



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

November 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 6 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Jerry Szabo, Oboe

Lay Reader: Sarah Gillen

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

Sunday, November 13

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Marilyn Edwards

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, November 20 – Christ the King

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Clair Winebar

Greeters: McVetta Family

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Choir

Lay Reader: Jana McVetta

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Megan Sycks



Mark Your Calendars!

- November 5 – Remember to move clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



- November 6 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00-7:00 PM
- November 10 – Session – 7:00 PM
- November 13 – Stewardship Sunday – Please hand in your Pledges – Pledge Card Attached
- November 16 – Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- November 16 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- November 20 – Hanging of the Greens – Immediately Following Worship – Soup dinner provided
- November 24 – Thanksgiving
- November 27 – No Youth Sunday School
- November 27 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- December 4 – Ignite Group Christmas Caroling – Meet at BPC – 1:30 PM. Following, meet at the home Darin and Amanda Leugers for fellowship



Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month, get it to the church office by Wednesday morning so it will be announced by our Lay Reader.

Coffee Talk

Wednesday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

Small Group

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

The Supermarket as Sin



I feel like a supermarket tabloid, trolling for your attention with outrageous headlines, when what I really need to speak about is stewardship. But really, it will make sense, if you bear with me. But first, two vignettes.

Scene 1

It is 1985, I have never gardened, and I am walking through the supermarket. And, something made me think of beets. (Okay, it's strange, but it was thirty years ago). And I turned to my friend and said, "**Where do beets come from?**" What I meant was "What is a beet, a fruit or a vegetable?" I hadn't even thought of it being a root. My friend said, without missing a beat, "Cans". The point being: I was so removed from the truth of food, and my friend only knew food from a supermarket.



Scene 2

It is 2005, I have gardened, but more importantly I now live on "the farm". We are harvesting 3 rows of sweet potatoes. This year we got 8 bushels. Now the year before, we got 2 bushels. The same person planted and tended. The weather was not significantly different. But in a normal year you got 2, and this year we got 8. Sometimes there is abundance. Sometimes there is not.

Now let's get to the **SIN**. I mean **the lie**.

Supermarkets lie about food. They lie about where it comes from, they lie about seasons, they lie about the risk and fragility of growing. They lie about what food looks like (Grade A extra fancy).

The bins are always full. But plants vary in their productivity. The bins are always full, when plants are seasonal and only grow in certain climates. Oranges in winter? Apples from Chile? Grapes from South Africa? Kiwi! Kiwi from New Zealand! That's the opposite side of the world! I don't mean to be a curmudgeon about international commerce, but what is the cost to the environment of shipping perishable fruit halfway around the world? (To learn more about the specifics of shipping Kiwi, Google "Kiwi shipping TIS").

When there is a drought in Ohio, do we see any faltering of food supply? No, because our food comes from California, Georgia, Florida, and last year's wheat Harvest in Kansas. Now, the supermarket reduces anxiety. We don't worry about food. There it is, the bins are full: Grade A extra fancy. But we should worry about trucking!



We are recipients of **God's blessing**. We are blessed by the abundance of the earth, the work, the industry of others; and we are a part of a national and international family. But we are blind. **We are blind** to God's creative power, the work of others, to the infrastructure and cooperation of nation and international.

The root of stewardship is God's blessing and creation. But we miss it. **We don't see** fragility, interdependence, cooperation, or **God's blessing**. Not to be harsh, but the **supermarket is selling an un-truth**. And we buy it!

We are completely dependent on God's blessing but we miss it. When you go to the market, use different eyes!

Before the next newsletter

Before you see the next newsletter, we will have brought our stewardship season to a close and celebrated Thanksgiving. Advent will have begun. The church will be decked out! So don't take time to blink. Because before you blink twice Christmas will be here and New Year's too. (They are on Sunday this year!)

Plans are made. And we are now running to get there before it passes us. **And be careful**, lest your holy day holidays become a frantic chase and consumption.

