



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

September 2018

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, September 2 – 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Pulpit: Tenna Rhonemus  
Special Music: Dave Sycks  
Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo  
Liturgist: Beth Buist  
Greeters: Tanya Best and Barb Fett  
Acolytes: Avery Talavinia

### **Sunday, September 9 - Communion**

Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar  
Greeters: Tom and Marilyn Edwards  
Acolyte: McVetta Girls

### **Sunday, September 16**

Special Music: Praise Team  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Leslie Freed  
Greeters: Dave and Sue Van Eman  
Acolyte: Owen Brauen

### **Sunday, September 23**

Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Greeters: Jane Benroth and Donnas Stone  
Acolytes: Avery Talavinia

### **Sunday, September 30**

Pulpit: Guest Speaker  
Special Music  
Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Diane Winebar  
Liturgist: Tanya Best  
Greeters: Kevin and Jana McVetta  
Acolytes: Clara and Owen Brauen

### **Sunday, October 7 - Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

## Mark Your Calendars!

- September 2 – Small Group Leaders Meeting Following Worship
- September 5 – Community Pre-School Opens
- September 5 – Choir Practice – 6:30 PM
- September 6 – Bluffton University Church Fair – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- September 6 – Community Meal at Senior Center – 6:00 PM
- September 8 – BPC Officers Retreat – 9:00 to Noon
- September 9 – Faith Formation (Sunday School) begins for all ages – 9:00 to 10:00 AM
- September 9 – Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting – Following Worship
- September 9 – Youth Group – 5:00 to 7:00 PM (after this will meet first Sunday of the month)
- September 11 – Claralice Small Group – 6:30 to 8:30 PM – BPC Fellowship Hall
- September 12 – Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- September 13 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- September 14 – Sister Min Small Group – 2:00 to 3:00 PM – Family Room at Maple Crest
- September 16 – Community Picnic on Church lawn – 4:30 to 6:30 PM
- September 18 – Presbytery Meeting – 3:00 PM - Huron
- September 19 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- September 23 – Congregational Meeting
- September 23 – Newsletter Items Deadline [CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- October 6 – Blessing of the Animals – 10:00 AM
- October 7 – World Communion Sunday



## Pastor's Letter

What we learned from the book of Ruth:

Throughout August, our weekly sermon series and Word in the World discussion group focused on Ruth, a short book of four chapters tucked away in the Hebrew Bible between Judges and Samuel. It is a story vaguely familiar to many, with the most well-known verse being: "Where you go, I will go, where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God" – words commonly shared at weddings, though initially spoken by daughter-in-law to mother-in-law.

Even such a concise story as this provided more than enough material for consideration and inspiration each week. One ever-present theme is loyalty. Ruth, a foreigner from Moab, expresses this loyalty to Naomi when she insists on accompanying her on the long journey to Bethlehem and volunteers to glean in the fields so that these two widows might survive. She abandons what might be best for her own future and instead pursues a marriage that would ensure the legacy of her husband's family, through the redemption of land and through an heir who would inherit it. In the end, she and Boaz bear a child, who in effect becomes Naomi's son, an heir to her husband Elimelech and her son Mahlon, Ruth's first husband.

From a series of unfortunate events to fortunate ones, Ruth finds refuge from danger and engages in risky business as she fulfills her vow to Naomi. God's role is not explicit in every moment of the narrative, yet seems to be present on the margins, subtly guiding the characters, providing a way through difficult circumstances. God's activity in our lives is like that too, at times. When we experience a chance encounter with someone who instantly connects with us, when we don't know how we can go on and then we receive an extraordinary gift, when we realize what great joy there is in offering ourselves to serve the needs of others. And as Christians, we rejoice in the extraordinary gift of redemption available to us through Jesus of Nazareth born in Bethlehem, a descendant of David, a descendant of Ruth. As Ruth showed selfless loyalty to Naomi, so we are called to demonstrate selfless loyalty to Christ our redeemer.

For further reading on the story of Ruth, I recommend the book *Finding God in the Margins: The Book of Ruth* by Carolyn Custis James.

In Christ,

*Pastor Karol*

## Pastor Karol's Office Hours

Monday 2-5  
Tuesday 9-2  
Wednesday 10-12  
and by appointment



My usual sabbath time off will be Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon. I will respond to emergencies during this time, but will typically not engage in other work. Outside of sabbath time, I am available by phone (419-581-9232) during the day even when not scheduled in the office. ~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! We will meet each Wednesday in September, EXCEPT September 26.

