



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

October 2014

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, October 5 – World Communion**

**3 Cents a Meal Offering**

**Peacemaking Offering**

Trio: Linda Sycks, Julia Szabo, Jayne McGarrity

Lay Reader: Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Greeters: The Gillen Family

**Sunday, October 12**

**Food Pantry**

Choir

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Dwight and Jeanie Nichols

Acolyte: Patrick Rhonemus

**Sunday, October 19**

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Helen Hawk

Greeters: The Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

**Sunday, October 26 – Reformation Sunday**

Choir

Lay Reader: Carla Montgomery

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia



**Remember to move clocks back one hour  
before you go to bed Saturday night.**

**Sunday, November 2 – Communion**

**3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Lay Reader: George Stultz

Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Greeters: The Sycks Family

## Mark Your Calendars!

- October 4 – New Beginnings – 10:00 AM at McVetta's
- October 5 – New Beginnings – 2:00 PM at Maple Crest
- October 5 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00-8:00 PM – 5:00 PM Meeting/6:00 PM Leave for Suters Corn Maze
- October 9 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- October 12 – Nominating Committee Meeting – Immediately following worship
- October 15 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 PM
- October 15 – Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- October 15 – Stewardship Committee – 7:30 PM
- October 19 – Bread for the World Sunday
- October 25 – New Beginnings – 10:00 AM at Sycks'
- October 26 – New Beginnings – 2:00 PM at Maple Crest
- October 27 – New Beginnings – 6:30 PM at Winebar's
- October 28 – Newsletter Deadline – [CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto: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.

## Coffee Talk

Wednesday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

## Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM



## Harvest (and planting, and choices)

I am a city boy. So the progression of the seasons still amazes me. (Because it was hidden from my sight across those years.) As the seasons of the fields move, we are now in the season of harvest. Across the last 6 weeks we have moved from the fields being green with life – to them now being dull brown with life stored in the grain and bean. The harvesters are now moving into action.

And with the harvest comes questions. Was it a good harvest? Is there plenty or not? What shall be done with the harvest?

The choir has been singing the following setting of Luke 12. It begins with the rich fool, extolling his wonderful harvest and proclaiming, “I have filled my barns. What shall I do now? I’ll build bigger barns. Fill them and then take my rest. I’ll eat drink and be merry.” But God says, “You fool. This night your soul is required of you; and where will all your riches be?”

The story reduces the whole process of farming to a question with a single point “where will your riches be?” But consider for a minute the way in which farming embodies all the questions of stewardship, and helps us to see the way that stewardship is not just a single question in a single season.

The farmer chooses which fields to plant and which to lie fallow, how much seed to use, how much time to allow for growth, yes, and what to do with the harvest. During this whole process the farmer has to exercise self-control – and not worry – even though many things are outside of their control.

Our stewardship is like this. It is not (just) about money, and it is not just a question decided once for a year. We make decisions about all our gifts and abilities, about all our time and activity. What are faithful directions for these choices? What gifts and abilities do we develop? What do we leave fallow? What former choices do we tend?

Which former choices may now be allowed to rest?

And through all the choices we make there is the purpose – which drives the choices – which is in the background.

Luke is clear about which purposes matter: the purpose of aiding the poor and suffering. For Luke this is the central thrust of God’s purpose: love of neighbor.

We are in a season of stewardship focus, not just in the questions of our support of the church, but also in the sense of being clear about how our church meets and serves our community. Stewardship is fundamentally about what future we pursue. Where will we invest our resources? To what end? To what purpose?

We are like farmers – planting, tending, choosing, harvesting. But we are stewards. Neither the gifts nor the fruit are actually “ours”. We are but stewards. What is it that God wants of us? What choices does God want from us?

An article about stewardship does not end with me telling you what to do. Stewardship is about God’s questions for you. Your choices. Your gifts and how you use them. These questions are ongoing and continual. May you answer them wisely, for Christ’s sake.

## The First Success of 2015

What a great morning we had on Saturday, September 19. Our Concert on the Corner went very well. We were supported by the musical talents of Sycks/McGarrity/Best, and the choir’s work on “The Feast of Life”. A bright fellowship was enjoyed by all.

But it was more than a Saturday in September. It was actually an exploration of our life and fellowship in 2015 – in the heart of Bluffton. We had a chance to try out some new things.

It was a bright success. Thanks to all for the effort. For the fun. And for the promise for the future.

