



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

September 2016

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday, September 4 – Communion

#### 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Presbyterian Polyphony

Lay Reader: Dave Sycks

Greeters: Owen and Kay Ziessler

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

### Sunday, September 11

#### Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Dusty and Leslie Freed

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

### Sunday, September 18

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Marilyn Edwards

Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall

Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

### Sunday, September 25

Choir

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

### Sunday, October 2 – Communion

#### 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Sue Mathewson



## Mark Your Calendars!

- September 8 – Session – At Manse – 7:00 PM
- September 11 – Sunday School – 9:00 AM
- September 11 – Nominating Committee – Immediately following worship
- September 13 – Small Groups – 6:30 PM
- September 14 – Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- September 25 – Newsletter Deadline  
[CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- September 28 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- October 1 – Fall Gathering for Maumee Valley Presbyterian Women – BPC – 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM



## 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.

## Choir Practice

Started up again Wednesday, August 31  
Wednesday – BPC at 6:30 PM

## Coffee Talk

Starting up again Wednesday, September 7  
Wednesday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

## Small Groups

Starting up again Tuesday, September 13  
Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM



## "EMEHRGHENCY EMEHRGHENCY EVERYONE TO GET FROM STREET"

(Alan Arkin – in "The Russians are coming!")

I needed to start this article with a sense of dire emergency (and humor).

I trimmed the hedges last week. I had to or else there would be dire consequences!! – NEXT YEAR.

Yes, next year. Dire consequences. Not for me, but for the praying mantises of Mangel Road. You see, the hedges bloomed in May/June and normally I cut them back at that time. But this year, matters conspired against me (don't they always). Well, next thing you know it is the end of August and there are significant matters afoot, at least for praying mantises. They lay their egg sacks in the opening weeks of September. They attach them to branches in the bushes.

Now if you trim the bushes in September you will inadvertently "trim" away a whole generation of praying mantises.

You see we get up each day as if each day is the same, but, you have to pay attention to the calendar. The calendar of life and death.

We live as though time goes on. As if one day is the same as the next. But there are other dimensions of life. Dimensions in which profound changes happen. Even life and death.

Charles (Jane's dad) is a big figure in my life. He looms large because he confronts me with profound questions of life and death. At 99 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  the conclusion of this life is not an abstract consideration. Yet life goes on. And how does life go on? What is responsible life when frailty is not an abstraction? Is life to be preserved by avoiding all risk? What risk is foolhardy? I ask because Jane and I make decisions about what activities he may enter into. (Luckily he gave up using the chain saw 6 years ago. But the table saw is another matter.) And life on the farm has its dangers. So I ask again. Is the point of life to sit in a chair where you are safe? Or is it to be active – but there are risks – at age 99?

But Charles isn't the only one for whom life changes. Our young people go off to college (my granddaughter this fall)! And for others retirement comes, with costs and benefits, and significant relationship issues (I am watching 4 different friends adjust).

Life is filled with changes and questions. Significant changes. Significant questions. (And also seasons of continuity.) Through it all, through the whole of the journey - God is present. Chiding, comforting, haunting, assuring. Whispering. Shouting. Challenging.

Bidden or unbidden  
God is present  
(Desiderius Erasmus)



Oothecal



Nymphs



Pregnant adult



Dear Middle School/High Schooler:

## *It's Your choice*

(Confirmation Journey 2016)

We are now seeking to put together a Confirmation Journey for 2016. It will be open to Middle School and High School students. We will see who takes up the challenge.

You see, confirmation is not a “class,” it is a journey, a journey of challenge and choice. The challenge is to grow in your relationship with God, and the choice is whether to respond to God’s call.

These are questions that only *you* can answer. Confirmation is the first adult choice in a life long journey. And because it is an adult choice – no one can make it for you. It isn’t your parent’s choice, it isn’t your brother or sister’s choice. It isn’t your friend’s choice, or the choice of anyone else in the church. It is **your** choice. And it is between **you** and **God**. In confirmation you confirm or don’t confirm the choices that your parents made for you in baptism. But what is at stake is not whether you are sprinkled with water, what is at stake is promises **you make to God**: to live in faith and faithfulness. No one can make your promise. No one can live your life and faith.

