



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

October 2018

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 7 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Julia Szabo

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Dwight and Jeanie Nichols

Acolytes: Owen and Clara Brauen

Sunday, October 14 - Communion

Special Music: Choir

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Helen Hawk

Greeters: Lynda Best and Helen Hawk

Acolyte: McVetta Girls

Sunday, October 21

Special Music: Praise Team

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Leslie Freed

Liturgist: Diane Winebar

Greeters: Mike and Tenna Rhonemus

Acolyte: Owen and Clara Brauen

Sunday, October 28

Special Music: Choir

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Cathy Carroll

Liturgist: Carole Enneking

Greeters: Ryan and Sarah Brauen

Acolytes: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, November 4 - Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Carla Montgomery



Mark Your Calendars!

- October 6 – Blessing of the Animals – 10:00 to 11:00 AM
- October 7 – World Communion Sunday
- October 7 – Fellowship sponsored by Worship Committee – Following Worship
- October 7 – Youth Group – 5:00-8:00 PM – 5:00 PM Meal/Meeting – 6:00 PM Leave for Suters Corn Maze
- October 8 – Family Promise – St. Mary's Catholic Church
- October 11 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- October 17 – Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- October 17 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- October 24 – Mission Committee – 7:30 PM
- October 25 – Trick or Treat – 6:00 to 7:30 PM at Bluffton Presbyterian Church
- October 28 – Nominating Committee – Following Worship
- October 28 – Newsletter Items Deadline CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- **November 3 – Remember to move clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.**
- November 4 – Pass the Spirit Fellowship – Hosted by Deacons – Following Worship

Small Groups

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

This Sister Min Circle meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 2:00 to 3:00 PM in the Family Room at Maple Crest.

Choir

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

Pastor's Letter

At the September 8 church officers' retreat, currently serving elders and deacons considered the topics of evangelism, hospitality, and church growth. While each of these topics could fill a day on their own, we had lively discussion and shared creative ideas on how the three goals are both separate and interrelated.

As a very small sample of what we discussed, consider the following statements from Connie Cole Jeske, as found on Ministry Matters: "What does it mean for us as Christians to love people today? If we are to love people, we must be willing to be in relationship with them. Loving people causes a constant tension, because loving a person necessarily forces me out of my comfort zone. Loving others diverts my attention to them; my focus shifts away from myself. When I actively, consciously, intentionally love others, I go beyond my own sphere into theirs. That may take me to someone's doorstep, but more likely it will take me into a neighborhood laundromat, playground, or coffee shop. And instead of reciting an outline of the gospel message, I will strike up a conversation about whatever the other person is doing or thinking or struggling with at the moment. I'll look for ways to help, to be a friend, to do the loving thing, moment by moment, in relationship. This is a definition of assertive evangelism today. Assertive evangelism and welcoming hospitality may be in tension at times, when we are deciding where to use resources and what efforts to emphasize in our congregations. But they are both ways to love others, and both are important as we answer our call to share the good news of Jesus Christ."

As we continue these sorts of conversations in our faith community, we remember that we can grow both spiritually and numerically. In reflecting on who we are and what we have to offer to those around us, I call us to return often to this prayer: *Loving God, thank you for the gift of having good news to share. Give us bold witness and courage as we talk with those around us who have not experienced the fellowship with you and with one another that we have here. Help us to throw open our doors and invite your people in, through Christ our Savior, Amen.*

In Christ,

Pastor Karol



Blessing of the Animals

Spread the word and join us on the church lawn Saturday, October 6 for a Blessing of the Animals! Members of the congregation and local community, along with their pets, are invited to gather around 10:00 AM and a brief service of blessing will begin at 10:30 AM, concluding by 11:00 AM. Cats, dogs, and others welcome – all animals must be leashed or crated. A pet picture may be brought if preferred. Contact Pastor Karol with any questions regarding the event.



Word in the World

This fall, you are invited to the weekly Word in the World discussions with Pastor Karol. Join us any time you are free on a Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at the Twisted Whisk Café. We enjoy connecting God's word to today's world!



