



*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

**JANUARY 2023**

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, January 1 – Communion, New Year's Day**

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Dave Good  
Liturgist: Darlene Hey  
Special Music: Kerry Fremont  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolyte: Robbie

### **Sunday, January 8 – Baptism of the Lord, Cents-Ability Offering**

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Dave Good  
Liturgist: Dick McGarrity  
Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Rob McGarrity / Camera: Clair Winebar  
Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Acolyte: Owen

### **Sunday, January 15**

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Dave Good  
Liturgist: Helen Hawk  
Special Music: Julia Szabo  
Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Julia Szabo  
Slides: Talavinias  
Acolyte: Avery

### **Sunday, January 22**

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Dave Good  
Liturgist: Lynda Best  
Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Clair Winebar  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolytes: Owen and Clara



## Mark Your Calendars!

### **Sundays:**

Faith Formation 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary

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

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

Jan 3 – Deadline for committee chairs to submit year-end reports to the church office

Jan 4 – Mission Committee Meeting 7:30 PM

Jan 6 – Epiphany of the Lord

Jan 8 – Ordination/Installation of Elders/Deacons

Jan 8 – Take down Christmas decorations following worship

Jan 11 – Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM

Jan 12 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Jan 14 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

**Jan 22 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day**

Jan 29 – Annual Congregational Meeting/  
Corporation Meeting following worship service

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



### **Sunday, January 29**

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Dave Good

Liturgist: Diane Winebar

Special Music: Lori Schmidt

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Julia Szabo

Acolytes: Paige and Morgan



## Epiphany

The season of Christmas began on December 25 and continues until Epiphany on January 6 (the 12 days of Christmas)! Epiphany is the celebration of God's self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ. The magi who traveled a great distance to find the Christ-child were responding to the gift first given to them through the guidance of the star. They received God's gift, then offered their gifts to God.

## Baptism of the Lord

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus presents himself to John to be baptized in the Jordan. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends as a dove and we hear the voice of God: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

At this festival of the Christian year, we not only remember Jesus' baptism, but we celebrate our own: the baptism we share with Christ.

## SESSION

### December Meeting Highlights

- Maumee Valley Presbytery met at First Presbyterian in Maumee on November 15. Following churches received Matthew 25 Grants from Synod of the Covenant – First Presbyterian, Defiance (\$5,000 – Tools for Schools – Back to School backpacks with school supplies/Back to School haircuts), Hamni Presbyterian, Toledo (\$2,500 – Korean food prepared for Korean college students/socialization twice a week), and First Presbyterian, Tiffin (\$1,000 for Non-food pantry for toiletries and paper products). Approved selling Tontogany's Manse (\$132,500). Approved that Maumee Valley Presbytery's minimum salary for both Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) and Certified Christian Educators (CCE) be 85% of the Presbytery Minimum salary for Ministers. Welcomed Rev. Amy Remaklus (Toledo Campus Ministry) and said good-bye to Rev. Karol Farris Schilling. Installed Chas Myers as Moderator and Carole Burnworth as Vice-Moderator of Maumee Valley Presbytery for 2023.

- Approved general operating fund budget for 2023. General operating fund budget for 2023 is lower than last year because we presently do not have a full-time pastor.
- Approved Temporary Clergy Services Agreement with Dave Good. Service agreement includes leading worship on Sundays (includes Christmas Eve), one planning day a month, and emergency Pastoral Care. Ordination/Installation of Officers will be Sunday, January 8. Approved requests from Jane Sycks, Emily Sycks, and Megan Sycks to move their church membership from "active" to "other" since they have graduated from college and no longer live in the Bluffton area. Bluffton Presbyterian Church received money from Sally Reeder Trust and from the Reeder Family to be used for Funeral Dinners/Kitchen items.
- Orkin will continue to treat the manse for rodents even as it stands empty. Manse will be checked twice a week while unoccupied. Village was contacted concerning non-operating light in parking lot. They were working on it and willing to cover electricity cost – large light is now working.
- Personnel Committee met with Pastor Karol for exit interview. Communication Coordinator Abigail Gwin's Maternity Leave (four weeks) is from December 12 – January 8. Cathy Carroll has agreed to handle weekly email and Jayne McGarrity will handle digital sign during the four weeks.
- Approved to serve Communion the first Sunday of each month and Ash Wednesday/Maundy Thursday and approved that Home Communion be served by Pastor and Deacon/Elder or two Deacons/Elders during 2023. Approved that ruling elder Tenna Rhonemus, having completed training provided by Maumee Valley Presbytery, be allowed to preside at Communion if the need arises.
- Approved calling Annual Congregational Meeting/Corporation Meeting for January 29 following worship – Session Moderator Bob Butcher has appointed Dave Good to serve as Moderator Protem for that meeting.