So we will see who takes up the challenge and the choice. It’s up to you.

*Pastor Dave*



## **Who is Jesus?**

### **What a Difference a Lens Makes**

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Fall Gathering for Maumee Valley Presbytery - Presbyterian Women on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Join us as Rev. Katie Kinnison shares her passion for teaching and leads us through ideas to lead an exciting Bible study with passion, knowledge, and humor. Katie, called to ministry as a teaching elder, graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. She was called to Covenant Presbyterian Church of Upper Arlington, Ohio and was ordained and installed in July 2015 as Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation.

Reservations (\$8) can be made by contacting Lori Schmidt - [schmidtlbath@gmail.com](mailto:schmidtlbath@gmail.com) or calling 419-358-4561.

### **Small Group will Change your Life!**

Claralice Circle which meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the church will start September 13. There is also the possibility of a day group forming. Please see the Task Force Committee for more information: Roy & Mariah Pneuman, Beth Buist, Jayne McGarrity, George Stultz, Jeanette Warren, Diane Winebar.

## New Beginnings Update Opportunity BPC

New Beginnings is driven by two things: First, it asks Jesus's question: Who is my neighbor? Second, it asks this right in the face of the fact that the past is already gone. New Beginnings is not a problem-solving activity. Instead, it relies on taking gifts and pushing into the future.

We've had some brilliant thoughts brought up. People are coming forward with ideas and enthusiasm. These are needed and very appreciated. The gazebo/town square project looks at our congregation, right in the heart of Bluffton. Is that where God is calling us? We have also found our neighbors in a Saturday Daycare proposal. Are we being called into contact with, and support of, young families with children? Both of these projects have called us forward, and, to this point, neither has captured our heart and resources.

Other things, however, have taken off:

- The new Ignite fellowship group – merging fellowship, families, and service – calls us forward with once-a-month steps and community involvement.
- The church's online presence is being strengthened. Our website ([www.blufftonpc.org](http://www.blufftonpc.org)) has been improved with the scripture readings, special music, and sermon from worship services. Having this segment of our services available on YouTube is the next step. Members are working to keep our website and Facebook page regularly updated.
- Several groups within the church felt the call to work with Family Promise, an organization helping homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. Our first experience with this program occurred in June 2016 here in Bluffton.
- We are talking to other Bluffton churches and organizations. Are there new programs needed that we can work on collectively? Are there community groups that could utilize our lawn? Our location in the center of town can't be beat.

The New Beginnings team continues to generate new thoughts for our future and to honestly test all ideas against our heart and our resources. The Session continues to wrestle with God's challenges for our congregation – God's call to our future – while it guides our congregational life.

As we face the uncertainties of God's future for us, we inevitably wrestle with our fears for our congregation. But beyond our fear and uncertainty, God calls us to our future, having us ask ourselves: Who is our neighbor in Bluffton, and How shall we live forward?

The New Beginnings Team  
Ryan Brauen, Jana McVetta, Dave Sycks, Tenna Rhonemus, Lin Rumer, Diane Winebar

## Deacons' Report

**It's time to SHARE THE SPIRIT and connect with our Homebound!**

Share the Spirit is a ministry designed to bring our church's home-bound members together with the congregation. To someone who is homebound, being remembered is important. Family also is important, and aren't we a spiritual family?



On Sunday, September 18, we will be able to express our love and care for those who can't share in the life of the church as they once did. After worship, stay for refreshments and fellowship. Draw the name of one of our homebound friends, if you wish. Then visit the person whose name you have drawn, send an encouraging note, or give them a friendly phone call within the month.

This is a wonderful way to offer a sense of connection and belonging. The deacons offer this every quarter, so there will be lots of opportunities for you and your family to take part in this ministry. We hope you'll say "Yes! I will support a special someone!"