Highlights of September's Session Meeting

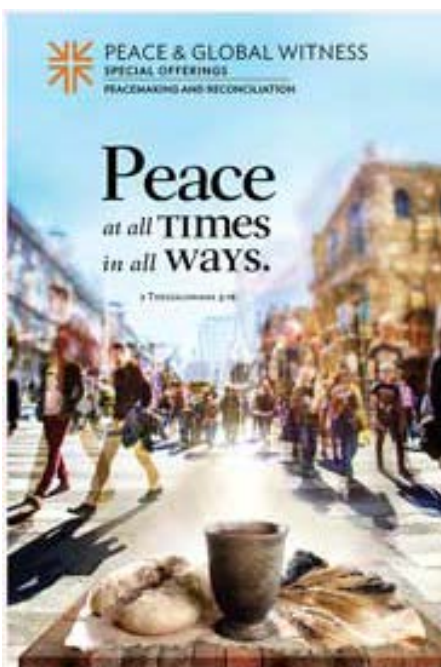
- Approved request to allow Bluffton Community Preschool to hold monthly board meeting at the church on the 3rd Monday. Approved request from Tom Edwards to borrow tables/chairs for neighborhood picnic.
- Carpets/chairs/pews in sanctuary have been cleaned. Stains on hallway wall will not come off, plan to paint with Kilz and then repaint. Sanctuary fans cannot be reached with extended brush. M+R cleaned outdoor AC unit at manse, determined it probably has a leak and should be re-evaluated next spring. Leaky faucet in the manse garage was fixed.
- Approved to designate our share of the Peace and Global Witness offering for a PCUSA "Mission Co-Worker" - to be selected by the Mission Committee.
- Approved request by Pastor Karol to have Sunday, November 18 off for MVP Youth Retreat. If minimum enrollment is not achieved, Pastor Karol will be here. Approved Pastor Karol's request to have Chris Schilling speak on Veteran's Day (November 11). Pastor Karol will preside over rest of service. There will be no additional cost for guest speaker since Chris is preaching on behalf of the military. Approved request to roll over one week of unused vacation time to 2019.
- Quick Books (2006) software crashed and new software has been installed.
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- In August, Pastor Karol made 9 home/hospital/nursing home visits, had 5 conversations with church family members, and sent 4 cards. Made one home communion visit with Deacon Tanya Best. Congregational activities: Word in the World discussion group (weekly), committee meetings, Brunch w/our college students and parents, Roy Pneuman Memorial Service, Youth Group, and Fall Officers' Retreat – Sharing God's Love: Evangelism, Hospitality, and Church Growth. Presbytery activities: High School Retreat Planning Team (2 meetings) Worship Planning Team, and New Pastors' Gathering. Community engagement activities: attended "Unsinkable Molly Brown", led worship at Mennonite Memorial Home (31 in attendance), BAMA, Bluffton University Church Fair with Lin Rumer and Julia Szabo, BPC hosting Community Meal at Senior Center, Sunset Drive Neighborhood Picnic, and Church/event information shared with ONU students. Noted that an anonymous donor covered the costs of the cups for college students. Pastor Karol has been nominated to serve on MVP Commissioned Ruling Elders Committee. Approved September 24-30 as Continuing Education to attend Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in St. Louis. Approved November 5-10 vacation time – has been nominated to serve on the Louisville Seminary Alum Board of Directors.
- Presently the only identifying signage for our church is on the far corner of the lot. Session and New Beginnings discussed possibilities of additional signage. Discussed revised church signs created by Fultz signs – sign for front to be centered under stained glass window in landscape area, office sign, and sign for rear of building. Now in the final revision process.
- Talked with Jessie Blackburn twice concerning status of alley/handicap entrance. Expect contractor to work on alley in next two weeks.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 7, 2018

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration.

The first celebration of World Communion Sunday occurred in 1933. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed. Here at Bluffton Presbyterian Church, our table is the table of Christ, open to Christians from all denominations and from all around the world. It is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS SPECIAL OFFERINGS PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Proclaim the Peace of Christ

“So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.”
Ephesians 2:14-17

The letter to the Ephesians tells us that Jesus came to proclaim a peace that is universal. While the earthly ministry of Jesus was in a specific age and place, the peace he shared is limited by neither time nor geography. As followers of Christ, our call to witness and work for peace begins in our own neighborhoods and extends to the ends of the earth. It is a demanding call, but it is one that Presbyterians at all levels of the church are seeking to follow. The Peace & Global Witness Offering exists to support the holistic and wide-ranging witness of the whole church.

50 percent of the funds collected through this offering are deployed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to join the peacemaking efforts of church partners all over the globe. Another 25 percent goes to the Presbytery and the Synod for peacemaking work in the region. BPC, through the leadership of session and the mission committee, can decide how to use the final 25 percent of the offering.

This year, we will be supporting Ian Vellenga and Jhanderys Dotel-Vellenga serving in Nicaragua with the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua (CEPAD), which works to improve the lives of economically impoverished communities by promoting justice and peace. We join these monetary gifts with our prayers for peace and our work for justice.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering sustains a witness in many forms and at every level of the PC (USA), but all are bound together in Christ. Together we are a living proclamation of the peace we know in Christ, who puts an end to hostilities and speaks peace to those near and far. May the God of Peace open the generosity in our hearts to join with Christians all over the country on World Communion Sunday, October 7, in response to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

Deacons Report

Our church hosted the Community Meal on September 6, serving up approximately 80 meals. **Thank you** to all who volunteered that evening to serve meals and clean up afterwards. As always, to those who donated the pies for this event, they were greatly appreciated and delicious. Many helping hands can make for lite work! Also, thank you to those who gave monetary donations to help us offset the cost of the meal. We would like to say a special “thank you” to Ben Miracle for cooking and donating our main course which was his authentic Chicken Gumbo. Thank you, Ben and Judy, for the long hours in the kitchen, it was tasty and filled the bellies of many.

