



*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## December 2023

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, December 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Communion**

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good  
Liturgist: Jade Hochstetler  
Special Music: Marilyn Edwards and Dave Sycks Brass  
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolyte: Bowen  
Greeters: Phil and Pam Weisenberger

#### **Sunday, December 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Youth Service**

**Cents-Ability Offering,**  
Pulpit Supply: Tenna Rhonemus  
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolytes: Owen and Clara  
Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

#### **Sunday, December 17 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good  
Liturgist: Helen Hawk  
Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen  
Slides: Michele Talavinia  
Acolyte: Avery  
Greeters: Phill and Michelle Talavinia

#### **Sunday, December 24 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good  
Liturgist: Diane Winebar  
Choir  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus  
Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Acolyte: Robbie  
Greeters: Lynda Best and Lou Best

#### **Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good  
Choir  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus  
Slides: Rev. Dave Good

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### **Sundays:**

Sunday School 9:00 AM – Pre-K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Fellowship Hall  
Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary  
Children's Church – Fellowship Hall

**Tuesdays:** Claralice Circle 6:30 PM – Fellowship Hall

**Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM – Sanctuary

Dec. 9 – Cookie/Candy Sale 9:00 AM to Noon

Dec. 9 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Dec. 10 – Soup and Sandwich Fellowship Luncheon  
Following Worship

Dec. 14 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

**Dec. 17 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by  
end of day**

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Instrumental Prelude 6:30 PM, Service 7:00 PM

Weekly livestream worship is available on our [Facebook page](#) and later posted to our [website](#).



#### **Sunday, December 31**

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good  
Liturgist: Tom Edwards  
Special Music: Jayne McGarrity  
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Lynda Best  
Slides: Linda Nelson  
Acolyte: Morgan  
Greeters: Tom and Marilyn Edwards

## SESSION

### Highlights of November's Session Meeting

- Cents–Ability offering is divided as follows – 1/3 our Local Free Food Pantry, 1/3 Bluffton Community Assistance, and 1/3 Maumee Valley Presbytery.
- Approved granting 3% raise to employees in 2024 to show appreciation to our valued employees and recognize that additional responsibilities have been added while we are without a pastor.
- Bluffton Presbyterian Church will soon receive a redemption payment for a 3-year CD from the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP). Funds will be invested into BPC's Edward Jones money market account which pays better interest rates.
- Organ needed routine maintenance – had not been serviced in many years. We were aware of some needed repairs and additional items found – approximately \$1000 from Memorial Fund will be used to pay this expense.



## Community Meal

### Bluffton Community Meal

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Community Meal on December 21 at 6:00 p.m. We are in need of 5-6 people to help set up, serve, and clean up after the meal. We are asking that volunteers arrive around 5:00 or 5:30 p.m., if possible. In addition, we would like to serve pies as the dessert and are seeking 12 pies.

There will be sign-up sheets in the back of the sanctuary for both volunteers and pies. If you would like to have your pie picked up from your home, please indicate so on the sign-up sheet or notify Tenna Rhonemus. Thank you in advance for your help!

## DEACONS

### Highlights of Deacon's November 12 Meeting

- Community Meal.
- Members in need.
- New member 2024.

### Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

The PNC continues to work diligently.



## FAITH FORMATION

Youth Sunday is December 10. The service will be conducted by kids from our Sunday School, Youth Group, and the community. The service will include a skit written and directed by Tenna Rhonemus.

Sunday School, Children's Church, and Youth Group will then go on vacation until January.

## MISSION



Thanks to Mark McNamara, and Kelly and Reid Foust for helping Bob Hursh to cover November Pizza Night at LRM, and thanks to everyone who helped with donations.

We currently have December 9 covered and will be looking for volunteers for January 13 and February 10. Anyone interested in helping or donating soda, water, variety pack chips, candy bars, 10" plates, or gallon ziplock bags, please call or text Bob Hursh.

If you donate money, please submit a check (memo: LRM) to the church office or give online ([www.blufftonpc.org/give](http://www.blufftonpc.org/give)). Thanks!



