



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

February 2025

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 2 - Communion

Pulpit Supply: Tenna Rhonemus
Liturgist: Lynda Best
Special Music: Don Brauen
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus
Slides: Linda Nelson
Acolytes: Owen and Clara
Greeters: Ryan and Sarah Brauen

Sunday, February 9 – Cents-Ability Offering

Pulpit Supply: Cole May
Liturgist: Carole Enneking
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolyte: Morgan
Greeters: Mike and Tenna Rhonemus

Sunday, February 16

Pulpit Supply: Cole May
Liturgist: Marilyn Edwards
Special Music: Lori Schmidt
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen
Slides: Michele Talavinia
Acolyte: Avery
Greeters: Edwards-Leeper Family

Sunday, February 23

Pulpit Supply: Cole May
Liturgist: Dan Noland
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolyte: Bowen
Greeters: Dave and Linda Sycks



Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays:

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary

Tuesdays:

Claralice Circle Advent Study 6:30 PM

Wednesdays:

Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Feb 2 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Feb 2 – Deacon Meeting 9:15 AM

Feb 8 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Feb 9 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Feb 12 – Mission Committee Meeting 7:30 PM

Feb 13 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Feb 16 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Feb 16 – Faithline 6:30 to 8:00 PM – Methodist Church

Feb 23 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Feb 23 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day at jcgillen99@gmail.com





SESSION

January Meeting Highlights

- Vacuum repaired in the Preschool room. Contracted with Fruchey's for lawn treatments at manse/church for 2025. Walks shoveled twice on January 3. New salt purchased for the winter.
- Reorganizational Items – Elected Lori Schmidt as Clerk and Clair Winebar as Treasurer. Elected Lori Schmidt as Presbytery Commissioner. Elected Nominating Co-Chairs - LeAnn Carr and Tom Edwards.
- Approved Personnel Committee for 2025 include Lori Schmidt (chair), Phill Talavinia, and Sue Van Eman.
- Appreciation expressed to: Sarah Brauen, Clair Winebar, and Dave Sycks (who are completing terms) for their faithful service; Bob Butcher – blessed that he was assigned by Maumee Valley Presbytery as our Session Moderator and available to help us navigate through challenging situations; Clerk Lori Schmidt for communication sent electronically to keep Session informed; and Session for responding promptly to email communications and willingness to express their thoughts.

Elders and Deacon Installation

Congratulations to our new Deacons Cindy Gillen and Tenna Rhonemus, and our new Elders Carole Enneking, Jeff Gillen, Jana McVetta, and Dave Sycks! Thanks to Sarah Brauen and Clair Winebar for their faithful, dedicated service on Session for six years. Appreciative of Cindy Gillen, Tenna Rhonemus, and Dave Sycks for completing three-year terms and willingness to serve an additional term.

DEACONS

January Meeting

- Discussed details for February Community Meal
- Looked at monthly Communion Schedule for 2025

Expressions of Appreciation

Expressions of Appreciation shared at the Annual Congregational Meeting include:

- Jayne McGarrity for her creative work with our digital sign.
- Cathy Carroll for awesome work on Sunday worship slides, as well as the weekly email.
- Cindy Gillen's dedication for coordinating and compiling our monthly newsletter.
- Sue Van Eman and Sarah/Dan Noland for making purchases for the Little Free Pantry – volunteers who take turns stocking it each week – and church family for their food/financial donations for this purpose.
- Dave Sycks for keeping grounds at the church/manse nice, checking the manse weekly while it is not occupied, and making any necessary repairs at the church/manse.
- Debi Schmidt for her conscientious work as our new custodian.
- Bob Hursh and volunteers who monthly serve pizza dinners at the Lima Rescue Mission.
- Fellowship Committee for coordinating fellowship time/meals after worship.
- Church family – including the PNC – for their love, support, dedication shown to the church while we have been without a pastor the last two years.
- Linda Sycks for serving faithfully as Choir Director for over 20 years and Jeremy Zank for willingness to take this position and direct our choir.
- Deacons are appreciative of church family support when asked to help serve Community Meals as well as provide food/serve at funeral dinners.
- Clerk Lori Schmidt for communication sent to Elders and Moderator.
- Treasurer Clair Winebar for his professionalism for handling BPC's finances.

FAITH FORMATION

Faithline

Our middle school and high school members are invited to attend FAITHLINE; a monthly non-denomination gathering at the Methodist church. The gathering starts at 6:30 p.m. on a Sunday night with dinner, a short non-denominational message, and then a live Christian band. The evening ends at 8:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend, and the gathering meets once a month; the next gathering is February 16.

If you would like more information, please contact Lori Lewis 419-234-3663 or Linda Nelson 330-704-8337.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation update: Due to scheduling and interest, the confirmation class will begin on February 2, meeting Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. The class will meet for 12 sessions, and run into May. Further information will be communicated directly to those participating.

Christian Education Release Time

The schedule for Christian Education release schedule is as follows:

Thursday, February 20, 1:00 - 3:00

(1st and 5th grade)

Thursday, March 6, 11:30 to 12:35

(Kindergarten only)

Thursday, April 10, 1:00 to 3:00

(1st and 5th grade)

Volunteers are needed for Thursday, February 20. We are looking for 2 volunteers for each session, a one-hour commitment. 1:00-2:00 p.m.(1st grade) and 2:00-3:00 (5th grade).

Instructions and classroom maps are provided at the time. This is an easy way to support Christian Education for our community. If you are interested in volunteering, sign-up sheets are available in the back, or contact Linda Nelson at 330-704-8337.