## CHURCH OFFICE

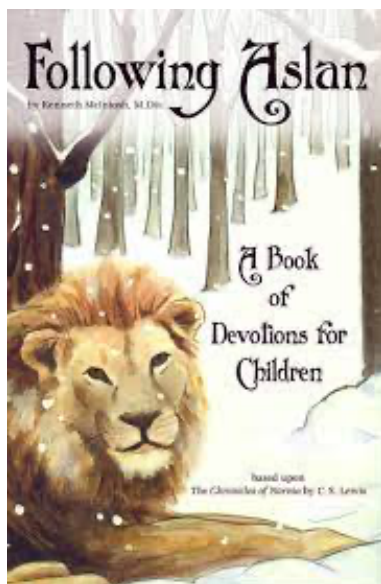
The church office will be closed January 18 through February 2. Cathy will be out for surgery. You may call the office and leave a voice message, this will be checked regularly, or call Lori Schmidt.

## DEACONS

### December Highlights

- Communion December 4 – set up for 70.
- Deacons hosted Farewell Fellowship for Pastor Karol on December 4.
- December 15 – Community Meal – ready to go.
- Delivered poinsettias to members of congregation.
- No Deacon's meeting held in December 2022.

## FAITH FORMATION



### "Following Aslan"

The Faith Formation Class that meets in the basement will begin an eight-week series on January 8. We will use "The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis and "Following Aslan Devotions for Children" by Ken McIntosh during our time together. To paraphrase, Mr. McIntosh, we hope to interact with God via the creative ideas and images in C.S. Lewis's wonderful book.

Please join us for readings, movie clips, discussions, and other activities. A light breakfast will be served. It might even have a Narnia theme! If you are interested in being one of our readers, please see Sarah or Tenna.

## MISSION



## CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Thank you for your support of the denominational offering that supports retired church leaders and schools developing future leaders. Gifts will be accepted through December 31 – either in the offering plate, through the church's giving page <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z3BJ/campaign/C-13>, or directly through the PCUSA website <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>.

### Holiday Help

Thank you for your overwhelming support of the three Adopt A Families and for creating 12 handmade blankets. Two individuals and one family received all but two items on their collective wish lists.



### Mix and Match Cookie Sale Supports Mission

The congregation and community provided wonderful support for this first-time event (coordinated by Kerry Freemont). The profit was \$455 which will be used toward the general operating Mission pledge. Plans are underway for 2023.

### Grace & Gratitude Collection for the Presbyterian Giving Catalog

Watch for details in January about this annual collection to assist communities across the world with self-development projects. To learn more, visit <https://presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org/>

**Little Free Pantry**

Dec 26-Jan 1 – Carole Enneking  
Jan 2-Jan 8 – Jayne McGarrity  
Jan 9-Jan 15 – Diane Winebar  
Jan 16-Jan 22 – Sarah Noland  
Jan 23-Jan 29 – Jodi Brauen  
Jan 30-Feb 5 – Sarah Brauen

BPC Little Free Pantry continues to provide shelf stable food and personal items for our community. If you would like to serve as a stocker, contact Sue Van Eman. Currently, it is about every 6 weeks between weekly assignments to check the pantry daily.