### Little Free Pantry

Nov 27 - Dec 3 – Sarah Noland

Dec 4 - Dec 10 – Diane Winebar

Dec 11 - Dec 17 – Jodi Brauen

Dec 18 - Dec 24 – Sue Van Eman

Dec 25 - Dec 31 – Jayne McGarrity

Please remember that we don't use many cans during the winter, so items that are packaged like ramen noodles, boxed cereal, Hamburger Helper, cookie mixes, will be helpful. Thank You!!



### This year we are adopting 2 families!

Family 1: Mom, 15-year-old son, and 2-year-old daughter. Family 2: Dad, Mom, and 15-year-old son. Information about these families is located downstairs on the bulletin boards! Please feel free to grab an item or two to donate! Take the top card with you and place it on or in your gift after you bag/wrap it. Please write your name on the back card and place it in the basket for us to keep track of items that have been selected. Thank you again for your amazing support! Items are due December 10.

### Blanket Project

The annual tradition of creating blankets for our community neighbors is underway. No-sew blanket kits are available at the back of the sanctuary. With simple cuts and knot tying, our members and friends can make wonderful gifts for shut-ins, families in shelters, and our Adopt-A-Families. Blankets are due Sunday, December 10.



## CHRISTMAS JOY

### SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian Advent tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. To give now, visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>

### Worship

Youth will lead worship on December 10 coordinated by Tenna Rhonemus.

The online link to use to sign up for liturgists, greeters, acolytes, and to serve communion is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BACAF2FA1F9C61-45242430-church>.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those who prefer not to sign up online.

### Fellowship



Please join us immediately following church on December 10 for fellowship and a soup and sandwich luncheon in the basement. We will be serving a variety of soups, macaroni and cheese, sandwiches, and more. Let's be together as we celebrate Youth Sunday and the anticipation of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



### **Christmas Cookie/Candy Mix and Match Sale**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 9, from 9:00 a.m. to noon to stop by the church to pick up Christmas Cookies/ Candy in the Fellowship Hall! We are asking for donations of at least 3 dozen small homemade Christmas cookies and/or candy. Please bring in disposable containers (shirt boxes work well). More information and sign-up sheets will be on the back table in the sanctuary. Proceeds will go to Missions.

Share this event with friends and families! If you would like to donate home-baked cookies, contact Kerry Freemont or sign up in the back of the sanctuary.



### **Continued Prayers for:**

Those who live alone or in care facilities and are less able to engage in meaningful connections with others, including Jane Benroth, Ralph Middleton, Ben Miracle, Hazel Rodabaugh, and Owen Ziessler.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

Prayers for the people of Israel.

The Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue the search for a new pastor.

### **Prayers of Joy for:**

Nathan and Samantha Hall (daughter of Mike and Tenna Rhonemus) on their recent wedding.

Jake and Emily Riley (daughter of Dave and Linda Sycks) on their recent wedding.

Jeremy & Alex Enneking and Jim & Carole Enneking on the recent birth of son/grandson Owen John.

All our talented musicians sharing their gifts with the congregation.

Nour and family (Pastor Dave's friends) who made it safely out of Gaza and are headed to Canada.

### **Prayers of Sympathy for:**

The family and friends of Alaina who recently passed. (LeAnn Carr's friend)

### **We Pray for God's Healing for:**

Jane Benroth  
Darlene Hey  
Sue Mathewson  
Sunny Zank  
Makayla, Skyler, and Rhett (friends of Tyler and Jade Hochstetler)  
Sylvia (Diane Winebar's sister)  
Dr. Sharon Cole (Darlene Hey's doctor)  
John Crouse (Darlene Hey's nephew)  
Levi Augsburg (Lynda Best's friend)  
Linda Francies (Bev Begg's daughter)  
Nancy and Larry Frost (Cindy Gillen's cousins)  
Adrian Gnam (LeAnn Carr's friend)  
Kira Kogovsek (Mullenhour family friend)  
Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey's daughter)  
Larry and Eileen Rhonemus (Mike's parents)  
Taylor Zsiros (Jeff and Kerry Fremont's son's fiancé)



### **BPC Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request, contact Mike Rhonemus. PLEASE leave a message if no answer. Or call the church office with your prayer request, and we will pass along the information. If you would like to add someone else to the prayer chain, 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.