On August 25 the Deacons held a funeral reception for the family of Roy Pneuman. **Thank you** to everyone who donated food items and their time. We were able to offer the Pneuman family a lite meal and a time to share wonderful memories.

Passing the Spirit and Keeping our Family Connected!

The Deacons are starting a new program called *Passing the Spirit*. It is designed to keep those who may not be able to attend regularly connected and up-to-date with what’s happening in our congregation. To someone who is homebound or simply is unable to attend worship regularly, getting a surprise card or phone call can brighten their day. It is important to remember we are all one church family and staying connected and feeling included is vital.

So Let's Try Something New! On November 4, you're invited to take a name from a basket that will be passed during Moment for Mission. The



next step is to make a call, or send a note/card, or visit the person whose name you have drawn within the next few months. This is a wonderful way to reach out to our church family and offer a sense of connection and belonging.

Be sure to stay after worship on Passing the Spirit Sunday to enjoy cookies, veggies, and punch. Passing the Spirit drawings will be held every few months, so there will be plenty of chances for you (and your family!) to take part in this ministry.



Christian Education Walkers

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered for September 25! We are working on October and November dates now. Please see the open dates and times below. If you are able to volunteer for this mission outreach, please call or email Tenna Rhonemus

Tuesday October 9 Grades 1-5	Friday November 2 Grades 1-5	Thursday November 29 Grades 1-5
8:20- 8:50 Diane Winebar 419-957-4046		
9:00- 9:30 Diane Winebar 419-957-4046	8:50- 9:20	8:50- 9:20
10:05- 10:35	9:25- 9:55	9:25- 9:55
10:45- 11:15		
11:35- 12:05 Rev. Karol Farris 419-581-9232	11:50- 12:20	
12:10- 12:40 Rev. Karol Farris 419-581-9232	12:25- 12:55	12:25- 12:55
1:10- 1:40	1:00- 1:30	1:00- 1:30
1:55- 2:25	1:40- 2:10	1:45- 2:15 Rev. Karol Farris 419-581-9232
	2:25- 2:55	2:25- 2:55 Rev. Karol Farris 419-581-9232

Mission Committee

A big thank you to all who helped with the community picnic. In October, we will be accepting the Peace and Global Witness Offering – look for the separate announcement in this newsletter for more information.

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in October. The items needed this month are **macaroni and cheese, canned soups, and Kleenex**. This is not to say that we don't welcome other items, but these are the items they need the most at this time. The food pantry shelves are real low after school starting, so they really have a need for items.

Youth Group

The youth group will meet from 5:00 to 8:00 PM on October 7. This is an expanded meeting, so we can go to the Suter's Corn Maze! We will have a quick meal and Bible Study at 5:00, head to the Corn Maze at 6:00 and return to the church at 8:00. The cost of the maze is \$4.50 for students and \$6.00 for adults. Please RSVP to Tenna by October 5 so we can plan for transportation. Parent drivers may be needed for this event. As always friends are invited!

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.



Goblins and spooks and avengers, oh my



- Bring a lawn chair and join members of our congregation to greet Bluffton children as they go trick or treat on October 25 at 6:00 PM. Anyone who would like to donate a bag of candy to hand out to the kids can bring it with them or if you can't make it that night, leave it in the office.
- Watch bulletin for date: Ignite will meet at the home of Don and Cathy Carroll sometime the end of October for a bonfire, soup, hot dogs, and smores. Please bring a salad or dessert and your lawn chairs.

Family Promise

We will provide dinner to the Family Promise guests at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Monday, October 8. If you are willing to provide part of the meal or help serve, please contact Tenna Rhonemus by phone or email.



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.



Prayer Requests

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 Emily Parker, Mariah Pneuman, David Rempelsmucker, Dr. Howard Shelly, Lynn Nowak and her Mother, Sally Reeder, Jo Souder, Blake Stutzman, and Carolyn Dahms.

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus (419-358-8148 / 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

October	5	Robbie McGarrity
	7	Anne McCracken
	8	Phil Weisenbarger
	9	James Freidenberg
	10	Mariah Pneuman
	15	Terry Mullenhour
	18	Amanda Rhonemus
	20	Don Carroll
	23	Ingo Montgomery
	30	Tanya Best Tayler Nowak-Valentine Phill Talavinia
November	2	Molly McCracken Julia Szabo

Pastor Appreciation Month

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

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



The family of Roy and Mariah Pneuman are very grateful to the congregation for all the prayers, cards, and kind thoughts during Roy’s illness and death. We very much appreciate your caring.

