



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 7 – Communion, Baptism of the Lord

Pulpit Supply: Tenna Rhonemus

Liturgist: Jana McVetta

Special Music: Dave and Linda Sycks

Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus

Slides: Lynda Best

Acolyte: Morgan

Greeters: TBD

Sunday, January 14 – Cents-Ability Offering

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good

Liturgist: Marilyn Edwards

Special Music: Choir

Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Rev. Dave Good

Acolyte: Bowen

Greeters: Dave and Linda Sycks

Sunday, January 21

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff

Liturgist: Sarah Brauen

Special Music: Kerry Fremont

Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen

Slides: Michele Talavinia

Acolytes: Owen and Clara

Greeters: TBD

Sunday, January 28

Pulpit Supply: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity

Special Music: Choir

Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: Robbie

Greeters: Mike and Tenna Rhonemus

January 2024

Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays:

Sunday School 9:00 AM – Pre-K-6th Grade

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary

Children's Church – Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays: Claralice Circle 6:30 PM

Wednesdays: Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Jan. 6 – Epiphany of the Lord

Jan. 7 – Deacon Meeting – 9:15 AM

Jan. 7 – Deadline for committee chairs to electronically submit end of year reports to church office

Jan. 7 – Sunday School, Children's Church, and Youth Group Will Resume

Jan. 7 – Take Down Christmas Decorations Immediately Following Worship

Jan. 11 – Session Meeting at 7:00 PM

Jan. 13 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Jan. 14 – Fellowship Potluck Immediately Following Worship

Jan. 28 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day

Feb. 11 – Annual Meeting/Corporation Meeting following worship. Remaining positions on 2024 Nominating Committee will be elected.

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



Sponsored by Bluffton Presbyterian Church
Sunday Mornings at 9:00 am
Place: McDonald's of Bluffton - Beginning December 3rd

Ladies Small Group

Come join the Claralice Circle. We'd love for you to be part of the conversation!

Small Group is about growing our faith and exploring God's place in our lives. We do this together, rather than struggling to do it alone.

It's a safe place to talk about our concerns, joys, and everything in-between.

We draw inspiration from the Bible, books, devotionals, art, music, and each other. And we have fun!

Join us for a gathering or two and see if small group is right for you. Claralice Circle meets weekly from 6:30-8pm at the church. Our first 2024 meeting is January 9, when we'll begin looking at the book of James in the New Testament.

Questions? Talk to Diane Winebar.

- Christmas Cookie/Candy Sale made \$590 – designated for mission purposes. “Adopt a Family” – adopted two families thru Bluffton Community Assistance Program. Thanks to church family for donating all requested items.
- Approved calling Annual Meeting/Corporation Meeting – for February 11 – Session Moderator Bob Butcher has appointed Dave Good to serve as Moderator Protem for that meeting. Remaining positions on 2024 Nominating Committee will be elected.

DEACONS

Highlights of Deacon's December Meeting

- Finalized details for December Community Meal
- Finalized Homebound Poinsettia delivery
- Thanked Jana McVetta for serving with us as Deacon and welcomed Jodi Brauen to the Team
- Set new Deacon roles for 2024
- Big Birthday Cards handed out for 2024
- Set monthly Communion Schedule for 2024

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday School, Children's Church, and Youth Group will resume January 7.

SESSION

Highlights of December's Session Meeting

- Maumee Valley Presbytery met on November 11 at Findlay First Presbyterian. Our church assisted in hosting by providing three salads and three volunteers to assist with lunch. Recognized retirements of Tom Polker (Napoleon) and Ken Chorle (Market Street – Lima). Presbytery Mission Trip to Kentucky in October was successful – approximately 10 participants. Worked on homes damaged by tornadoes two years ago – stripped/replaced kitchen flooring in one home and stripped/replaced bathroom flooring in another home. Considering another Mission Trip to return to same area next year. Installed Moderator Carole Burnworth, Vice-Moderator – Doug Holmes, Stated Clerk – Dean McGormley, and Treasurer – David Bartley. Rev. Dr. Ann Marie Montgomery (pastor at Cadmus, Michigan) passed away last week.
- New Officer training led by Rev. Bob Butcher - Deacons/Elders were Ordained/Installed on December 17 by Rev. Dave Good.



Congratulations to LeAnne Carr (Elder), Linda Nelson (Elder), Tom Edwards (Elder), Jodi Brauen (Deacon), and Chris Hochstetler (Deacon) for being Ordained/Installed as Elders/Deacons. We appreciate your willingness to serve! Thank you to Jana McVetta, Dick McGarrity, and Phill Talavinia (completing terms as Elders/Deacon) for your service to our church family. We appreciate your leadership contributions these last three years!

Worship

We will take down Christmas decorations after church on Sunday, January 7. Thanks!

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.

