



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

January 2025

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 5 – Communion

Pulpit Supply: Jeanne Gay
Liturgist: Phil Weisenbarger
Special Music: Don Brauen
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus
Slides: Linda Nelson
Acolyte: Bowen
Greeters: C. Hochstetler

Sunday, January 12 – Cents-Ability Offering

Pulpit Supply: Cole May
Liturgist: Kerry Freemont
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolyte: Avery
Greeters: Bob and Tammie Hursh

Sunday, January 19

Pulpit Supply: Cole May
Liturgist: Linda Sykes
Special Music: Kerry Fremont
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Michele Talavinia
Acolyte: Robbie
Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Sunday, January 26

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgist: Phil Talavinia
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolyte: Morgan
Greeters: David and Barb McClurg



Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays:

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary

Tuesdays:

Claralice Circle Advent Study 6:30 PM

Wednesdays:

Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Jan 5 – Deacon Meeting 9:15 AM

Jan 5 – Deadline for committee chairs to electronically submit end-of-year reports to church office

Jan 5 – Take Down Christmas Decorations

Following Worship

Jan 8 – Mission Committee Meeting 7:30 PM

Jan 9 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Jan 11 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Jan 12 – Fellowship Potluck Following Worship

Jan 26 – Annual Congregational/Corporation

Meeting following worship

Jan. 26 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day

Worship

We will take down Christmas decorations after church on Sunday, January 5. Thanks!



Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting

Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26. Meeting will include election of Elders, Deacons, and 2025 Nominating Committee.

SESSION

December Meeting Highlights

- Owen Ziessler passed away on November 23 – no services at this time.
- “The 60’s Survivors Band” has revised date of their concert on our Gazebo/church lawn to Thursday, July 17, 2025 evening (rain date Friday, July 18, 2025).
- Christmas Appreciation Gifts were given to staff.
- Thanks to church family for their awesome support of mission projects in December! Blankets tied by church family were donated to our adopted families, as well as Changing Seasons and Family Promise programs in Lima. BPC supported two families through the Bluffton Community Assistance “Adopt-a-Family” program. Our church family was extremely generous in their donations of requested gifts, food, and paper products! Thanks to Kerry Fremont for coordinating the Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale, as well as to the bakers and shoppers from our church family! A total of \$786 (98.25 pounds of cookies/candy!) was raised to be split between Mission and Fellowship projects.
- Approved to serve Communion the first Sunday of each month and Ash Wednesday/Maundy Thursday. Home Communion be served by Pastor and Deacon/Elder or two Deacons/Elders. Ruling elder Tenna Rhonemus, having completed training provided by Maumee Valley Presbytery, be allowed to preside at Communion.
- Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26. Meeting will include election of Elders, Deacons, and 2025 Nominating Committee.

DEACONS

December Meeting

- Finalized details for December Community Meal
- Finalized Homebound Poinsettia delivery
- Big Birthday Cards will be handled by Mike and Tenna Rhonemus for 2025
- Looked at monthly Communion Schedule for 2025
- Discussion on providing ride to church for member.

Community Meal

We served 76 people at our December Community Meal. Everyone enjoyed the meal, especially our home baked desserts! Thank you to Don and Cathy, Jeff and Cindy, Betsey and Phil, Dave and Barb, and Don and Jodi for donating your time, talents, and sweets! Also, to Mike and Tenna Rhonemus for planning and preparing the meal.



Committee chairs are asked to send year-end reports to the church office by Sunday, January 5.



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

November 2024 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2024	\$
Year-to-date offerings and receipts	
Year-to-date expenses	
Balance November 30, 2024	\$

Special non-budgeted fund balances on November 30 included \$141 for Little Free Pantry supplies and \$1,866 for monthly Lima Rescue Mission pizza dinners. Thank you for supporting 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 the youth who passed the clanging cans and to everyone who contributed their change to the Dec. 8 Cents-Ability collection. The youth collected **\$56!** Cents-Ability offerings support the Little Free Pantry, the Bluffton Community Assistance food pantry, and Maumee Valley Presbytery hunger relief programs.

Did you know? The bank does not allow us to deposit foreign coins so please try to avoid tossing Canadian coins into the cans.

Per Capita Offering

You are invited to help cover our per capita cost of membership by making a special offering through our congregation as part of your stewardship practice. Please note “Per Capita” with your gift. The 2025 per capita amount is \$40.29 per member. **Thank you!**

What is per capita?

