



*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## December 2024

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff  
Liturgist: Sarah Brauen  
Special Music: Don Brauen  
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus  
Slides: Linda Nelson  
Acolyte: Morgan  
Greeters: Kevin and Jana McVetta

#### **Sunday, December 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Communion, Cents-Ability Offering**

Youth Group: Skit Written by Tenna Rhonemus  
Special Music: Youth  
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolyte: Bowen  
Greeters: Youth

#### **Sunday, December 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff  
Liturgist: Tom Edwards  
Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus  
Slides: Michele Talavinia  
Acolytes: Owen and Clara  
Greeters: Jeff and Kerry Fremont

#### **Sunday, December 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff  
Liturgist: Diane Winebar  
Special Music: Choir and Bells  
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen  
Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Acolyte: Avery  
Greeters: Phill and Michelle Talavinia



### Mark Your Calendars!

#### **Sundays:**

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary  
Sunday School – Pre-K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Following  
“Time for Young Christians”

#### **Tuesdays:**

Claralice Circle Advent Study 6:30 PM

#### **Wednesdays:**

Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Dec 1 – Deacon Meeting 9:15 AM

Dec 1 – Hanging of the Greens Following Worship

Dec 3 – Claralice Circle Advent Study 6:30 PM

Dec 8 – Youth Sunday

Dec 10 – Claralice Circle Advent Study 6:30 PM

Dec 12 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Dec 14 – Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale  
9:00 AM to Noon

Dec 14 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Dec 17 – Claralice Circle Advent Study 6:30 PM

Dec 24 – Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  
Instrumental Prelude at 6:30 PM  
Lessons and Carols at 7:00 PM

#### **Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols**

Special Music: Choir, Instrumental Ensemble,  
Soloists

Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen

Slides: Diane Winebar

Acolyte: Robbie

Greeters: Dick and Jayne McGarrity

#### **Sunday, December 29**

Pulpit Supply: Rev John Foster

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity

Special Music: Dan Noland

Sound: Jeff Gillen /Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Cathy

Acolyte: Robbie

Greeters: Dan and Sarah Noland

## SESSION

### November Meeting Highlights

- Approved Paul Nusbaum’s request (The 60’s Survivors Band) to use Gazebo/church lawn on Friday, July 18, 2025 evening (rain date Saturday, July 19, 2025) for free public concert.
- Church lawn was mowed for last time, sidewalks edged, trimmed around flowerbeds, and flowers cut back in preparation for village putting up lights/Christmas display on the church lawn. With Wendell Badertscher’s help, a 60-minute timer light switch was installed in the gazebo - will automatically turn off at any timed interval up to an hour. New rug purchased for church foyer. Brian Barry determined that our projector problem was simply a matter of overheating because it was too close to the wall. He built a longer shelf and remounted the projector. Mike Rhonemus and Dave Sycks repaired/repainted the blistering wall in the choir loft. Manse lawn was mowed for the last time. The manse is “winterized” – garden hose disconnected and thermostat set on 60 with cupboard doors under sinks standing open. Manse will continue to be inspected weekly. Next year will be using Fruchey’s for lawn treatments for church/manse since their estimate was lower than Trugreen which had been providing that service.
- Approved employees pay increases for 2025.
- Insurance (property and liability) with Church Mutual was renewed for another year effective November 2024 – October 2025.

## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

### October 2024 – General Fund Summary

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Balance January 1, 2024             | \$ |
| Year-to-date offerings and receipts |    |
| Year-to-date expenses               |    |
| Balance October 31, 2024            | \$ |

Special non-budgeted fund balances on October 31 included \$296 for Little Free Pantry supplies and \$2,018 for monthly Lima Rescue Mission pizza dinners.

Thank you for supporting BPC’s ministries!

