



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

June 2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 2 – Communion

Pulpit Supply: Bob Butcher
Liturgist: Sarah Brauen
Special Music: Lori Schmidt
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolytes: Owen and Clara

Sunday, June 9 – Cents-Ability Offering Outdoor Service

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgist: Linda Sycks
Special Music: Dave Sycks
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolyte: Bowen

Sunday, June 16

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgist: Phill Talavinia
Special Music: Kerry Fremont
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen
Slides: Michele Talavinia
Acolyte: Avery

Sunday, June 23

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgists: Dick McGarrity
Special Music: Jayne McGarrity
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Linda Nelson
Acolyte: Morgan



Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays:

Sunday School and Children's Church will pause from May until September.

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary

Tuesdays: Claralice Circle 6:30 PM

June 2 – Deacon Meeting 9:15 AM

June 5 – Mission Meeting 7:30 PM

June 13 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

June 8 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

June 23 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

On the second Sunday of each month, we will be having an outdoor worship service. Some chairs will be provided, or you can bring your own. If rain, the service will be moved inside.

Sunday, June 30

Pulpit Supply: Jeanne Gay

Liturgist: Darlene Hey

Special Music: Don Brauen

Sound: Mike Rhonemus /Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Linda Nelson

Acolyte: Robbie

SESSION

Highlights of Session's May Meeting

- During Pastor Matthew's relocation delay, Dick McGarrity has agreed to be the contact person between Pastor Matthew and our church.
- Eight people helped clean-up the manse – finished the shelf paper in the kitchen and bathrooms, gave everything another dusting/cleaning, fixed the sagging gutter on the back of the house, fixed the sagging deck, power-washed the deck, weeded around the flower beds, and came up with a plan to improve drainage in the back yard. Weeding has been done at the church. Humming sound in electrical box in church furnace room will be evaluated by electrician.
- Approved to receive Choir Director Linda Syck's resignation with deep regret and great appreciation for serving 22 years.
- Annual review of 2023 church finances and procedures has been completed. The audit/review was conducted by Ohio Northern University senior accounting majors enrolled in the Auditing 2 class.
- Approved request from Bluffton and Bluffton's Historical Society to use church lawn/gazebo on Saturday, August 10 in the morning for Bluffton History Day – main event will be a reenactment by the Fire Dept of a water pressure testing event that took place in 1898 at the corner of Main and Cherry with additional events being planned. Church lawn would be used for watching the event, children's games, an emcee/headquarters awning, and possibly performing groups.

DEACONS

- Home Communion was delivered to homebound member.
- Discussion on several homebound members.

FAITH FORMATION

We are looking for a Youth Intern to lead our Sunday School, Children's Church, and Youth Group. If you think you might be interested, or if you know of someone who might be, please contact Linda Nelson or Dick McGarrity.

MISSION

Little Free Pantry

May 27-June 2 – Sarah Brauen

June 3-9 – Sarah Noland

June 10-16 – Diane Winebar

June 17-23 – Jodi Brauen

June 24-30 – Jayne McGarrity

If you wish to donate items this month, the following will be appreciated: boxed cereal, cake mixes, and chicken noodle soup. Thank you for your continued support!



Thanks to Don and Cathy Carroll and Jeff, Cindy, and Sarah Gillen for covering May Pizza Night at Lima Rescue Mission. Also, thank you all who continue to help with donations. We had another good night with 31 men and plenty of pizza for all.

Typically, LRM sees 10 to 15 more men on Pizza Night. One of the men said he was told to come on pizza night because it was good and several others said they love pizza night.

The next three Pizza Nights are June 8, July 13, and August 10. 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.

If you donate money, please submit a check (memo: LRM) to the church office or give online (www.blufftonpc.org/give). Thanks!

Pentecost Offering

Safety Pup visited the service on May 19 to promote the National Child Safety Council. This organization will receive support from the Pentecost offering this year. Thanks to Jade and Tyler.





FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

April 2024 – General Fund Summary

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

Thank you for supporting BPC’s ministries!

Cents-Ability for Hunger Relief!