To all the Deacons,
Thank you so much for the lovely reception you provided after the service for Roy. All our family is so grateful for your kindness.

Mariah (and the whole family)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world – through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation, education and witness.

Thank you for the following support to Special Offerings: On August 10, 2018, we received \$315 for the Pentecost Offering. Your congregation's gift, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need.

Bryce Wiebe
Director, Special Offerings

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,
Bath Elementary School would like to thank you again for your support and thoughtfulness. Thank you for donating necessary supplies. Students and staff greatly appreciate it!

April Neff
Bath Elementary School

BPC Internet

The church internet was recently upgraded so that wireless access is available throughout the building. To access the internet from your device, log on to the network: bpc-guest and enter the password: bluffton. We look forward to utilizing this new technology as an enhancement of our ministry.

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.

Photo Permission/Release Forms

We are collecting **permission/release forms** from everyone in the congregation who is willing to have their photo included in any form of media we might use as a church. This may include our website, Facebook page, and any print or digital promotions. Forms are located at both entrances to the sanctuary and in this newsletter. Please give your completed forms to Tenna Rhonemus or the office. Thank you!

FOR EVER AND EVER

The Stewardship and Finance committee has decided to place a periodic article in the newsletter encouraging our members to make estate plans and to consider leaving a bequest for the benefit of the church. We have two reasons for raising the subject.

The first reason is that everyone should have a will. If you don't have a will, any assets that you have accumulated at the time of your death will be distributed according to the laws of the State of Ohio under the supervision of the Probate Court. If you have or are the custodian of minor children, their care will, similarly, be determined, not by you, but by the Probate Court. If you are convinced of nothing else than that you should see an attorney and make a will, we will have achieved our first goal. And, you will have done yourself and your heirs an immense favor.

Our second goal is to encourage you to remember the church when you write your will. We enjoy the church that previous generations established and maintained here in Bluffton. We have an obligation to see that future generations have the same opportunity. It is an important witness to our friends and families about how important our faith and the church are in our lives. A bequest that helps ensure the financial viability of our congregation is one of the few opportunities we have toward achieving personal immortality and assuring the church's survival to witness to God's sustaining and eternal love.

George Stultz, Stewardship & Finance Committee

Wills Emphasis Questionnaire – 8/18

Our denomination encourages congregations annually to dedicate at least one Sunday each year to the subject of “Wills Emphasis”. In a recent Stewardship Committee discussion, the possibility was raised of our securing a consultant who has expertise in wills, estate planning and deferred giving, and could make a helpful presentation.

We are seeking your input regarding your interest in the subject and what schedule would be most convenient. Please indicate your interest, if any, and which of the following potential schedules would be most convenient for you. Thanks for your participation.

I(we) are interested _____
Name(s)

Schedule preference

_____ Sunday following worship.

_____ Sunday before worship (at 9:00)

_____ an evening (7:00-8:00 or 8:30): which evening is preferable _____

_____ other _____

BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LICENSE/RELEASE

(Approved by Session May 10, 2018)

I, _____, hereby grant Bluffton Presbyterian Church (“BPC”) and its licensees, agents and assigns (“Licensed Parties”) a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, sublicensable, and transferable right and license to use, reproduce, distribute, prepare derivative works of, publish, display, broadcast and copyright any photograph and/or videos made of me, or my minor child(ren), at BPC or elsewhere, including use in/on BPC’s Facebook page, web site, and advertising or other materials prepared by/for BPC, in any media formats (including television), and through any media channels.

I hereby waive my right to inspect and/or approve the finished product of the advertising copy that may be used in connection therewith. I agree that I do not have nor will I claim any rights, title, interest or compensation, and I further agree that the Licensed Parties shall be without liability to me or my family for any distortion or illusionary effect resulting from the distribution of my likeness.

I warrant and represent the license granted hereunder does not in any way conflict with any existing commitment on my part and understand that nothing herein will constitute any obligation by the Licensed Parties to make any use of the rights set forth herein.

This License/Release shall be deemed to be a contract made under the laws of the State of Ohio and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

Name:

Name(s) of minor child(ren) (if applicable):

Address: _____

Date: _____

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St., P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-5806
blufftonpc.org

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

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris
Phone: 419-581-9232
Email: pastor@blufftonpc.org
Office Hours: Mon 2-5, Tues 9-2,
Wed 10-12 and by appointment

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30-12:30

Treasurer: Darin Leugers
Email: 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