



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2023

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 5 – Communion

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Dave Good
Liturgist: Jana McVetta
Special Music: Julia Szabo
Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Julia Szabo
Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen
Acolyte: Bowen

Sunday, March 12 – Cents-Ability Offering

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Dave Good
Liturgist: Marilyn Edwards
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Rob McGarrity / Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Diane Winebar
Greeters: Lou and Tanya Best
Acolytes: Owen and Clara

Sunday, March 19

Pulpit Supply: Tenna Rhonemus
Liturgist: Jade Hochstetler
Special Music: Lori Schmidt
Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Talavinias
Greeters: Betsy Angus and Craig Bowman
Acolyte: Bowen

Sunday, March 26

Pulpit Supply: Pastor Dave Good
Liturgist: Tom Edwards
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Jeff Gillen/ Camera: Julia Szabo
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Greeters: Jeff and Cindy Gillen
Acolytes: Page and Morgan



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

Mar 1 – Mission Committee Meeting 7:30 PM

Mar 5 – Visioning – Immediately after worship
“What are the specific gifts of the church?”

Mar 9 – Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM

Mar 10 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Mar 11 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Mar 12 – Daylight Savings Time – Spring Forward

Mar 12 – Visioning – Immediately after worship
Who is our neighbor? “What is our mission?”

Mar 26 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day

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



BPC Audio-Visual Team Volunteers

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church for video helpers. There is a real need for volunteers to relieve those who are already helping in many other ways. I am told it is easier than running the slides. Thanks Lynda

Easter Breakfast

We will once again be having an Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 9. If you would be willing to help, please see Don Carroll.

Your Vision for the Church's Future

At the heart of a congregation's journey to call a new pastor, is the congregational sense of "where they are" and "where they see their future". In order for the Pastoral Nominating Committee to share the congregation's life and vision it really means we need to "put it on the table".

Come and join us as we explore "where the church is" and "what future do we see and claim". Share your vision for our church's future!

One small group has already met. Other opportunities for you to participate in our visioning process will be following worship services on Sunday, March 5 and Sunday, March 12 (20 minutes). You are invited to participate on both Sundays. If you are only able to attend one Sunday, we still would like your participation! March 5 question – "What are the specific gifts of the church?" March 12 questions – "Who is our neighbor?" "What is our mission?"

The PNC is hard at work, but needs input from the Congregation to be successful. Please let a member know what qualities you value most in a pastor. Members of the committee are Craig Bowman, Ryan Brauen, Tom Edwards, Jade Hochstetler, Julia Szabo, Linda Nelson, and Dick McGarrity.

SESSION

February Meeting Highlights

- Pastor Nominating Committee met February 6 with Carole Burnworth from Maumee Valley Presbytery and learned the basic steps of finding a pastor. Initial roles: Ryan Brauen (Technology Coordinator), Dick McGarrity (Chairperson), Marilyn Edwards (Spiritual Leader and Writer), Linda Nelson (Writer), Craig Bowman and Dick McGarrity (Corresponding Secretary), Julia Szabo (Website and Facebook), and John Hochstetler (Refreshments). Ministry Information Form (MIF) – information about our church written by the PNC – will need to be approved by Session and MVP.
- Approved granting permission for Bluffton Area Ministerial Association (BAMA) to use parking spots in front of church on Wednesday, February 22 from 7:00 to 9:00 AM for "Ashes to Go".

- Appreciation to Jade Hochstetler for designing the bulletin boards in hallway by office.
- Session approved that Pastor Dave be allowed to use whichever version of "The Lord's Prayer" he wishes.
- Maintenance work at the manse: oiled the garage door springs, fixed and reprogrammed the keyless entry system for the garage door, re-attached some trim in the main hallway, and cleaned/repaired the light fixture in the main bathroom. Removed snow/slush at the church. Orkin came for their monthly visit at manse.

FAITH FORMATION

Released Time Walkers Save the Date

We still have some remaining shifts to fill for "Released Time" Christian Education walkers this academic year on March 28 and May 2. Please contact Dick McGarrity if available to fill a shift.