Thank you to the youth and adult members who passed the clanging cans, and to everyone who contributed their change to the May 12 Cents-Ability collection. **\$52** was collected to fight hunger!! And thank you to Carole Enneking who reminded us that one-third of gifts to Cents-Ability goes to Maumee Valley Presbytery’s hunger programs, one-third goes to the local Bluffton Community Assistance food pantry, and one-third helps purchase supplies for our Little Free Pantry.

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



Giving Opportunities Outside of Regular Offerings

The Presbyterian Foundation website is a great source of information on non-regular giving opportunities, including endowments, donor-advised funds, IRA distributions, appreciated securities, planned-giving, and estate planning. Here’s a link: www.presbyterianfoundation.org. We also have helpful summary brochures at the church or from a member of the Stewardship & Finance Committee (Craig Bowman, Barb Fett, Dick McGarrity, Clair Winebar).

These non-regular gift opportunities apply to anyone’s finances, no wealth required. Also, options such as gifting shares of stock, or making qualified charitable distributions from IRAs, are not related to estate planning, but rather just make good tax sense.

Endowments

An endowment is a gift where investment income generated by the donated funds is used to support a designated ministry. The Presbyterian Foundation typically manages endowments on behalf of benefiting congregations or ministries.

A great example is Elias Boudinot. Elias provided an endowment gift to the Presbyterian Foundation in 1821, and it still provides funds for Presbyterian ministries today. That’s 203 years of helping make good things happen, and still counting!

Closer to home, Edythe Cupp provided an endowment for Bluffton Presbyterian Church many years ago. We receive approximately \$500 annually from Edythe’s gift in support of our ministries. It’s neat to think of the generations that have and will benefit from Edythe’s gift.

Legacy giving through bequests

Providing a bequest to the church as part of your estate planning is a great way to support BPC’s ministries for future generations, and a testament to BPC’s motto of *Growing in Faith, Sharing God’s Love*. We have had many beloved members and friends who have provided bequests to support BPC’s general ministries, or for specific programs. Over the past couple decades, members or friends who have provided bequests include Marilyn Bullock, the Bixel and Magee families, the Evans, the Reeders, the Triplets, and the Barnetts, whose bequest provided our gazebo and was paired with designated gifts from George Stultz to provide our electronic yard sign.

Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs (QCD) and gifts of stock

QCDs and gifts of stock are great ways of saving taxes when making your stewardship gift to the church. Several members of our congregation use QCDs for their offerings.

Our church also has a brokerage account to facilitate gifts of stock. By directly gifting appreciated shares of stock, a donor can avoid incurring income tax on the capital gain. Several members of our congregation have gifted stock as part of their offerings over the past few years. Please contact Clair Winebar if you would like information on how to transfer shares.



IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Prayers for:

Those who live alone or in care facilities and are less able to engage in meaningful connections with others, including Ralph Middleton, Ben Miracle, Hazel Rodabaugh, and Owen Ziessler.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

Prayers of Joy for:

Dave Van Eman is doing well and thanks everyone for cards & prayers.

Baby Andrew Sycks (Dave Syck's great nephew) whose surgery was successful and he is recovering.

Sharon Faurot (Helen's cousin) whose hip surgery was successful.

Prayers of Sympathy for:

Prayers of Sympathy with Donnas Stone, whose husband, Roland (Stoney) passed away recently.

We Pray for God's Healing for:

Jodi Diller
Sue Mathewson
Jeannie Nichols
Mariah Pneuman
Rev. Matthew Zuehlke
LeAnn Carr's mother
Sylvia (Diane Winebar's sister)
Dr. Sharon Cole (Darlene Hey's doctor)
Sharon Faurot (Helen Hawk's cousin)
Ethan Fedde (Bev Begg's great granddaughter's husband)
Linda Francies (Bev Begg's daughter)
Nancy and Larry Frost (Cindy Gillen's cousins)
Deb Klinger (Clair and Diane Winebar's neighbor)
Dino Moler (Lynda Best's niece's husband)
Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey's daughter)
Eileen Rhonemus (Mike's mother)
Paul Siefker (Helen Hawk's friend)
Andrew Sycks (Dave Sycks' great nephew)
Bill and Sharon Warner (Cindy Gillen's father and mother)

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

June	6	Donnas Stone
	11	LeAnn Carr
	12	Lori Schmidt
	14	Rowan Culbertson
	19	Don Brauen Chris Hochstetler
	21	Linda Nelson
	22	Sue Van Eman
July	1	Brandie Wagner
	3	Greg Elwood
	5	Dave Van Eman
	6	Lisa Culbertson

Anniversaries

June	4	Ryan and Sarah Brauen
	10	Jeremy and Julia Szabo
	16	John and Linda Nelson
	18	Dave and Sue Van Eman
	19	Tom and Marilyn Edwards
	20	Lou and Tanya Best
	22	Clair and Diane Winebar
	23	Dick and Jayne McGarrity
	29	Dwight and Jeannie Nichols
July	3	Jim and Carole Enneking



Thank You, Linda!