## Highlights of August's Session Meeting

- Approved expanding wireless internet access throughout the church building, awarding the project to JB Networks with a quote of \$568. Approved request from Sycks to borrow tent. Approved request from Hursey family to borrow tables/tent August 23-25 to use at a yard sale.
- Mid-Am facilities came and tried to clean sanctuary fans and speaker covers, however their equipment was unable to complete the job. Will try to clean the fans ourselves and contact House of Hindenach for suggestions on the speaker covers. The freezer, door, and excess wood have been removed from the manse garage. Mulching and weeding was completed at the manse. Stains have appeared from ceiling in hallway by preschool area – will contact Shuck's who installed the roof for their thoughts. Approved to pay up to \$600 for Thompson Cleaning to clean carpet, chairs, and pews in sanctuary. Approved to have First Klass Lawn Care provide fall treatment for yards at church and manse.
- CD (12 month \$100,000) at Citizen's National Bank will be maturing in September. Approved to reinvest at Citizens provided the rate is comparable with Edward Jones. If rate is not comparable, then approved to invest this money with Edward Jones.
- The Board of Pensions is requiring churches to submit pastor's salary information by October 12, which is earlier than previously. Communication with MVP appears that information about recommended raises and minimum line item amounts will be approved at September's Meeting. Personnel and Stewardship & Finance will work together with Pastor Karol to make financial recommendations. Approved calling a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 23 following morning worship service for approving the Pastor's Terms of Call for 2019.
- Donated \$100 of local mission money for community "National Night Out" – members of church family also volunteered.
- The projector for visual display boards appears to be working better now that it sits on a cooling mat. Tenna Rhonemus will be pulpit supply on September 2 when Pastor Karol is on vacation.
- In June/July Pastor Karol made 7 home/hospital/nursing home visits, made 2 home communion visits with Deacon Laura From, and had 10 conversations with members of church family. On August 5, led Worship w/ Communion at Maple Crest (21 residents attended) with Deacon Dave Van Eman. Congregational activities: Word in the World discussion group (weekly), Pool Party dinner at Gillen's, Family Promise at St. Mary's Liturgical Dance rehearsal, 2 VBS Craft parties, outdoor worship service, Church Picnic at Brauen's, Pastor Relations Committee, and committee meetings. Presbytery activity: High School Retreat Planning meeting and New Pastors' Gathering. Community Engagement activities: 2 BAMA Meetings, walker for community VBS, and attended National Night Out. Pastor Karol will be taking vacation August 27 through September 2, including Sunday, September 2 and Continuing Education September 24 through 30, including Sunday, September 30 to attend Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in St. Louis. Shared that starting in September regular office hours will be Monday 2:00 to 5:00, Tuesday 9:00 to 2:00, Wednesday 10:00 to noon, and by appointment. Her usual time off will be Friday afternoon and Saturday. Approved to allow Pastor Karol to spend up to \$250 (from marketing line item in budget) for promotional materials (possibly mug with church name) to be used as gifts at the Bluffton University Church Fair.
- Lynda Best will talk with village administrator Jessie Blackburn to get status of alley restoration, as well as share our concern that we expect access to handicap ramp be permanent (vs. present stones) by winter.

- 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. Preliminary sketches for outdoor signage from Fultz were discussed at length. Consensus was that we are interested in front and back sign to be similar style - white with church name and logo. Front sign with posts (possibly 3ft by 6ft) will be centered in the landscape area in front of the large sanctuary window on Main Street. Back sign (possibly 2ft by 4ft) to be mounted on brick on back of office – centered between end of building and window – hopefully not flush on wall but with spacers to be able to seal brick. Hope to have final sketch and price at September meeting for Session to give final approval.

## Deacons Report

- A heart-felt *thank you* to everyone who chose the name of a homebound member on August 5. Those whom you chose will be blessed to receive your card, note, or visit in the coming month. Our next Share the Spirit event will be held in November.
- The Community Meal is set for September 6. We will be serving Chicken Jumbo over rice a favorite recipe from Ben Miracle. With his assistance, as well as other church members, we will be providing and enjoying a tasty meal with our community.

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



unable to drive themselves. They may need some assistance when entering certain vehicles. Your participation in this program will continue to allow us all worship the Lord together as a family. If you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Karol or any Deacon.

The Deacons are searching for volunteers to help transport members to church who are



## It's Community Meal Time!

Bluffton Presbyterian's next turn to host the Community Meal is Thursday, September 6, at the Senior Center. The deacons are organizing a great meal and will prepare the food, but more help is always needed and appreciated! Sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.



How can YOU participate in this all-church effort?

1. **BAKE A PIE** – at least TEN are needed to feed the estimated 80 guests.
2. **ADD YOUR NAME** to the list of cheerful workers. People are needed to help serve the meal, act as "runners," clean up, and take care of any number of small tasks.
3. **DONATE FUNDS** to help cover the cost of food and all necessary supplies. A basket for monetary donations is on the table with the sign-up sheets. Or you may donate by check. (Please write 9/5/18 Community Meal on the memo line.)

**THANK YOU** for your support of this worthwhile Bluffton ministry!

## 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!

## Mission Committee

The collection of school supplies was a great success. Thanks to all who donated!!

We are working on the Community Picnic to be held on September 16. Please see sign-up sheets for items or to help, but most of all, come join us!

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in August. The items needed this month are **hamburger helper type meals and canned soups**. 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.

Please save your aluminum cans so we can turn them in to get money for movie passes for families who use the food pantry.

## Community Picnic on the Lawn

Join us on the church lawn for a FREE Community Picnic on **September 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM!** Food will be provided including shredded chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, cookies, lemonade, and more. A variety of lawn games for all ages will be available to play.

