9:00 AM  
Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris  
Phone: 419-581-9232  
Email: [pastor@blufftonpc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonpc.org)  
Office Hours: Mon 2-5, Tues 9-2,  
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 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  
Faith Formation – 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,  
Helen Hawk, Mike Rhonemus, and  
Dave Van Eman