



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

September 2017

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 3

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Pulpit – Tenna Rhonemus

Special Music: Dick and Jayne McGarrity

Lay Reader: Diane Winebar

Greeters: Betsey Angus and Darlene Hey

Acolyte: Owen Brauen

Sunday, September 10 - Communion

Pulpit – Rev. Karol Farris

Choir

Lay Reader: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, September 17

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Sarah Gillen

Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, September 24

Choir

Lay Reader: Sarah Brauen

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, October 1 - Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken



Mark Your Calendars!

- September 6 – Pastor Karol's First Day in Office
- September 6 – Pre-School Classes Start
- September 10 – Share The Spirit Fellowship – Following Worship
- September 10 – Sunday School Starts – 9:00 AM
- September 10 – Youth Group – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- September 13 – Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- September 14 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- September 20 – Deacons Meeting – 7:30 PM
- September 23 – Fall Festival Sponsored by BAMA – BPC Church Yard – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- September 23 – Ignite Bon Fire – Home of Don and Cathy Carroll – 7:00 PM
- September 24 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- October 1 – Fellowship Sponsored by Session – Following Worship
- October 1 – Youth Group – 5:00 to 7:00 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.

Small Groups Resuming in September

Claralice Circle will resume small group meetings every Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30 PM in the church basement starting September 12. Sister Min Circle will meet Friday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 PM at Maple Crest. September meetings are on the 15 and 29 and subsequent dates will be the 2nd and 4th Friday. Come join us!



Note from the new pastor:

Greetings from Bluffton – I'm finally here! I am grateful for the support I've already received in responding to the call to be your pastor. I am getting settled in to the manse and am thankful for the countless hours so many of you have spent making updates and improvements to the house. I am eager to make it my home.

I invite us to practice grace and patience in this time of transition as we get to know one another. I look forward to truly meaningful and joyful experiences as we—the body of Christ—work together to serve one another and glorify God in all we do. I hope to see you in worship on Sunday September 10, and the next Sunday, and the next, and the next...!

In Christ,

Pastor Karol

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.

Maumee Valley Presbytery

At Maumee Valley Presbytery's Meeting on Tuesday, September 19 in Adrian, Michigan, Pastor Dave will be recognized for his retirement and Pastor Karol will be welcomed to the Presbytery. The Meeting starts at 3:00 PM and this is the first thing on the docket. If you are interested in attending please see Lori Schmidt or Diane Winebar.

Thank You!!!

The new Maple tree in the church yard was donated by Tom and Rebecca Hursey and family, and Lynda and Kim Best and family in memory of: OC. and Cleo Hursey, Lee Hursey, and Bob Hursey.

Many Thanks to Bluffton Presbyterian Church for being so nice. We want to thank you for your generous donations of school supplies and efforts to support our students and staff as we begin another school year. We will put the school supplies to good use!

Thank You - Bath Elementary School



Fall Festival Praise and Worship

The Fall Festival Praise and Worship, sponsored by BAMA, on Saturday, September 23, will be held on our lawn from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A hymn sing at 11:30 AM will be part of the worship.



American Red Cross

Every nine minutes, volunteers help the American Red Cross bring help and hope to people in need. Be a hero and make a difference in your community by volunteering today! Contact us today at westcentralohio@redcross.org or by phone at 419-905-8302.

Highlights of August's Session Meeting

- From Called Meeting in June – Our church is required to cover 100% of moving expenses for pastor - exact expense to be agreed upon when PNC and pastor negotiate a salary. Motion approved to request up to \$3,000 for moving expenses. If higher amount is needed then session will be consulted. Approved to increase PNC expense line in budget to allow for travel expenses for 2 neutral pulpits - expects travel expenses to be \$2,000 - \$2,300. PNC member will be making the arrangements for airline reservations, car rental, and hotel.
- From Called Meeting in July - Approved to call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 6 following morning worship service to elect an elder to complete the unexpired elder term. Sarah Brauen, chair of PNC, reported that PNC (Sarah Brauen, Don Carroll, Carole Enneking, Sarah Gillen, Lori Schmidt, Dave Sycks, Megan Sycks, George Stultz, and Diane Winebar) had reviewed Personal Information Forms from over 60 candidates who were matched with our church or sent self-referrals. Committee pursued 15 of these with 2 expressing an interest and still available.