March Youth Faith Formation

The youth Faith Formation will have a modified schedule this month:

March 5 – No class

March 12 – Conclusion of the Narnia Series, coronation festival, party time!

March 19 – No class

March 26 – Easter project! (We would love to have all youth join, including the high schoolers!).

Please contact Tenna Rhonemus or Sarah Brauen with any questions.

MISSION

Spring Fling

Marilyn Edwards and Linda Nelson are planning on having a "Ten Thousand Village Trunk Sale" at our church on Sunday, March 19 (this will be in the back of the sanctuary right after the service). We will be helping Ten Thousand Villages support third world countries by buying the wares made by the artisans of these countries. We will be promoting Spring home additions both inside and outside, gift giving made easy, for youth, college students, and adults, and Easter add-ons. Some of the items we will be offering are bird houses, planters, baskets, jewelry, soap, food, and candy.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

The scale of the disaster facing Syria and Turkey after the February 6 earthquake is becoming clearer. The 7.8-magnitude quake and its aftershocks have left thousands of people dead and thousands more injured; these numbers will rise as search and rescue continues.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is providing emergency relief and short-term recovery in the impacted area. PDA will remain active throughout the entire recovery process, accompanying our partners in the area as they determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for building and resilience.

Financial support for relief efforts can be made online, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “DR999999-ST Earthquake” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



One Great Hour of Sharing

During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus’ resurrection, and connects us with “those who have least.” One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability. Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Little Free Pantry

Feb 27-March 5 – Jayne McGarrity
March 6-12 – Jodi Brauen
March 13-19 – Sarah Brauen
March 20-26 – Carole Enneking
March 27-April 2 – Sarah Noland

Needed items for donation this month are canned fruit, peanut butter, beef stew and ramen noodles. Thank you!

Fighting Hunger with Cents-Ability

The second Sunday of the month is the Cents-ability collection. The youth will be participating in the collection and making it a “noisy Sunday”. Youth of the church will be walking around the sanctuary with cans, shaking them and collecting from the congregation! Make sure to bring your spare change to help make this as noisy as possible!!



Thanks to Jeff and Kerry Fremont for helping to cover February Pizza Night, and thanks to everyone who helped with donations. We again were able to provide a pizza night for ~25 men.

March 11 Pizza Night is covered. If you are interested in serving, we are looking for 1 to 2 people to help on April 8, and 3 to 4 people on May 13. Anyone interested in helping or donating drinks, snacks, and supplies, 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!

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. Your kindness is appreciated. God bless you.

Thank you to all those in our church family that donated food, helped set up, served, and helped clean up for Sheila Hurlburt’s funeral dinner.
Deacon Cindy Gillen – Funeral Meal Coordinator

We would like to thank all of you that remember us for different reasons. Whether with prayers, cards, flowers, gifts from classes, or the DVD of each Sunday’s church service, I feel almost as if I’m sitting in the back pews. Nice to be able to see and hear Pastor Dave. God Bless All.

Donnas and Stoney

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the delicious meal you put together to honor mom and care for our family. It helped to make the day memorable. Please thank everyone who assisted.

From the family of Dortha Radabaugh

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for all the calls, cards, visits, food, and prayers during Gayle’s passing. Thank you to Pastor Dave Good for his services and the Deacons for their work.

John Marshall Family

Expressions of Appreciation

The following “Expressions of Appreciation” were shared at our Annual Congregational Meeting:

- Carole Enneking, completing term as Mission Chair, thanked for many hours of mission service to our church, community, and world.
- Bluffton Presbyterian church family thanked for participating in many mission projects even though we are a small congregation.
- Diane Winebar, completing term as Worship Chair, thanked for coordinating numerous volunteers for worship services and dealing with many challenges during the three years – Covid, online worship services, additional equipment for live-stream services. Clair Winebar thanked for assisting Diane with Worship Committee.
- Pastor Dave impressed with additions made at church in last 10 years and serving our neighbors – digital sign, Gazebo, Little Free Food Pantry, Lima Rescue Mission.
- Pastor Dave thanked for his willingness to provide weekly worship leadership and emergency pastoral care.