Per capita funding helps provide services provided to all members and clergy by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Examples include:

- ❖ Support for youth events such as Triennium
- ❖ Support for Camp Kirkmont
- ❖ Support for congregations in transition
- ❖ College ministry support
- ❖ Pastoral training, guidance, and support
- ❖ Matthew 25 mission grants
- ❖ Cost assistance for commissioners and delegates to General Assemblies
- ❖ Preserving church history through the Presbyterian Historical Society
- ❖ Administrative cost assistance for the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Here’s a breakdown of the 2025 per capita charge:

Maumee Valley Presbytery	\$26.05
Synod of the Covenant	\$3.40
General Assembly	<u>\$10.84</u>
Total	\$40.29



The 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 – no user account, loyalty card, or app required! We then receive a 1% rebate. Even small receipts are worth turning in; the combined total adds up. Please do not cut off the bottoms of your receipts because only whole receipts qualify.

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

FAITH FORMATION

Christian Education Release Schedule

The new schedule for Christian Education release schedule is as follows:

Thursday, January 23, 1:00 - 3:00
(1st and 5th grade)

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)

We are looking for 2 volunteers for each session, a one-hour commitment. 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.

MISSION

Thank you for the Advent Support

The tremendous support for the Adopt A Family, blanket tying, and Christmas Joy offering is appreciated. Two families received many gifts and gift cards to brighten their Christmas. Blankets were given to each child in our designated adopted families, plus others were donated to the Changing Seasons program (Lima).

LIMA RESCUE MISSION

Thanks to all who continue to support Pizza Night at Lima Rescue Mission. Tammie and Bob Hursh were able to cover December. Pizza and pop were served for approximately 25 men.

We are looking for servers for January 11 and February 8. 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.

Mission Committee Welcomes Members

Join us in serving our local, national, and international neighbors. The Committee will meet Wednesday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the basement fellowship hall.

Little Free Pantry

Now that it is wintry weather, please donate boxed or packaged items such as Hamburger Helper, ramen noodles, taco kits, Knorr's sides, breakfast oatmeal packets, and cereal. The pantry has been used at a higher volume the last couple of months so donations of food and cash donations will be very much appreciated! Please note Little Free Pantry on checks or online donations.

Dec 30-Jan 5 – Sue Van Eman
Jan 6-12 – Jodi Brauen
Jan 13-19 – Jayne McGarrity
Jan 20-26 – Carole Enneking
Jan 27-Feb 2 – Sarah Brauen

FELLOWSHIP



Please join us for a soup, salad, and sandwich luncheon after church Sunday, January 12. We are asking for a few volunteers to provide a crockpot of any kind of soup, or bring a salad or a dessert. Sandwiches will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary starting in January.

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. 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.

We Pray for God's Healing for:

Jodi Diller
Darlene Hey
Gene and Sue Mathewson
Colletta Mullenhour
Jeannie Nichols
Mariah Pneuman
Judy Reichenbach
Hazel Rodabaugh
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)
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)

Prayers of Joy for:

Mike and Tenna Rhonemus who are expecting their 4th grandchild!!

Prayers for:

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

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.



Thanks for my birthday card and mum, and the many prayers and cards. I was diagnosed 1 year ago, started treatment at that time for bladder cancer, and was scoped in August. A new tumor was found and a new drug treatment was started. I have completed six so far. I am in need of many more prayers. Gene can also use prayers, he is having trouble slowing down and keeping within his boundaries. But he is doing much better with his heart attack recovery. Love to each and every one of our church family,

Gene and Sue Mathewson

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. Repeat donors are the life blood of our program; without you, we could not survive. God Bless you!! Happy Holidays!!

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It is very thoughtful of you. It's wonderful to be a part of this congregation and share music with you.

Sue

Thank you for the generous Christmas Gift, I really appreciate it! It is wonderful to work for a congregation as kind as you all are.

Thank you,

Cathy

Thank you, BPC congregation, for the Christmas gift. I'm blessed to be able to contribute to the music in such an appreciative church.

Jayne

Dear BPC, thank you for the Christmas gift given to employees. It is a blessing to be part of this wonderful congregation. Thank you and Happy New Year!

Clair

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Cookie/Candy Sale on December 14. A total of \$786 was made (that is 98.25 lbs. of cookies/candy) and will be split between the Fellowship and Mission Committees.

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for the beautiful night lights!

Thank you to Session for the donation to help with Christmas bags for those in need at Changing Seasons.

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



**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