The committee had multiple Skype interviews with the final two candidates and invited each for a Neutral Pulpit which was held in July on back-to-back weekends. Neutral pulpit weekends included: 4 group meals with PNC; exploring Bluffton shops and Farmer's Market on their own; guided tour of Bluffton, manse, and church; meeting with COM representatives; morning breakfast at Ottawa before service; neutral pulpit at Ottawa Presbyterian; and formal interview at our church. PNC met and all were in favor of offering the position to the Rev. Karol Farris. Proposed terms of call were negotiated between PNC and Pastor Karol. Approved calling a Congregational Meeting on August 6 following worship, to extend a call to Rev. Karol Farris to serve as Installed Pastor of Bluffton Presbyterian Church pending approval of the congregation.

- Liaison group (Dick McGarrity, Tenna Rhonemus, and Lori Schmidt) met with leaders in early July to discuss arrangements. Bluffton Preschool would like us to use their materials for nursery. Our items have been stored in tubs in basement – with a few larger items being stored at manse. Insurance policy has been increased. Open House held on August 7 – well attended – including Pastor Karol and several of our members. They will be using basement as gathering place for parents to drop off. They are using our small plastic red chairs/hexagonal shaped tables. Bulletin board in basement purchased for their announcements. Plastic folding tables to be used for Sunday school have purchased/stored in basement by piano. Cleaning supplies will no longer be kept under restroom sinks. Preschool Sign will be placed in mulched area. They provide soap, paper towels for use. Orientation is August 29 with classes starting on September 6. Tenna Rhonemus is on their board and attends monthly meetings.
- Mailing sent out to church family with biographical information and proposed terms of call for Rev. Karol Farris. Meet and Greet held on August 5 at the Brauen's. Pastor Karol led service on August 6; congregational meeting held and affirmed calling her as our Installed Pastor. On Sunday/Monday she made four visits to shut-ins/members, met with Susan Meier, and attended Preschool Open House. Karol is packing in North Carolina with pods to be picked up on Friday. Will be held in Lima until August 24 when delivered at manse. Pastor Karol will return to unload on 28. First day in Office is September 6. She is working on date for Installation in September/October.
- Meeting called to examine and approve two candidates for ordination – Ben Shaw (Ottawa) and Laine Sipes (associate at Toledo Christ) was held in Toledo in July. Approved commissioning Julie Fogle as CRE at McComb. At September's meeting in Adrian, Michigan, Pastor Dave's retirement will be recognized and Pastor Karol will be welcomed. Congregation is welcome to attend.

- Permission given to Pastor Dave to park car at manse several days in June. Pastor Dave officiated at Memorial Service for Bob Angus. Deacons served funeral dinner. Approved to decline request from Gideons to speak in September. Following items approved electronically: In June approved increasing PNC line to allow for two neutral pulpits. In July approved request to install central air in office/library area – bid of \$2,770 from M+R with the money from Evans' estate to be used. In August approved moving bid from Allied for \$3,356. When Karol contacted them they were no longer available. Using UHaul Pods estimate was around \$2,500.
- In August, approved request from BAMA to use church lawn on Saturday, September 23 for community worship service from 10-12. BAMA is creating banners for each church, home church can use throughout the year and then BAMA uses at community events. Emergency Pastoral Coverage was provided by Kevin Mohr and Tim Wilmetti in July- each made one visit. Wanda Stopher covered first week in August and Ben Shaw (Ottawa) will cover rest of the month. Clerk will send thank you letters to each. Approved receiving Sue and Dave Van Eman as members by Letter of Transfer from Bluffton First United Methodist.
- Central air conditioning has been installed in office/library area. Looking into options for weed/feed service for church/manse. Also looking into options for combining manse with church for snow removal. Following work has been done at the manse – painted garage door, painted kitchen, painted kitchen cabinets and bathroom cabinets, flooring installed in kitchen/bathroom, new tub/surround installed, new dishwasher installed, new light fixtures installed, windows cleaned, major work/mulching on landscaping, and front exterior door/screen door installed. Trim is being painted for woodwork. Kitchen countertop, back splash, and door to garage yet to be installed. Main bathroom needs dry walled and painted.