Rev. David Good



## Bread for the World Sunday, October 19

Our congregation will observe Hunger Awareness Sunday on October 19 as part of a nationwide observance of Bread for the World Sunday. Bread for the World is an organization of Christian congregations and individuals who work to increase awareness of hunger issues in America and around the world. The organization focuses on working to support and improve the U.S. government's nutrition and food assistance programs.

World hunger has seen a dramatic reduction over the past 25 years – more than 200 million people have been removed from the hunger statistics. Nevertheless, 805 million people are still hungry. Malnutrition causes nearly half – about 45% – of the deaths of children under the age of five. One in four of the world's children are stunted. In some countries and in the poorer regions of others, the proportion rises to one in three or even higher. Stunted children do not reach their full physical or intellectual potential. Across the developing world, 66 million primary school children attend classes hungry.

In America, 14.5 percent of U.S. households struggle to put enough food on the table. More than 48 million Americans – including 15.9 million children – live in these households. More than one child in five in the U.S. is at risk of hunger.

These international and domestic food insecurity statistics emphasize the importance of government food assistance programs. Bread for the World is an effective advocacy program that seeks to convince lawmakers of how essential continuing and expanding these programs is even in the face of budgetary restrictions. If you would like to support the ministry of Bread for the World, you may make a gift in the offering on October 19 noting "Bread for the World" on your check or pew envelope.

## Knitting Donations

Min Lindsey is accepting donations of yarn so that she can knit winter hats for those in need.

## Journey to Jerusalem

Bluffton University's religion professor, Rev. Randy Keeler, is leading a "Journey to Jerusalem" from December 26 and returning January 7. Cost is \$4,486 all-inclusive. You don't have to be a Bluffton alumnus to sign up! Contact Julia Szabo for more details.



## Mission Committee Needs Help!

Yeah, yeah, I know – we've needed help for years! ;-)

But right now we could really use some assistance. Dave and Shirley Kisor, two of our most faithful and dedicated workers, have escaped to the wilds of Indiana. For the past two or more years, they took the offerings for the Food Pantry over to St. John's after services on every second Sunday. Unfortunately, George has a very bad back, and I have a moderately bad back, so neither of us are really up to hauling sacks of groceries and bags of dog food and cat litter around.

Is there anyone in the congregation willing to take over this mission? It is a once-a-month, half-hour chore. Even if you cannot do it every month, a cadre of part-time grocery haulers would be *greatly* appreciated. If you're willing and able, please see Pastor Dave, George Stultz, or Beth Buist for details.

## Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. If you wish to send Pastor Dave a card, please send to the church:

Bluffton Presbyterian Church  
112 N. Main St.  
P.O. Box 149  
Bluffton, Oh 45817



## Youth Group Announcement

The Youth Group will meet on October 5 from 5:00-8:00 PM. Note this is an extended meeting so we can go the Suter Corn Maze! We will have our meal together, a shortened meeting, and then leave for the Corn Maze at 6:00 PM. We will return to the church by 8:00 PM.

Friends are welcome to join us! Please tell Tenna if you or friends are attending so plans for transportation can be made. There may be a need for adult drivers, if any parents are willing to help please contact Tenna. The cost is \$4.50 for students and \$6.00 for adults.

## Highlights of Sept. Session Meeting

- Approved to repair the organ (controller board died) with estimate being \$2,424.95. Permission was granted to Hancock Horizontal Hundred Bike group to use alley area as a rest area for their recent event.
- On a recent rain the church basement carpet was saturated with rain. Schnipke, our general contractor, will be contacted to see if the new drain was a source of the problem. Session agreed to have the water removed professionally as the carpet was new and we wanted a professional bill if further investigation determined there was a problem with the new drain. Estimates for fill dirt options (for leveling yard and filling in where sidewalk was removed) were discussed. Anticipating the Blaze of Lights to be using the church yard again this year, Session was concerned if there was enough time to have the yard seeded prior to displays going up in early November. Schnipke will be consulted to see if we should reseed now or wait until spring. Church has received a letter from the village concerning parts of the sidewalk on Cherry Street not meeting requirements. The concrete company who did our sidewalks will be asked to evaluate the area and then a decision will be made on how to proceed. A section of gutter on the manse is sagging because nails have come out and will be fixed.