## Highlights of August's Session Meeting

- Ignite group of volunteers worked at National Night Out held at the Community Pool on August 2. Ignite group is in the process of creating a design for t-shirt/shirt.
- Approved request by Jeremy Enneking for Letter of Transfer to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church – Indianapolis, IN. Membership rolls were reviewed by Pastor Dave, Diane (Deacons) and Lori - not recommending any changes at this time. Boxes of hymnals/CE materials (11 boxes) were taken to WTGN (Christian radio station in Lima) to be used for a mission project. Approved request to host Maumee Valley Presbytery's Fall Gathering for Presbyterian Women on one of the following dates – October 1, October 15, or October 29 from 8:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Lori/Diane will coordinate the breakfast/lunch. Approved that proceeds be designated for Building Restoration Fund. Approved request by the Planning Team to meet at the church on Saturday, August 20 at 10:00 AM – Lori will meet with them. Approved to not object to The Grille's request for D5 Liquor Permit.
- Tom has talked with Schnipke – additional expense to have them return to sand off/repaint certain areas in sanctuary. Checking into options for getting job completed. This fall the village will replace/pay for one section of sidewalk on Cherry Street – we will be billed for repairs to another section. Tom cut down a buckeye tree on the church yard which fell during a storm. Working to get stumps ground down for 5 trees which have been cut down at the manse/church lawn during the last year. Thanks to following volunteer gardeners – Owen – weeds, Jeannie/Nick – trimming and watering, Cathy and Don – spreading mulch.
- Community VBS was success with approximately 120 students. Volunteers from our congregation helped with games and leaders for small groups. BPC had 3 youth and 1 adult attend Triennium at Purdue University – all had a great, positive experience.
- Approved request from Gillen's to use tent, tables/chairs for Ignite gathering at their house on August 7.

- During last two months, Pastor Dave led worship services at BPC and 2 services at Mennonite Home. Other activities included: visitations/connecting with church members/friends, taking pictures at VBS, volunteering at National Night Out, helping with Community Meal, writing Bluffton News article, committee meetings, BAMA meetings, and COM work for MVP. While Dave is on vacation in August, Emergency Pastoral Care will be provided by Kevin Mohr (Lutheran) and Carol Clements (UCC). Approved request to use last week of vacation September 20-26 and week of Continuing Education for work/prayer October 4 – 10.

## It's Sunday School Time!

Sunday School will start up again on Sunday, September 11. The adult class will finish a video series they began in the spring. Following that, Pastor Dave will lead a discussion of the Trinity and its impact on our faith. This class will meet in the library at 9:00 AM. All adults are welcome to join this group for thought provoking discussions and faith exploration.

We are trying something new for the children and youth this year. We are going to try a multi- age approach with our elementary through high school students. Everyone in this age group will meet at 9:00 AM in the basement. We will explore "Faith Questions" through Bible exploration, drama, hands on activities, games and discussions. This should be a lively and fun filled time of faith development!

Our younger children will be using the "Grace and Gratitude" curriculum in the nursery during worship. This curriculum explores God's grace through various Bible stories and how we should respond with gratitude to God's gifts. Story time, crafts, games and other activities are part of the learning process for this group. This will create a great faith foundation for the youngest members of our faith family!

If you have any questions or concerns about the classes, please speak to Carole Enneking or Tenna Rhonemus. We look forward to seeing you on September 11!

## Team Members Needed

Do you want to become more involved at church? Do you want to grow your faith as you help others grow theirs? Do you want to be part of the energy, enthusiasm, and downright fun that comes from being around our children and youth? Then we have an opportunity for you!

We are looking for people to team teach our 9:00 AM Sunday School class with Tenna Rhonemus. This is a great way to get to know the incredible young people that are part of your faith family and journey in faith with these young Christians! Please see Tenna if you are interested in being part of the team.

## Youth Group

The Youth Group will have their first meeting of the year on Sunday, September 11 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Starting in October we will meet on the first Sunday of each month. This year you will be given an all access "Backstage Pass to the Bible"!

Do you find yourself intimidated by that "Big Black Book" on the shelf? Did you ever try to read the Bible only to find yourself lost in Exodus right along with the Israelites? Do you enjoy the poetry of Psalms and Proverbs, but wonder why it was written? Why did Paul write all those letters and to whom was he writing? Was Revelations really meant to be so frightening to read? These are just a few of the questions we will explore.