Approved purchasing new washer/dryer if the ones stored in the garage for five years do not work. Pastor Karol will be contacted about microwave.

- Community VBS held at English Lutheran Church in July was big success – 125-150 kids each night. Our church was responsible for the 40+ preschoolers.
- Betsey Angus was elected to fill unexpired term of elder. She will be installed on September 17 by Pastor Karol.
- Approved serving Communion on September 10 – Pastor Karol's first Sunday.
- Pastor Dave's retirement celebration was on June 11 and was well attended – Love gift amounted to \$1,481. Little Pantry will be installed in the next month.
- Approved selling extra unused pulpit chair and room air conditioners on Bluffton Garage Sale.



Deacons Report

- We are in the process of updating our Prayer Chain program. During the month, Mike will be in touch with the members currently enrolled providing them with an up-to-date phone list. New participants are always welcome! If you have an interest in becoming a part of the chain please Contact Mike or Laura.
- We are doing a Share the Spirit fellowship hour after church on September 10.
- Deacons meeting September 20 at 7:30 PM.

Mission

The Mission committee would like to see if there is anyone who would like to join the Mission committee it is not a stressful committee and we do so much good in many ways so anyone who may be interested contact Lynda Best 419-296-2790.

School Supplies



Thank You for your generosity in supporting our efforts to provide school supplies to children in need in Bluffton and the surrounding area. Because of your generous donations we were able to provide:

School Boxes – 7
Book Covers – 4
Zipper Pencil Pouches – 5
Crayons – jumbo – 5 packs
Crayons – 10 packs
Crayons – twistables – 9 packs
Pencils – fat – 5 pkgs.
Colored Pencils – 15 pkgs.
Markers – 9 pkgs. of fat/9 pkgs. of skinny
Scissors – 12 pairs
Pens – 10 pkgs.
Highlighters – 124 fat/152 skinny
Dry Erase markers – 109 fat/100 skinny
Headphones – 5
Ear Buds – 18
Glue sticks – 62
Erasers – 18

Thanks again for extending your loving care with others!

BPC Manse

Thank you to all who have donated their time and talents for working at the manse this summer! While some of the work was completed by an outside contractor, our members donated many hours, which in turn lowered the cost for this renovation project. Manse renovation project included the following – Installing new front door and kitchen door; painting garage door and outside window frames; new dishwasher, washer, dryer, and microwave; replacing outdated light fixtures, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide detector; painting kitchen and bathroom cabinets and installing new hardware; painting walls and ceilings in kitchen and bathroom; installing laminated countertop in kitchen; installing back-splash tile in kitchen; vinyl flooring in kitchen and bathroom; installing new sink and faucet in kitchen; installing ceiling fan in great room; removing wall in bathroom and replacing tub and surround which had been leaking; repairing ceiling dry wall in basement from leak in bathroom; installing GFCI outlets in bathrooms and kitchen; power washing the deck/porch; landscaping work and mulching; cleaning closets, cupboards, windows, bathroom, and appliances; hanging curtains; vacuuming carpets and cleaning wood flooring; and hanging new shutters.

Once all the work has been completed and Pastor Karol has chance to unpack, we will have an Open House at the manse so all can see the renovations which have been done this summer and two years ago when new carpeting was installed in bedrooms, wood laminated flooring in great room and hallway, and bedrooms and great room were painted.