Pastor Dave

PDA Mission Trip

There is the possibility of doing a collaborative mission trip with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to Louisiana after flooding there last summer. Please contact Jessie Myers if there are some in your congregation who would go Jessie@findlayfpc.org. Youth would need to be 16 years old. The presbytery is willing to help facilitate if there is enough interest!

This is a great opportunity for churches who struggle to have enough folks interested do to a national mission trip, and allows for us to do mission with one another.

Deacons Bringing Back the Prayer Box!



Several years ago, Min Lindsey created this church-shaped box. Prayer requests were put in and taken out. **Beginning Sunday, November 20, this box will once again be near a sanctuary entrance.**

Anyone is welcome to write out a prayer request and put it in the box. And anyone is welcome to take out a request and lift it up in private prayer.

Look for prayer request slips in the pews and near the 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." They can be placed in the box or in the offering plates and can submitted anonymously, if you wish.

This is a meaningful tradition when you think about it. During our coming in and going out, the Prayer Box will be a visible reminder that our church family cares for one another and offers support.

Mission

The Mission Committee is planning on helping for the blaze of lights and looking for volunteers from our church to help November 5 and November 12 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM both Saturdays. We need the most help with lights the first Saturday, but also the display the second Saturday. Please contact Lynda Best 419-296-2790 or email lbest43@embarqmail.com if you can help.

The Mission Committee will also be making magic pillow blankets for families in need during the holidays so watch for information, and if you like to sew or knot fleece please let Lynda know. We have exciting things coming in the future in missions and look forward to serving the community, church, and our Lord. We are also looking for anyone who would like to join mission committee we would love input and ideas how we can help through missions, so again please let Lynda know if you are interested in helping.

Highlights of October's Session Meeting

- Claralice Circle (and Dave) hosted MVP's Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering on October 1. Proceeds of \$97 were given to Building Restoration Fund. Mission money will be donated to Bluffton Food Pantry.

Approved request by Devon/Jenna Kisor to be placed on "other" list. Approved request from Terry Mullenhour to use church on these dates to set up/take down Blaze of Lights display – on Saturday: November 5, November 12, and January 7. Terry is securing proof of insurance. Approved request from Tom Edwards to borrow tables/chairs for neighborhood gathering in September.

Approved request by Owen Ziessler to place display on manse lawn during Christmas season. Letter from Monmouth College was shared – Pastor Dave will share information with Chaplain at Bluffton University.

Approved via email to allow Montgomery/Henry wedding to use church facilities on October 1.

- First Mennonite contacted us asking us to switch January 2017 Community Meal dates with them and we agreed. BPC will now serve on January 5.
- Fred Rodabaugh (Reams Display) will be placing outdoor electrical boxes in the ground at the end of each side of the tube running under the sidewalk. Schuck's has repaired the opening under the church roof which squirrels had been using – part of Building Restoration Project. Drain pipes have been placed on exterior of rear of church so downspouts run to catch basin. Approved \$345 bid from Tree Tech for the following – remove two stumps at church, remove two stumps at manse, and trim pine tree branches close to manse. Village of Bluffton replaced one section of sidewalk – charged \$168. Hanging bulbs (sanctuary – 18) were replaced. Approved spending up to \$1500 for Wendell Badertscher to replace window in manse, replace front door at manse, reset locks at manse, install storm door – includes materials and 10-12 hours of labor.