Mission



Thanks to Ryan Brauen for helping Tammie and Bob Hursh to cover December Pizza Night at LRM. Also, thank you to everyone who helped with donations. We again were able to provide a pizza night for ~25 men.

We are 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). Thanks!



Thank You for your amazing support of this year's mission projects:

To everyone who donated and helped with this year's Mix and Match Cookie/Candy Sale. Over \$590 was raised for mission projects.

To those who donated gifts to the Adopt A Family. The families wish lists were filled!!

To anyone who helped with the Blanket Project.



Little Free Pantry

Jan 1-7 – Carole Enneking
Jan 8-14 – Sarah Brauen
Jan 15-21 – Sarah Noland
Jan 22-28 – Diane Winebar
Jan 29-Feb 4 – Jodi Brauen

Boxed and packaged items such as hamburger helper, taco kits, cereal, ramen noodles are very useful during the winter months. Thanks for your support during 2023!



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

November 2023 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2023	\$
YTD offerings to the general fund and other receipts	
YTD general fund expenses	()
November 30, 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.

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 Dec. 10 Cents-Ability collection. The youth collected **\$63!** 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.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Continues to be actively engaged.

Fellowship



Please plan to join us after church on January 14 for a potluck luncheon. The meat will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. There will be a sign-up sheet provided in the back of the sanctuary starting December 31.



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.

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

All who have suffered due to COVID-19.

Prayers of Sympathy for:

The Bluffton community and the family of Elijah Jones (Bluffton High School student) who recently passed.

The Carpenter family (Tanya Best's friends) who recently loss their son.

We Pray for God's Healing for:

Darlene Hey
Sue Mathewson
Mariah Pneuman
Sunny Zank
Lois (friend of Dave and Jane Good)
Sylvia (Diane Winebar's sister)
Levi Augsburg (Lynda Best's friend)
Dr. Sharon Cole (Darlene Hey's doctor)
John Crouse (Darlene Hey's nephew)
Linda Francies (Bev Begg's daughter)
Nancy and Larry Frost (Cindy Gillen's cousins)
Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey's daughter)
Makayla, Skyler, and Rhett Noble (friends of Tyler and Jade Hochstetler)
Larry and Eileen Rhonemus (Mike's parents)
Robin Sargent (Lynda Best's sister)
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

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



Thank you for the generous Christmas Gift, it was very much appreciated.

Chris Hochstetler

Thank you for the Christmas bonus, I really appreciate it. I really enjoy my job thanks to all of you being such a wonderful congregation!! Blessings to everyone and Merry Christmas.

Cathy

Dear BPC Friends,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It was very kind to think of me. I enjoy sharing music with you all!

Sue Van Eman

Thank you to the congregation for the lovely Christmas gift. I think I'll buy some music!

Jayne

Dear Church Members,

Just received your gracious gift to the Peace Center. A heartfelt thanks for your contribution. Please know that your gift will be used to further our quest for peace in this community and world.

God Bless, Rev. John Foster

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation with your Cents-a-bility collections. Our regular donors help us to keep the doors open at the pantry. You are taking care of the needs of your neighbors. May God bless you for your kindness!



Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing Opportunities:

- Snack Cart Pass for Assisted Living – Every weeknight evening.
- Mobile Meals Deliver – weekly.
- Mail pass/newspaper and newsletter delivery.
- Transport residents to bi-monthly evening worship (pushing wheelchairs, walking with elders).
- Bingo callers on Friday evenings (except 1st Friday of the month).

Seasonal Opportunities:

- Christmas Events (December): spend time with elders, provide treats, caroling, etc.
- Valentine's Day (February): spend time with elders at comedy Hour at Maple Crest.
- Easter Events (March): help day of Easter egg hunt, serve refreshments.
- Renaissance Dinner (May): provide baked goods, help setup, and more.
- LOTS OF OTHER EVENTS – Ask me about them!

Unique Opportunities:

- Piano playing/providing music/sing-along.
- Exercise/Stretching classes.
- Reading with a resident.
- Coffee and conversation with a resident.
- Puzzle night.
- Board games/Card games.
- Elder outings: i.e., going for a drive, getting ice cream, going out to eat.
- Manicures/Nail Spa.
- Leading a craft or assistance with a craft.
- Pet visits (need to provide recent vet records).

These opportunities cover all 3 MHCO locations in Bluffton: Mennonite Memorial Home, Maple Crest, and Willow Ridge. If you would like specific details for a certain location, please reach out to Aly Breece at 419-358-1015, Ext. 265 or email her at abreece@mhcoliving.org.

BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
112 N. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 149
BLUFFTON, OH 45817
(419) 358-5806

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 – Linda Nelson

Fellowship – Tom Edwards

Mission – Jade Hochstetler

Nominating – TBD

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Lynda Best

Elders at Large – Sarah Brauen and LeAnne Carr

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

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