Several unused/outdated items from the church/manse were sold via Bluffton Garage Sale Online with the money returned to the church – three room air conditioners, pot rack, light fixtures, pulpit chair. Other items were donated to ReStore.

Special thanks to Lynda Best, Cathy Carroll, and Jodi Brauen who coordinated these much needed renovations – Pastor Karol appreciates everyone's efforts!

Little Free Pantry



A Little Free Pantry is now open in downtown Bluffton. It is located on the grounds of the Bluffton Presbyterian Church near the Family Dollar parking lot. The community is invited to donate food or personal products. Anyone needing these products is welcome to take them at any time. No registration is necessary.

The pantry contains canned vegetables and proteins, pasta, powdered milk, personal care products, and other shelf stable items. Selection will vary.



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:

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

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.

Share the Spirit and Connect with our Homebound!

Share the Spirit is designed to bring our church's homebound members together with caring members of the congregation. To someone who is homebound, being remembered is important. Family also is important, and isn't a church a spiritual family? *Thank you to everyone who has participated in this event in the past.*



Let's do it again! On Sept. 10, you're invited to stay after worship for fellowship time and another opportunity to remember those who can't share in the life of the church as they once did. There will be cookies and punch for all. We encourage those who wish to take part this month to choose a slip of paper from our basket filled with the names of our homebound members. The next step is to visit the person whose name you have drawn, send an encouraging note/card, or give them a friendly phone call within a month.

This is a wonderful way to reach out to our homebound and offer a sense of connection and belonging. Share 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. We hope you'll say "Yes!" and support a special someone.





Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service

Ignite is a gathering of individuals for active fellowship, we are family-friendly and inter-generational; we strive to build a stronger community. Everyone is welcome to join us for some or for all of our projects!! Contact Sarah Brauen snbrauen@gmail.com or Carole Enneking jcenne@gmail.com for more information.

- Ignite will meet at the home of Don and Cathy Carroll on Saturday, September 23 at 7:00 PM for a bonfire, hot dogs, and smores. Please bring your lawn chairs.

Ignite is a gathering of individuals for active fellowship, we are family-friendly and inter-generational; we strive to build a stronger community. Everyone is welcome to join us for some or for all of our projects!! Contact Sarah Brauen snbrauen@gmail.com or Carole Enneking jcenne@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday School

We will be starting Sunday school at 9:00 AM on September 10. The multi-age (Pre-K through 12th Grade) class meets in the basement. The adult class will continue to meet in the library/ first preschool room.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will have their first monthly meeting of the year on September 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Youth in the 6th through 12th grade are invited to meet in the church basement for an evening of faith, fun, and food. We will begin our meeting with a meal, then move to Bible study, games and more fun. Beginning in October we will meet on the first Sunday of each month. If you have any questions please see Tenna.

Choir

Choir has started back up! We rehearse Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. We sing on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. If you love to sing JOIN US!!!! All are welcome! We would love to have some newcomers in our group! We have a lot of fun....just ask Darlene, Don, and Dave! So, if you have ever thought about joining the choir, now is the time! Hope to see you there!

New Youth Choir

Plans are in motion for the formation of a Youth Choir at Bluffton Presbyterian Church. This new choir will sing on five Sunday's throughout the next school year and is open to any youth ages 4 and up in the Bluffton community who enjoys music and singing. Interested youth must contact Sue and Dave Van Eman at savaneman@gmail.com by Friday September 8, 2017. We are looking forward to this new adventure at Bluffton Presbyterian Church.