- On December 11, Youth Group will lead worship. Approved allowing youth to serve communion on November 6 in conjunction with their Sunday School curriculum.
- Approved that, as of November 1, we switch to Church Mutual for our insurance – lower premiums for similar coverage as Guide One. Does include professional liability.
- Approved that our 25% of Peacemaking Offering be sent to Doctors Without Borders for work with Syrian Refugees and relief work in Haiti after hurricane. Making arrangements for helping with evening meal for Family Promise when hosted by Emmanuel UCC and St. Mary's in October. Asking members to make "magic pillow quilts" which will be distributed to our Adopt-a-Family, Family Promise, or Bluffton Community Assistance. Asking for help setting up Blaze of Lights display on November 5 and 12.
- In honor of Pastor Appreciation Month, Pastor Dave was given gift card to the Mustard Seed from church.
- During the month, Pastor Dave led two worship services at church, one worship service at Mennonite Home, visitations to homebound members at home/care facilities – many received communion, officiated at Andrew Montgomery and Melisha Henry wedding, COM work for MVP, finished teaching Adult Sunday School class, committee meetings, attended professional liability training.
- Approved to mount 2 video display boards and projector on rear wall by light switches. Will participate in Trick or Treat on October 27. Claralice Circle plans to go caroling in December.





Fellowship/Action/Service

Ignite - *merging fellowship, families, and service*

SAVE THE DATE:

The afternoon of Sunday, December 4, Ignite will go Christmas Caroling. We will provide the gift of music to our shut-ins and meet afterwards at the Leuger's home. More details will be forthcoming.

Ignite Fall Gathering at the Brauen's



Sunday School

The children/ youth Sunday school class will begin an Advent series of lessons on November 13. "The Journey" will have us "Walking the Road to Bethlehem" right along with Mary, Joseph, and other participants as they move closer to the arrival of Jesus as a baby. These 5 sessions of "walking" will include a video journey through the Holy Lands, Bible study, games, and some surprises! Please join us in the basement from 9:00 to 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings.

Sunday School Break

We will not have Sunday School for the children/youth class on November 27.



Adopt-A-Family Program

We will be adopting families served by the Bluffton Community Assistance Program again this year. Once we have the details for the families we have been assigned, we will share them with the congregation. Please watch the bulletins and back of the sanctuary for more information.

Youth Group

The youth group will have their monthly meeting on November 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. This month we will be talking about gold rings and pig snouts. Really! We will also partake in some extreme poetry reading. This will be poetry like you have never heard, seen, or possibly felt! Of course all of this is part of our backstage pass to the Bible. Come join us for a meal, Bible exploration, and lots of fun!



Children/ Youth Advent Service

The children and youth will be leading worship on December 11. Please let Tenna know if you are able to participate. We will have parts for everyone who wants one!



The Hanging of the Greens

Mark your calendars! Sunday, November 20, immediately following worship will be the annual decorating of the church for Christmas. A soup luncheon will follow.



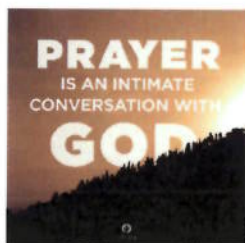
I would like to thank the following people who helped with the Family Promise Meals this month! Your support of this new ministry is greatly appreciated! Barb Fett, Cindy Gillen, Lynda Best, Jayne McGarrity, Ryan and Sarah Brauen, Lori Schmidt, Dave and Sue Van Eman, Betsy Angus, Don and Cathy Carroll, Don and Jodi Brauen, and Lisa Culbertson.

There will be more opportunities to provide meals and serve as hosts next year. In the meantime, please keep those who are dealing with homelessness and hunger in your prayers.

Tenna

Did you know...?

Anyone can get on ourdailybread.org and subscribe to download to mobile phone or email.



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.

Prayer Requests

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.



Prayer for Christian Participation in Politics

Gracious Father, you rule the world with unfathomable wisdom, power, and love. We now ask your blessing as we enter a time of national vulnerability as we conduct our national free election. Do not permit the enemies of this great country to disturb, distract, or derail us from the goals of an honest and safe election. Encourage the citizens of this land to turn out and vote. Cause believers everywhere to participate in our democratic process, ensuring the continued freedoms guaranteed by our constitution. Remind us that no matter what the outcome is, you work in all things for the good of those who love you. Lead us to renew our thankfulness for your guiding hand and to serve as volunteers in our local elections. And in so doing, may we shine the light of Jesus as a reflection of your incredible love in this dark world. Amen.