Please remember to donate boxed items during the winter months instead of canned goods. Hamburger helper, ramen noodles, cereal, spaghetti would be good choices! Thank you.

**Fighting Hunger with Cents-Ability**

Collection day is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, but gifts can be made [online anytime](#).

Cents-Ability gifts support the Presbyterian Hunger Program through Maumee Valley Presbytery, Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry, and our own Little Free Pantry.



Thanks to Tom and Marilyn Edwards for helping Bob and Tammie Hursh cover December Pizza Night!

We completed 2022 with 12 Pizza Nights, 78 pizzas, 14 servers, plus donations and support from many others. Thanks to all!

The next Pizza Nights are January 14 and February 11. Anyone interested in helping or donating drinks, chips, candy bars, plates, napkins, or gallon resealable 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!

**SMALL GROUP**

**Welcomes New Members**

Claralice Circle, BPC's ladies' group, welcomes new members in January. Meetings will resume January 10, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the church basement. Meetings are held once a week through May.

Small group offers a closer relationship with friends and God. No Bible expertise is necessary and participants are welcome to share or not, as they are led. See leaders Jayne McGarrity or Diane Winebar if you have questions.

**Thank you!**

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Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift. What a nice church to work for!

Jayne McGarrity

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Thank you for the Christmas gift. It was a wonderful surprise. I really appreciate it.

Cathy Carroll

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You helped make this holiday season even more beautiful. Thank you so much for the beautiful flower.

Beverly Begg

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Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. I am blessed to be a part of this loving congregation! Being the choir director is truly a joy. Thank you for your enthusiastic support!

With love, Linda Sycks

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Thank you for the Christmas gift. It is a pleasure serving as your treasurer.

Julia Szabo

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Thanks to the following Elders and Deacons for their faithful dedication and service to the church. Elders completing terms are Carole Enneking, Lori Schmidt, and Diane Winebar. Deacons completing terms are Rob McGarrity and Mike Rhonemus.

Congratulations for a job well done!

Congratulations to the following Elders and Deacons who will begin their terms in January – Elders Lynda Best, Jade Hochstettler, and Lori Schmidt and Deacons Rob McGarrity and Mike Rhonemus.

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**Thank You for Serving!**

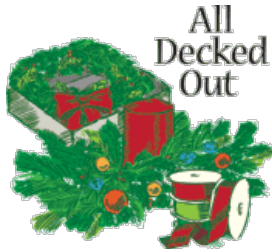
We hosted another successful community meal on December 15! We served over 70 people a comforting meal and provided a time of happy fellowship.

It was another way we get to experience the joy of being an active and crucial part of our community! It would not have been possible without our volunteers.

Thank you to:

Betsey Angus, Cathy Carroll, Helen Hawk, Chris Hochstettler, Dick and Jayne McGarrity, Mike Rhonemus, Dave and Sue Van Eman, and Clair Winebar.

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**Our church sanctuary was made lovely for the Advent and Christmas seasons thanks in part to those who made donations toward decorations and flowers.**

**IN CELEBRATION OF:**

Robert Angus, Dr. Boyd and Eloise Travis, Violet Deiters, Rev. Harrison Weidman, Marcia Travis Kilgore and Wendy Fleming by Betsey Angus

George and Stella Tomlin and C. Mitchell and Norma H. Best by Tanya Best

Cleve and Jane Bowman by Craig Bowmen

Milt and Virginia Edwards, Dutch and Violet Sterling and Larry and Robert Sterling by Tom and Marilyn Edwards

Robert and Mary Barnett and Edith and Addison McGarrity by Dick and Jayne McGarrity

Robert and Jean Braden and Martha Sycks by Dave and Linda Sycks

Dan and Lin Rumer by Bill and Chris Gable

Our Parents by Dave and Sue Van Eman

Our parents ~ John and Pat Emch and Dr. Harold and Carrie Weisenbarger by Phil and Pam Weisenbarger