But how will we explore them? No, we will not just sit around a table talking to each other. We will see how "Armageddon", "Ground Hog's Day", and "Forest Gump" can relate to our Bible study. What will we learn from participating in a caterpillar race or an indoor snowball fight? Come and find out! Of course there will be some discussion of our topic for the night and like any good Presbyterian event there will be food!

So if you are in the 6th through 12th grade, come join us! Feel free to invite a friend too! The more people we have attending the event the more we will get out of it. If you have any questions, please ask Tenna.

## Weekday Christian Education Schedule for 2016-17

Volunteers are needed for this year's WCE dates: Tues. Sept. 27, Tues. Oct. 11, Fri. Nov. 4, Thurs. Dec. 1, Tues. Jan. 3, Thurs. Jan. 26, Tues. March 21, Thurs. April 6 and Fri. April 21. Contact Carole Enneking (419-348-7691 or [icenne@gmail.com](mailto:icenne@gmail.com)) for more information.

In just over one hour, you can serve the community and share God's love with the younger generation.

## Mission

Mission wants to thank everyone for all the school supplies donations they helped so many. We took some to Bluffton Food pantry and to Bath school. Thank you so much. We also enjoyed helping with the Family Fun Night at the pool what a great night and community event. Look for more info soon about magic pillow blankets for our area.

## Another Look Back at the Summer – Community Meal





## Aluminum Can Recycling

Remember to save your aluminum cans. The Mission Committee sells recyclable cans and uses the proceeds to support mission causes in our area, most recently for a shelter and feeding ministry in Lima. Bring the cans to the church basement and contribute them to a worthy cause.

## Bluffton Area Food Pantry

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry thanks you for your continued support. Listed below are some items to consider for the pantry:

Lotions and Creams  
Cereals  
Soups and Crackers  
Spaghetti and Sauces  
Macaroni and Cheese  
Paper products: TP, Paper Towels, Kleenex  
Canned Fruits  
Canned Vegetables (No corn or green beans needed at this time)  
Personal Hygiene Products: Deodorant, Shampoo, Hair Care Items (No bath soaps or toothpaste needed at this time)  
Spaghettios and similar canned foods  
Canned Meats  
Hamburger Helper  
Tuna and Tuna Helper

Thank you for your interest in Bluffton Area Food Pantry.

## 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.

## Prayer Requests

**Prayers** for teachers and students as a new school year begins.

Prayers with the people of Louisiana.

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

## Happy Birthday!!

September	4	Jeremy Szabo
	5	Jay McCracken
	13	Julianna Hotmire
	16	Lindsey Sneary
	20	Dave Kisor
	23	Roy Pneuman Rhonda Moor
	24	Jayne McGarrity
	25	Devin Kisor
	26	Sue Mathewson Amanda Rhonemus Dan Sneary
	29	Cindy Gillen
October	30	Wyatt Marshall
	1	Owen Scoles
	4	Olivia Sneary
	5	Jennifer Hough
		Robbie McGarrity

## Personal Information

Don't forget to let Cathy Carroll know when you have a change in address, phone number, and/or email address.

If your birthday or you know of a birthday that does not show up in our newsletter, please let Cindy Gillen know.





Fellowship/Action/Service

## Ignite Pool Party at the Gillen's







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)

Treasurer: Darin Leugers  
Email: [dleugers8319@yahoo.com](mailto:dleugers8319@yahoo.com)

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

## **2016 Church Officers**

### *Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt  
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey  
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and  
Carole Enneking  
Finance & Stewardship – Dick McGarrity  
Mission – Lynda Best  
Nominating – Tom Edwards and Cindy Gillen  
Personnel – Bob Angus  
Presbytery Commissioner  
Worship – Cindy Gillen  
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Lori  
Schmidt, and Phil Weisenbarger

### *Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Diane Winebar  
Members: Marilyn Edwards, Barb Fett, Laura  
From, Gayle Marshall, and Mike Rhonemus.