## Birthdays

Dec 4 Marilyn Edwards  
Jim Enneking  
Tenna Rhonemus  
11 Kerry Fremont  
Jeanie Nichols  
14 Alora Enneking  
15 Sarah Gillen  
16 John Nelson  
17 Ben Miracle  
21 Linda Sycks  
29 Billy Marshall  
31 Darlene Hey  
Jan 2 Steve Carr  
Tyler Hochstetler  
3 Chad Carroll  
Dave Sycks

## Anniversaries

Dec. 7 Jeff and Kerry Fremont



## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

### October 2023 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2023	\$
YTD offerings to the general fund and other receipts	
YTD general fund expenses	
October 31, 2023 balance	\$

Thank you for your financial gifts to the general operating fund to support BPC's ministries!

## Offering Envelopes



### 2024 Offering Envelopes

We have supplies of offering envelopes available any time. Whenever you could use a fresh supply, please contact Clair Winebar in person or by email [treasurer@blufftonpc.com](mailto:treasurer@blufftonpc.com).

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

Missions Service Intercession	Music Sharing Leadership	Prayer Special Music Counsel	Faith Mercy Wisdom	Hospitality Guidance Deaconing
<b>Spiritual Gifts!</b>				
Encouragement Patience Caring	Love Cheer Piety	Generosity Administration Grace	Art Fortitude Kindness	Discernment Creativity Teaching

**THANK YOU!**

**Thank you** for providing 2024 intention of commitment cards for sharing time, talents, and financial gifts! Your generous sharing of God's gifts nourishes more souls and provides positive moments to more lives than we can know!

In Peace and Gratitude,  
The Stewardship and Finance Committee:  
Craig Bowman, Barb Fett, Dick McGarrity, and  
Clair Winebar



### Cents-Ability for Hunger Relief!

Thank you to our young BPC members who passed the clanging cans and to everyone who contributed their change to the November 12 Cents-Ability collection. The youth collected **\$60!** Great job fighting hunger!! *Did you know?* The bank does not allow us to deposit foreign coins so please try to avoid tossing Canadian coins into the cans.



As a reminder, the local Community Markets rebate program is a super easy way to support both BPC and our local grocery store! Simply drop your Community Markets receipts in the basket attached to the bulletin board by the church office or mail them to the church. BPC then receives a 1% rebate. Even small receipts are worth turning in; the combined total adds up. Year-to-date through Oct. 31, 2023, Community Markets has provided **\$418** of rebates to support BPC ministries!

**Many thanks and appreciation to Darlene Hey** who handles the Community Markets program for us!

## *Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas!*



If you wish to help beautify the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons, use the form below to make a monetary donation. Your gift will be used to buy poinsettias and other items. **Please return your completed form and gift by December 17** to have your dedication included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias may be picked up following the Christmas Eve service.

Please make checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, with “poinsettias” on the memo line. Place forms and gifts in a collection plate, drop in the Treasurer’s box in the office, or mail to the church (PO Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817).

To donate online: Go to [blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org) and click on GIVE. Follow the links to Advent Decorations.

The Worship Committee thanks you!

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I/We wish to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I/We would like this gift to be given in **MEMORY OF:**

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I/We would like this gift to be given in **HONOR OF:**

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**Your Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_







And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

LUKE 2:10-11, ESV



**BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**112 N. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 149**  
**BLUFFTON, OH 45817**

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

Sundays: Faith Formation: 9:00 AM

Worship: 10:15 AM

**OFFICE HOURS**

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email:

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Treasurer: Clair Winebar

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Custodians: Chris and John Hochstetler

**2022 Church Officers**

*Elders on Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Sycks

Faith Formation – Dick McGarrity

Fellowship – Tom Edwards

Mission – Jade Hochstetler

Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Lynda Best

Elders at Large – Sarah Brauen and Phill Talavinia

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

*Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

Members: Cindy Gillen, Rob McGarrity,

Jana McVetta, Tenna Rhonemus, Mike Rhonemus