## Thank you from the Stewardship & Finance Committee for Supporting the Practicing Gratitude Stewardship Campaign

The Stewardship & Finance Committee *thanks* everyone who has provided an intention card to share time, talents, and treasures with BPC during 2025. Your willingness to share time and talents are shared with committee elders, and your intentions to provide financial offerings are confidential, but collectively help Session establish a 2025 general operating fund budget. If you have not had a chance to fill out an intention card, please prayerfully consider doing so, then drop in an offering plate or in the black Treasurer’s lockbox in the office. If you have any questions, please discuss with our Treasurer, Clair Winebar, or any other member of the Stewardship & Finance Committee (Craig Bowman, Barb Fett, and Dick McGarrity). **Thank you for *Practicing Gratitude***, and **thank you** for supporting *BPC*!

## A Sharing of Blessings from the Practicing Gratitude Jar



- Our loving, caring church family.
- Health, the shared love of family, spouses, kids, grandkids, and friends!
- Bluffton and the USA!
- Caregivers and help in times of need.
- Wonderful fellowship!
- Our wonderful church music and musicians!
- Our passion and willingness to try new things and to grow!
- 175-year anniversary of BPC and legacy of serving God!
- Beautiful sunsets, skies, stars, rainbows, and changing of the seasons!
- Beautiful church yard and gazebo!
- Little Free Pantry and Lima Rescue Mission ministries!
- Everyone who has helped lead worship; we love the variety of messages!
- The Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Jobs, hobbies, homes, schools, and sports!
- The veterans who have served our country.
- Our youth who have, and still teach us about God’s love and sharing God’s love!



## WORSHIP

Our church will be decorated for Christmas following worship service on December 1. Your help is appreciated.

Youth will lead worship on December 8, coordinated by Tenna Rhonemus.

The advent candle will be lit by acolytes and their family each week:

- Dec. 1 – McVetta Family
- Dec. 8 – Hochstetler Family
- Dec. 15 – Brauen Family
- Dec. 22 – Talavinia Family
- Dec. 24 – McGarrity Family

## DEACONS

November Meeting:

- Discussion on providing ride to church for member.
- Set menu for December 19 Community Meal.



## Community Meal

### Bluffton Community Meal

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Community Meal at the Senior Citizen Center on December 19 at 6:00 p.m.

We are looking for 5-6 volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up after the meal. We are asking that volunteers arrive between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. to help with set up. In addition, we are looking for donations of six 9x13 pans of bar cookies or brownies for dessert.

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

## MISSION



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian 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. In 2023, 275 individuals were supported through the Board of Pensions with housing supplements and emergency assistance grants; in addition, high school and college students at Menaul School (NM), Presbyterian Pan American School (TX), and Stillman College (AL) received scholarships from the offering. Donations to the Christmas Joy Offering can be made (all month long) by check to the office or in the collection plate, or by credit card through the secure website giving page - <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z3BJ/home>



### Blanket Tying

It is time for the annual blanket making time! Kits for the no-sew blankets (cut and tie) are available at the back of the sanctuary. Finished blankets are due by December 18. Blankets will be shared with adopt-a-families, as well as with homeless families (Family Promise) and needy individuals (Changing Seasons) in Lima.



BPC is sponsoring two families this holiday season. Wishlist items are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please wrap the gift items and attach the "post it note" description to the package so Mission Committee can sort the gifts; gift cards do not need to be wrapped. Gifts are due to the church by Sunday, December 15; distribution will be Dec. 21. Thank you for helping local families in need.



Thank you to Betsey Angus and Phil Bowers, and Cindy and Jeff Gillen for covering November Pizza Night at Lima Rescue Mission. We had another month with 30 men. They enjoyed the pizza, candy, chips, and pop. Thanks to all who continue to help with donations.

The next pizza night is December 14. 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.

### Little Free Pantry

Dec 2-8 – Sarah Noland  
Dec 9-15 – Sarah Brauen  
Dec 16-22 – Carole Enneking  
Dec 23-29 – Diane Winebar  
Dec 30-Jan 5 – Sue Van Eman

Because of dropping temperatures, we are now hoping that you will consider donating boxed items such as hamburger helper, ramen noodles, pancake mix, and taco kits. Thank you!