Weekday Christian Education Walker Schedule for 2017-18 Announced

BPC is once again responsible for providing adults to walk elementary students to and from the Mennonite Church for weekly Christian Education. The walker coordinator is requesting that we provide the names of our volunteers for the year by the end of September. We have 12 dates to cover; Tuesday and some Fridays are full-day coverage, Thursday has one hour in the morning and afternoon. The dates are: (Tuesday) September 26, (Tuesday) October 10, (Friday) November 3, (Thursday) November 30, (Thursday) December 21, (Thursday) January 25, (Friday) February 16, (Friday) March 9, (Tuesday) March 20, (Thursday) April 5, (Friday) April 20, (Friday) April 27.

Prayer Requests

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

Prayers of Healing for Michael Lee Bucher, Carl Wolf, Tyler and Laura From, Autumn Sprunger, Dusty Freed, Emerson Basinger, Mary Barnett, Bill Warner, Nick Mathewson, Grace Cassidy, Colletta Mullenhour, Sue Mathewson and Edna Gossard.

Prayers for Rev. Matthew Zuehlke who is taking early retirement due to health issues. He is unable to work and is seriously ill. Cards would be appreciated and may be mailed to:

Matthew and Michelle Zuehlke
2506 Aqua Marine Blvd.
Avon Lake, OH 44012

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.

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.



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

“Be willing to help and care for each other because of Christ. By doing this, you honor Christ.” Ephesians 5:21



The Deacons are searching for volunteers to help transport members to church who are unable to drive themselves. They may need some assistance when entering certain vehicles.

How it works: A list of names will be composited and given to those who are in need.

Between Mon. and Thurs. you may be contacted for that Sunday by a member in need of transport. You would only be called once or twice a month, depending upon your availability.



Your participation in this program will continue to allow us all to worship the Lord together as a family. If you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Karol, Laura at 419-721-1608 or any Deacon.



700 EAST MELROSE AVENUE • FINDLAY, OHIO 45840

August 15, 2017

Dear Friends and Colleagues in ministry:

On August 15, 2009, I arrived in Maumee Valley Presbytery to accept your invitation to share in ministry. I expected that the term would be short – two years. However, you and the Holy Spirit had other plans in play and eight years have flown by. For me, these years have been full and abundant. We have faced some very difficult times. We have enjoyed some amazing reconciliations and celebrations. Personally, I have flourished among you. There is work still to do.

However, the time has come for me to retire from active ministry. I have asked the Personnel Committee and Council to bring a motion to the Presbytery meeting on November 14, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church of Napoleon to make that request official effective February 28, 2018.

As many of you know, my oldest stepdaughter, Amy Snedeker, died two years ago. At that time, it became crystal clear to me that I wanted to be free to be with my family. My plans are initially to move in March to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to be with my father in his final days. After he dies, I will move to Chicago to be with my grandchildren and their parents. I will be claiming the title of "Theater Geek" and want to visit a Regional Theater in all 50 states.

I have had the privilege of loving my work in ministry almost every single day. These past eight years have been among the happiest times of my professional life and I am very, very grateful to God for all of you. There will be time ahead to reflect, confess, celebrate, and let go. For now, I wanted to give the Presbytery adequate time to make this transition smoothly.

You have been to me a sign of the Reign of God on this earth. I share the sentiments of the Apostle Paul, "I am thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now". (Philippians 1:5)

With deep gratitude,

Susan Meier
Presbyter for Common Life



800 / 222-2494 • 419 / 423-9073 • FAX: 419 / 423-9089

E-MAIL : susan@maumeevp.org • WEBSITE: www.maumeevp.org

Financial contributions may be sent to Maumee Valley Presbytery, P.O. Box 638164, Cincinnati, Ohio 45263-8164

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
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419-358-5806

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris
Phone: 419-358-5806
Email: at pastor@blufftonpc.org

Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcblyff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:30
Website: blufftonpc.org

Treasurer: Darin Leugers
Email: dleugers8319@yahoo.com

Sunday School: 9:00 AM

2017 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 – Betsey Angus
Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt
Worship – Cindy Gillen
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Lori
Schmidt, and Phil Weisenbarger

Board of Deacons

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