- Next summer will be our church's turn to host the Community Vacation Bible School. It was decided that even though we have less classroom area than before, we will be creative and make it work.
- Discussed installing a PowerPoint multimedia system (three LCD 55" screens – two in front, one in rear, and the computer to drive them) in the sanctuary. Pastor would be responsible for set up/running and system would be used throughout the worship service. Suggested to utilize on a trial basis for one year; system is being made available to the church at no cost. A sample will be set up for October's session meeting for elders to see and then ask for final approval.
- Pastor Dave's activities in the last month included: leading worship, visiting members, weekly breakfasts, committee meetings including New Beginnings, newspaper devotion, attending Bluffton University Church fair with Lin Rumer, and planning concert on the corner for September 20.



## August Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 59,057.56
Receipts	16,173.00
Expenses	(\$10,863.83)
Balance	\$ 64,366.73

Restoration Fund Balance      \$ 46,476.04

## Peacemaking Offering

The church takes a special offering on World Communion Sunday to celebrate the global bonds of Christ's peace-giving. Proceeds of the offering support peacemaking efforts in congregations (25%), mid-councils and the General Assembly (75%) to provide resources and support corporate peacemaking efforts throughout the whole church.





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I am grateful for the BPC Newsletter. It keeps me up-to-date on routine congregational activities, but it also shares people by name and provides a family feeling. I look for the computer edition each month and read through it completely when it arrives. How good it is to be a part of this Presbyterian family which takes care of me.

Carl Wolf

Dear Friends,

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

Sincerely,  
Samaritan House



**Prayers of Sympathy** for the family and friends of Mary Emma Triplett, who passed away September 30.

**Prayers** for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

**Prayers of Healing** for Karen Long; Dusty Klingler; Michael Lee Bucher; Curt Bell; Sharon Essinger; Claralice Wolf; Michael Kucinich; Hazel Rodabaugh; Brenda Anderson; Sammie, Ava, and Lauren; Helen Connode; Libby Cupp; Nancy Gillen; and Jean Braden.



## BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or [dwinebar711@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## New Address:

Sally Reeder  
700 Maple Crest Ct.  
Bluffton, OH 45817



*Happy Birthday!!*

October	1	Owen Scoles
	4	Olivia Sneary
	5	Jennifer Hough
		Robbie McGarrity
	7	Anne McCracken
	8	Phil Weisenbarger
	9	James Freidenberg
	10	Mariah Pneuman
	15	Terry Mullenhour
	18	Amanda Leugers
	20	Don Carroll
	23	Ingo Montgomery
	30	Tonya Best
		Taylor Nowak-Valentine
		Phill Talavinia
November	2	Molly McCracken
		Julia Szabo

# NEW BEGINNINGS

## It's not too late to sign up!!

Monday evening 6:30 PM  
October 27  
Leaders: Lin Rumer and Diana Winebar  
At Winebar's home

Saturday morning 10:00 AM  
October 4 and October 25  
Leaders: Jana McVetta and Dave Sycks  
At McVetta's home October 4  
At Sycks' home October 25

Sunday afternoon 2:00 PM  
October 5 and October 26  
Leaders: Darlene Hey and Tenna Rhonemus  
At Maple Crest

New Beginnings concludes with lunch after church on November 2 and November 16.



**Allen County  
Council on Aging, Inc.**

215 N. Central Ave  
Lima, OH 45801  
419-228-5135



**Office Program Hours**  
8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Monday - Friday

**Transportation Available**  
7:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Monday - Friday



"Serving Allen County Seniors since 1976"

### Transportation

When you begin using transportation services, a Senior Services Resource Specialist will meet with you by appointment in your home.

**Examples of transportation provided:**

- Medical Appointments
- Includes: Doctor, Dentist, Chiropractor, Eye Doctor, Outpatient Testing/Therapy, Dialysis
- Elderly Day Care
- Congregate Meal Sites-Senior Luncheon Cafes
- Optical, Hearing and Prosthetic Centers
- Grocery Shopping
- Prescription Pickup
- Social Security/Human Services
- Banking
- Bill Pay



We are happy to consider other requests.

### SCHEDULING:

To schedule an appointment, call the Council on Aging at **419-228-5135**.

When you call in to request transportation, it may be necessary for you to leave a message on the Transportation Department's Voice Mail. Please leave the following information:

- Your Name, Address, Phone Number
- When and where you need to go (please list each stop you need to make)
- If you are using a cane, walker or wheelchair



## Bluffton Presbyterian Church – Concert on the Corner



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](mailto:mangendave@frontier.com)  
Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and  
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll  
Email: [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com)  
Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:30  
Website: [blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

**Sunday School: 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 – Dave Kisor, Rhonda Moor, and Donnas Stone

### *Board of Deacons*

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