Our parents ~ Ben Macias and Robert and Myriel Winebar by Diane and Clair Winebar

Madeline E. Porter by Sunny Zank

**GIVEN IN HONOR OF:**

Our mother Maria Macias by Diane and Clair Winebar

Our children ~ Charles & Jennie Weisenbarger and family, Megan & Darren Gustitus and family, Adam & Monica Weisenbarger and family, Seth & Amy Weisenbarger and family by Phil and Pam Weisenbarger



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

- Laura Elwood
- Gayle Marshall
- Carla Montgomery
- Dwight Nichols
- David Abell (Mariah Pneuman's former son-in-law)
- Pete Amstutz (Gayle Marshall's friend)
- Joel and Kelly Barnett (McGarrity's nephew)
- Jeannine Basinger (Jodi Brauen's mother)
- Shelby & Ryan and infant sons, James and Russ (Bev Begg's granddaughter and family)
- Irene Cooper (wife of Jim Cooper, Presbytery liaison in Lima)
- Jim and Judy Dowling (Tanya Best's brother and sister-in-law)
- Abigail Gwin (communications coordinator) and baby Aria Mae
- Kira (family friend of Helen Hawk)
- Alva Hunt (Jerry Szabo's friend)
- Rob Krupp (Don Brauen's friend)
- Maria Macias (Diane Winebar's mother)
- Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey's daughter)
- Brenda McCoy (Betsey Angus's friend)
- John McDonald (Gayle Marshall's friend's dad)
- Michael Roberts (Jeremy Szabo's friend)
- Anessa Samsal (Mariah Pneuman's granddaughter-in-law)
- Jessie Spencer (Darlene's great niece)
- Joyce Suter (Nurse at Bluffton School)
- Kelly Winger (Cindy Gillen's cousin)

**Continued Prayers for:**

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

Diplomacy, peace, and hope in the world.

Ukraine – for peace and hope amid the ongoing war with Russia.

**Prayers of Joy**

For the Spirit leading 6 new members to join BPC during worship on November 20!

**Prayers of Sympathy**

For the family of Michelle Clark (mother of Ariana and Nathaniel Zuehlke) who died recently.

For the family of Larry Dudgeon (friend of Tom Edwards) who died recently.



**BPC Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus. PLEASE leave a message if no answer. Or call the church office at 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.

**Released Time Walkers Save the Date**

Remaining dates for “Released Time” Christian Education walkers this academic year are Jan. 17, Feb 17, March 28, and May 2. Please contact Dick McGarrity if available to fill a shift.



**Birthdays**

Jan	2	Steve Carr
		Tyler Hochstetler
	3	Chad Carroll
		Dave Sycks
	7	Barb Fett
		Dwight Nichols
	8	Robbie McGarrity
	10	Addie McGarrity
	13	Chris Gable
	21	Colletta Mullenhour
	27	Nathan Hall
	29	Jeff Fremont
		Richard McGarrity
	30	Tammie Hursh
Feb	1	Dortha Radabaugh
	5	John Marshall

**FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP**



**November 2022 - General Fund Summary**

Balance January 1, 2022	\$
Release of Paycheck Protection Plan Proceeds into the general fund	
Receipt of employee retention credit Covid relief funds	
Offerings for 2022 received in 2021	
YTD offerings to the general fund	
YTD general fund expenses	(.)
November 30, 2022 balance	\$.

Thank you for financially supporting the church’s budget!



**2023 Per Capita**

You are invited to help cover the per capita cost of your membership (General Assembly, Synod, Maumee Valley Presbytery) by making a special donation through our congregation as part of your stewardship practice. The 2023 per capita amount is \$38.60 per active member. Thank you!

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

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: Julia Szabo

Email:

Communications Coordinator: Abigail Gwin

Email:

Faith Formation Intern: Laura Irwin

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Children's Church Leaders: Laura Irwin and  
Brooklyn Phillips

Email:

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 – TBD

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