Happy Birthday!!

November	2	Molly McCracken
		Julia Szabo
	7	Gail Marshall
		Nathan Hursh
	8	Morgan McVetta
	10	Owen Brauen
	13	Skyler Scoles
	14	John Rhoads
	15	Jeff Gillen
	26	Madison Hursh
	28	Clara Brauen
	29	Olivia Parker
December	4	Marilyn Edwards
		Jim Enneking
	5	Ariana Zuehlke

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.



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving: "Bless the LORD, O my _____, and forget not all his benefits."

A. people
B. soul

C. heart
D. children

Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV)

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.

Dear Church Family,

Our congregation is almost like one big family. We've welcomed newcomers to our community. Our members include several three-generation families. Our church has been an integral part of the Bluffton community for many years. Many of our most cherished memories have been nurtured in this family – infant baptisms, weddings, memorial services for loved ones, Christmas Eve and Easter services. We are the beneficiaries of a precious legacy built up by generations of faithful members who have contributed their energy, talents, and treasure to the mission and ministry of our church.

But the church faces significant challenges. We are moving to meet these challenges with new life. Evidence of this new life is the Ignite fellowship service group, formation of an additional small group, new mission projects and new mission groups including Family Promise. The website and facebook have been updated and improved as a way to connect with our church family and our community.

But we recognize that these steps alone will not reverse the decline in attendance and membership. Session recently decided that we need to go further to redefine our mission and embark on a whole new way of being a church. This will be a long-term effort that will require significant energy, ingenuity, creativity, spirituality and commitment from our church family.

We are asking for your help. This year, in addition to asking you for your financial support, we are also asking you to give us an indication of your interests. We hope to create an inventory of interests so that, as new ministry and mission projects are evaluated, we can assess the likelihood of having sufficient resources to bring them to fruition. We have therefore enclosed two stewardship commitment forms – one to record your pledge of financial support and the other to record your commitment of time and talent. We hope you will be generous with both resources as you have always been.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Dave

Bob Angus

Cindy Gillen

Tenna Rhonemus

Linda Best

Tom Hursey

Lori Schmidt

Tom Edwards

Dick McGarrity

Phil Weisenbarger

**Bluffton Presbyterian Church
2017 Operating Funds**

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Jesus, Luke 12:34

Our work in our community and world can only be accomplished when members give generously and sacrificially of their treasure. I/we prayerfully choose to try to give as follows in 2017:

\$_____ weekly, or \$_____ (monthly)(quarterly), or \$_____ other

(signature[s])

(name[s] printed)

This commitment may be updated due to changes in circumstances.

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My Interests – My Time: My Gift to the Church

As we move forward in mission redefinition and move in new directions, it is important to know what resources we have. One of the most valuable resources the church has is time, your time. But our use of time is not random - our time follows our interests. So we ask you for your interests, for the sake of the church and for the sake of our future.

My interests are: (Please circle all which apply.)

Preparing Food

Funeral dinners
Community Meal
Family Promise
Hosting fellowship hour
Meals for church family members

Church Property

Help with landscaping at church
Help with landscaping at manse
Help with repairs and maintenance at church and manse

Mission Projects

Family Promise
Family Night Out
Prayer Chain
Card ministry
Visitation of shut-ins
A New Project

Music

Choir
Praise Team
Handbells
Vocal
Instrumental

Youth Work

Youth Group
Sunday School
Community Vacation Bible School
Walkers for Weekday
Christian Ed
Saturday Kid Kare

Other

Please list other areas in which you would be interested in helping:

Worship Leadership

Lay leader
Preaching training
Communion training
Greeters
Decorating sanctuary for Advent/Christmas/Easter

Community Outreach

Family Promise
Blaze of Lights
Craft Show lunch
Wheels Festival supper
Community meal
Connecting with Bluffton University students
A New Project!

Print Name

Signature

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Print Name

Signature

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

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@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
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.