### FAITH FORMATION

The Youth will lead worship Sunday, December 8, which will include the skit "A Beautiful Christmas Scoop" written by Tenna Rhonemus. Please plan on attending to support the youth in our church!

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

### Release Time Christian Education Walkers

We are in need of volunteers for Release Time Christian Education on Thursday, December 5 for:  
Donaldson (3) 8:15-8:45  
McCafferty (3) 8:50-9:20  
Gratz (4) 9:15-9:45  
Noble (4) 9:50-10:20

If you are willing to help, please see Linda Nelson or sign up in the back of the sanctuary.

### FELLOWSHIP



### Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale

The Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale is coming up again soon and will be held Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

We are asking for contributions of at least 4 dozen cookies and/or candy, but feel free to bring as much as you would like! The sale has been very successful and we sell out quickly. We are already hearing from the public "are you having your cookie sale again this year?" Forms will be available on the back table in November. See Kerry Fremont for more information.

### Women's Advent Study – Claralice Circle

The season of Advent is upon us! All women are invited to join a 3-week Advent study by Kate Bowler:

"The Weary World Rejoices"

This year, embrace the Advent season as it is – imperfect, beautiful, and real.

Tuesdays, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Claralice Circle

We are currently meeting at the Mennonite Memorial Home in the lower level Gathering Room. For more information, contact Carole Enneking or Diane Winebar.







**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.

**Prayers of Sympathy for:**

The family and friends of Lou Best (Tanya Best's husband) who passed away recently.

The family and friends of Owen Ziessler who passed away recently.

Prayers with the family and friends of Bridget Niese (Tanya Best's friend) who passed away recently.

Prayers with the family and friends of Barb Borer (Jeremy Szabo's friend) who passed away recently.

**Prayers for:**

Those who live alone or in care facilities, including Hazel Rodabaugh.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

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

- Beth Buist
- Jodi Diller
- Darlene Hey
- Gene and Sue Mathewson
- Colletta Mullenhour
- Jeannie Nichols
- Mariah Pneuman
- Sunny Zank
- Sylvia (Diane Winebar's sister)
- Jim and Deb Augsburg (Jodi's friends)
- LeAnn Carr's mother
- Linda Francies (Bev Begg's daughter)

**Prayers of Healing Continued:**

- Mary Fremont (Jeff and Kerry Fremont's sister-in-law)
- Dave Hall (Jeremy Szabo's friend)
- Jim Kincaid (Tanya Best's friend)
- Brad Lovell (Jade's father)
- Wanda McCullough (Jade Hochstetler's grandmother)
- Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey's daughter)
- Eileen Rhonemus (Mike Rhonemus's mother)
- Joseph Robinson (Jeremy Szabo's friend)
- Andrew Sycks (Dave Sycks' great nephew)
- Sandi Waibel (Donnas Stone's sister)



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Bluffton Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. Your generous gifts are greatly appreciated.

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Thank you to all those in our church family that donated food, helped set up, served, and helped clean up for Lou Best's funeral dinner.  
Deacon Cindy Gillen – Funeral Meal Coordinator  
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**Birthdays**

- Dec 4 Marilyn Edwards  
Jim Enneking  
Tenna Rhonemus
- 11 Kerry Fremont  
Jeanie Nichols
- 14 Alora Enneking
- 15 Sarah Gillen
- 16 John Nelson
- 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

*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 15** 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:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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



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

Sundays: 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: Jeremy Zank

Custodian: Debi Schmidt

**2024 Church Officers**

*Elders on Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Sycks

Faith Formation – Linda Nelson

Fellowship – Kerry Fremont

Mission – Carole Enneking

Nominating – LeAnn Carr and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Lynda Best

Elders at Large – Sarah Brauen, LeAnne Carr, Tom Edwards

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

*Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

Members: Jodi Brauen, Cindy Gillen, Rob McGarrity,  
Tenna Rhonemus, Mike Rhonemus