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

December 2024 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2024	\$91,364
Year-to-date offerings and receipts	117,149
Year-to-date expenses	(74,034)
Balance December 31, 2024	\$ 134,479

Special non-budgeted fund balances on December 31 included \$563 for Little Free Pantry supplies, and \$1,666 for monthly Lima Rescue Mission pizza dinners. Thank you for your many gifts of time and finances to support BPC's ministries throughout 2024!

Thank you Et Cetera!

BPC received a \$500 gift from the Et Cetera organization in January. Et Cetera shared a portion of last year's profits with its six local sponsoring churches, and BPC is a sponsoring church. Et Cetera asked that the funds be used to help people with financial needs, and Session decided to use the funds to buy supplies for the Little Free Pantry.

A thank you was sent from the Church to Et Cetera. Thank you to BPC members and friends who serve as Et Cetera volunteers.

Thank you for your Per Capita Offerings

Thank you to everyone who has provided a 2025 per capita offering! If you have not had a chance and would like to, you may provide a per capita gift anytime this year. Per capita represents the cost from General Assembly, Synod, and Maumee Valley Presbytery that we are charged for each member. The 2025 amount is \$40.29 per member.

MISSION

Mission Committee Welcomes Members

Join us in serving our local, national, and international neighbors.



Photo Credit: Cal Fire

GIVE NOW

Support the PC(USA)'s response to the California wildfires



PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in response to the devastating fires in California, which authorities are calling a historic and deadly wildfire event. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the “GAP” for the people affected by these catastrophic wildfires? Give. Act. Pray. Gifts can be made online at pcusa.org/CAfires25, by phone at 800-728-7228, Ext. 5885, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “PDA-CF25-BI” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



Thanks to Cathy and Don Carroll and Cindy and Jeff Gillen, for covering January Pizza Night at Lima Rescue Mission. Also, thank you all who continue to help with donations.

The next two Pizza Nights are February 8 and March 8. Anyone interested in serving or donating soda, water, variety pack chips, candy bars, 10” plates, or gallon ziplock bags, please call or text Bob Hursh at [\(419\) 302-6065](tel:4193026065).

Little Free Pantry

During cold weather, we avoid any items that can freeze and explode (canned fruit, vegetables), dense items like canned pasta and meatballs, canned beef, canned chicken, nut butters, and individual-serving applesauce are welcome.

Jan 27-Feb 2 – Sarah Brauen

Feb 3-9 – Sarah Noland

Feb 10-16 – Diane Winebar

Feb 17-23 – Jodi Brauen

Feb 24-March 2 – Jayne McGarrity

Donations this month of boxed cereal, ramen noodles, hamburger helper, and taco kits will also be appreciated. Thank you for your continued support!

175th Anniversary Commemorative Nightlight

If anyone would like to purchase an additional Bluffton Presbyterian Church 175th anniversary commemorative nightlight, the Fellowship Committee has a supply of extra ones available for \$5.00 each.



BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, contact Mike Rhonemus at phone – 419-812-6280 or email – mkrhon@gmail.com. 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 Joy for:

Lynda Best who has a new grandson, Callan Mathew Best born to Brandon and Emily.

Prayers for:

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

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

We Pray for God’s Healing for:

- Jodi Diller
- Darlene Hey
- Sue Mathewson
- Colletta Mullenhour
- Jeannie Nichols
- Mariah Pneuman
- Judy Reichenbach
- Hazel Rodabaugh
- Donnas Stone
- George Stultz
- Sunny Zank
- Sylvia (Diane Winebar’s sister)
- Jim and Deb Augsburg (Jodi's friends)
- LeAnn Carr’s mother
- Linda Francies (Bev Begg’s daughter)
- Mary Fremont (Jeff and Kerry Fremont's sister-in-law)
- Adrian Gnam (Jeremy Szabo’s friend)
- Dave Hall (Jeremy Szabo’s friend)
- Jim Kincaid (Tanya Best’s friend)
- Brad Lovell (Jade’s father)
- Maria Macias (Diane Winebar’s mom)
- Wanda McCullough (Jade Hochstetler’s grandmother)
- Joseph Robinson (Jeremy Szabo's friend)
- Alice Schmidt (Lori Schmidt’s mother)
- Sandi Waibel (Donnas Stone’s sister)



Birthdays

- Feb 5 John Marshall
- 7 Cooper Hochstetler
- 8 Michelle Talavinia
- 12 Samantha Rhonemus
- 18 Jane Sycks
- 24 Clair Winebar
- 25 Libby McVetta
- 28 Jodi Brauen
- Mar 1 Greg Culbertson
- 2 Emily Sycks
- 3 Jacob Szabo



Dear BPC Members,
 I wanted to thank you all for your help and support with the choir this year. This has been a real joy for me and I am looking forward to the new year.
 Thank you also for the generous Christmas bonus!

Jeremy Zank

Cindy,
 Wishing you a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year! For all to read – thank you for the work you do.

Sunny Zank

I would like to thank the Deacons for my poinsettia at Christmas and the birthday flowers, big card, and visits.

Sincerely,
 Colletta Mullenhour

Happy New Year to all. Your ongoing prayers have meant so much to me throughout the recent months. I rejoice in the good health that I am able to embrace as we move forward into 2025.

Sunny Zank



Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone’s heart."

Acts 1:24, NRSV

BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

112 N. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 149

BLUFFTON, OH 45817

(419) 358-5806

blufftonpc.org

Sundays: Worship: 10:15 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com

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

Treasurer: Clair Winebar

Email: treasurer@blufftonpc.org

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

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Tom Edwards

Worship – Lynda Best

Elders at Large – LeAnne Carr, Jeff Gillen,
Jana McVetta

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

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