Our church is blessed with wonderful music, including our dedicated choir and director. Linda Sycks has decided to step down as Choir Director. We are so grateful to Linda for sharing her musical gifts by directing our choir for 22 years. We have been blessed by the music created under her direction. Our church family appreciates her faithful service and dedication. Blessings!

Thank you to all who contributed cookies, plates, napkins, and assistance in providing cookies for Roland Stones funeral visitation.

Thank you to everyone who gave to the Pentecost offering.

Thank you to everyone for the cards and prayers. Dave Van Amen



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social

Plans are in works for an old -fashioned ice cream social on the church lawn and gazebo on Thursday evening July 18, sponsored by the fellowship committee. Look for more information soon and 'save the date'!

Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio

Good Morning,
My name is Aly Breece. Some of you, I have met already, but if we haven't been introduced, I am the new Community Relations Coordinator at Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio in Bluffton. My role handles all marketing operations for our 3 campus locations and oversees volunteer coordination. One of the most recent projects I have come across is assisting with assembling texture and tactile boxes for our therapy department.

These boxes would include various items: bells, fabrics, whistles, sound makers, balls, and many other objects. Each box created is for a different level of therapy - some are higher-level sound therapies and some are for textile assessments. Our hope is to have multiple boxes at each level so we can provide these therapies in a group setting.

We are looking for donations of items from our community to help make this happen for our Elders! I have created an Amazon Wishlist (linked below) so that we can share our needs and provide a more convenient way to donate.

Please consider sharing with your congregations and ask donors to direct the items to 410 W Elm St in Bluffton for delivery.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to reach out via email or a quick call. I appreciate your support, and continued prayers for our communities.

Have a great day!

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/13X5SHDOHSUJN>

Aly Breece
Community Relations Coordinator
Tel: 419-358-1015, ext. 265
Fax: 419-358-1919



Waiting

We all have times in life when things are not going our way. Those times when challenges mount up against us. And when that happens, it's easy to feel blocked or thwarted; without any real progress happening. We can wonder when things are going to clear up and we can begin to move again. This is nothing new. The Psalmist in Psalm 27 is living with just such a challenge. We aren't quite sure what it is that is bothering him, but something certainly is bothering him. He writes: "*an army encamps against me*" and "*my enemies all around me*" (vs 3, 6). In the midst of his challenges, he turns to God in prayer. "Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!" (vs 7) Who hasn't felt that way, crying out to God to listen to us? And yet, in this Psalm we also hear :

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

(v13-14)

As the Psalmist concludes, sometimes what we need to do is wait. It can be hard to hear – especially when we are in the middle of our frustration – but waiting can be important. In waiting, we learn to focus on God's time instead of our own schedules. Often, we want things to move quickly; reaching a conclusion to what we are facing. Yet in God's infinite wisdom and vision, God can see much further than we are able. If we are patient and wait, God will unfold God's purpose to us. I know that there have been many times when I was chomping at the bit for something to happen, God lets things unfold in proper time.

We are also at a time of waiting. Waiting for a change at Bluffton Presbyterian. Waiting for a change in the Zuehlke household. And it can be frustrating not knowing when we will be able to proceed. But if we focus on the Lord and trust in God's wisdom, then this too will make sense in the future. I, for one, really appreciate your patience as I work through the doctor's tests. It has been a challenging time waiting for more news and the clearness to move ahead. At this time, we are still running tests. Hopefully, any day might bring the answer for which we are all looking. Until that time, please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. So, let us all "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" (Psalm 27:14)

In the Peace of Christ,
Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke

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: 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 – Kerry Fremont

Mission – Jade Hochstetler

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