- Appreciate volunteers/leaders who have added additional responsibilities during the time we are in transition and without a full-time pastor.
- Bluffton Presbyterian Church is blessed with wonderful staff – Choir Director Linda Sycks, Organists Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman, Administrative Assistant Cathy Carroll, Treasurer Julia Szabo, and Custodians Chris/John Hochstetler.

DEACONS

- Communion served – 52
- Community Meal held February 2, was a success.
- Discussion on members of church who are in Nursing Homes.



Prayers of Sympathy

For the family and friends of Sheila Hurlburt who passed away on February 15.

For the family and friends of Janie Bell (Lynda Best’s friend) who passed away on February 19.

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, Peggy Hursey, Ralph and Donnie Middleton, Ben Miracle, Hazel Rodabaugh, and Owen Ziessler.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

We Pray for God’s Healing for:

- Craig Bowman
- Dwight Nichols
- Jerry Szabo
- David Abell (Mariah Pneuman’s former son-in-law)
- Dr. Sharon Cole (Darlene Hey’s doctor)
- Carolyn Dahms (Marilyn Edward’s sister)
- Jim and Judy Dowling (Tanya Best’s brother and sister-in-law)
- George and Lois Fischer (Julia Szabo’s stepmother)
- Kira (family friend of Helen Hawk)
- Rob Krupp (Don Brauen’s friend)
- Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey’s daughter)
- Anessa Samsal (Mariah Pneuman’s granddaughter-in-law)
- Jessie Spencer (Darlene’s great niece)
- Kelly Winger (Cindy Gillen’s cousin)

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 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.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

January 2023 - General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2023	\$
YTD offerings to the general fund and other receipts	
YTD general fund expenses	
January 31, 2023 balance	\$

Thank you for your monetary offerings that support BPC's ministries!

2023 Per Capita

Thank you to everyone who has provided a 2023 per capita offering!

Through the end of January, per capita offerings totaled \$. Per capita offerings help cover BPC's per member assessment, which totaled \$ for 2023.

If you have not yet had a chance to provide a per capita offering, you are invited to do so anytime during 2023.

What is per capita?

Per capita funding helps cover the administrative and direct costs of many 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
- ❖ Helping cover expenses for commissioners and delegates to General Assemblies

- ❖ Preserving and maintaining our denominational history through the Presbyterian Historical Society
- ❖ Supporting Korean-speaking councils
- ❖ Funding certain administrative expenses of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Here's a breakdown of BPC's 2023 per capita charge:

Maumee Valley Presbytery	\$
Synod of the Covenant	\$
General Assembly	\$
Total	\$

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

The worship committee invites you to help make our sanctuary beautiful this coming Easter season. Please use the form included in this newsletter to make a monetary donation. Easter is a wonderful time to remember loved ones with a gift given in their memory or honor.

Please return your completed form with your donation by March 20. You will be able to take your flowers home after our joyful Easter Sunday worship service.

Birthdays

Mar	1	Greg Culbertson
	2	Jane Benroth Emily Sycks
	3	Jacob Szabo
	9	Tom Hursey
	13	Hazel Rodabaugh
	14	Erin Hotmire
	16	Alec Culbertson Paul Culbertson Jana McVetta
	24	Darrel Hotmire
	26	Laura Elwood
	28	Drew Gable
	30	Victoria Wagner
Apr	1	John Hochstetler Megan Sycks
	4	Beth Buist
	5	Helen Hawk

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter

Help make our sanctuary Easter-beautiful!



Fill in the form below and return it, with payment, to the church.
Make checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line.

You may:

1. Mail to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, PO Box 149, Bluffton, OH 45817.
2. Bring to the church office Tuesday or Thursday between 9:00 am and noon.
3. Outside office hours, place in the inside lockbox to right of the office door.
4. Fill out and send in this form, but donate online through our website: blufftonpc.org/give.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter flowers and other items needed during the Lenten/Easter seasons.

Please note: The deadline is March 20.

I/We wish to donate \$ _____

My Name: _____

In Memory of _____

By: _____

In Honor of _____

By: _____

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 – Sarah Brauen and Tom Edwards

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