Mission committee is providing meat and drinks; members of the congregation are invited to bring finger food sides: cookies, chips, or veggies. We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun!

### How can you help?

- Provide ideas for activities: we plan to have corn hole and a bubble area - what can you add or assist with?
- Set up of tables/chairs (and/or tear down).
- Help in the kitchen preparing shredded chicken, hotdogs.
- Donate veggies, chips, cookies, and desserts.
- Donate watermelon (and/or help cut up).
- Greet guests, clear tables, share about our church.
- Help with and/or donate to a Bakery Bingo for kids.



## Ignite - *merging fellowship, families, and service*

Members of Ignite will support Mission Committee with the Community Picnic.



## School Supply Collection

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

Tissues – 53 boxes  
Paper towels – 50 rolls  
Crayons – 7 boxes  
Crayons – twistables – 10 packs  
Colored Pencils – 31 pkgs.  
Markers – 31 pkgs.  
Scissors – 30 pairs  
Pens – 1 pkg.  
Highlighters – 60  
Dry Erase markers - 50  
Ear Buds – 5  
Glue sticks – 124  
Erasers – 19  
Pencils – 3 boxes  
Paper – 1 pad  
Glue – 1 bottle  
Hand sanitizer – 2 bottles

Thanks again for extending your loving care with others!

## 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 in the office.



## **Small Groups Resuming**

Claralice Circle will have its first meeting September 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the BPC Fellowship Hall. The ladies meet every Tuesday evening.

Sister Min Circle will resume meetings September 14 from 2:00 to 3:00 PM in the Family Room at Maple Crest. This group usually meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month.

If you would like to speak to someone about small group ideas or join one of these groups, please see Beth, Diane, Jeanette, Jayne, Mariah, or Pastor Karol.

## **BPC Internet**

## **Release Time/ Weekday Christian Education**

We have received our dates to provide walkers for the Weekday Christian Education for the upcoming year. We are looking for volunteers to cover the first 5 dates which run through December. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary or you can contact Tenna Rhonemus if you are willing to help.

Tuesday, September 25  
Tuesday, October 9  
Friday, November 2,  
Thursday, November 29  
Thursday, December 20

## **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!

## **Youth Group**

The Youth Group will meet on September 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Please join us for dinner, planning, and fun! Contact Tenna if you have questions and to RSVP for the meal. Friends are always welcome!

## **Sunday Morning Faith Formation**

September 9 marks the start of the Fall Faith Formation activities! Everyone is invited to join either the Adult Sunday School class in the Education Wing or Sunday LIFT in the Basement Fellowship Hall. Both groups will meet from 9:00 to 10:00 PM.

We hope to see you there!

## **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.

## **Bluffton Presbyterian Women**

The Ottawa Presbyterian Church Women's group will be hosting a quarter auction on Thursday, September 20, at 7:00 PM. Jeannie Verhoff will have Signature Home Styles items to auction. The proceeds from this activity will be used for local and world missions. Snacks will be provided and we will have a raffle of items donated from local businesses. We invite you to join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie.

Tickets can be purchased for \$10 at the door or contact Jane Doecker for tickets or for more information at 419-523-6439

Our church is located at 150 N Oak St., Ottawa, OH. There is a parking lot across the street.

P.S. Don't forget your rolls of quarters for the auction!



## Prayer Requests

**Prayers of Sympathy** for family and friends of Michael Bucher and Rev. Don Rock.

**Prayers of Sympathy** for the family of Roy Pneuman.

**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, Sandi Waebel, Fred Arnold, Lynn Nowak and her Mother, Sally Reeder, and Carolyn Dahms.

## 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

September	4	Jeremy Szabo
	5	Jay McCracken
	10	Bexley Leugers
	13	Julianna Hotmire
	20	Dave Kisor
	23	Roy Pneuman
		Rhonda Moor
	24	Jayne McGarrity
	25	Devin Kisor
	26	Sue Mathewson
October		Amanda Layer
	29	Cindy Gillen
	30	Wyatt Marshall
		Andrea Best
	5	Robbie McGarrity
		Anne McCracken

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### Dear Partners in God’s Mission,

We are truly grateful to God for you as we look back at the first half of the year. Your congregation’s gifts make a difference in the lives of people around the corner and around the world. God continues to be faithful, and all of us at Presbyterian Mission would like to thank you for your financial and prayerful support.

The generosity of your congregation has provided the following support: Shared Mission Support and Hunger Fund.

I am grateful for your faithful response to your call as a partner in Christ’s service. As the Mission Engagement Advisor for your region, I’m here to help you connect with the many resources available through the Presbyterian Mission Agency in support of your mission and ministries. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with questions or if you need information.

Thank you once again for your support, dedication and partnership in furthering God’s mission around the world. You are a valued partner.

Yours in Christ,  
Chris Roseland  
Mission Engagement Advisor

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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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](http://blufftonpc.org)

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris  
Phone: 419-581-9232  
Email: [pastor@blufftonpc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonpc.org)  
Summer 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 Choir Director: Sue Van Eman  
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,  
Laura From, Helen Hawk, Mike  
Rhonemus, and Dave Van Eman