



*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## March 2025

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, March 2 – Communion**

Pulpit: Tenna Rhonemus  
Liturgist: Morgan McVetta  
Special Music: Kerry Fremont and Jeremy Szabo  
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus  
Slides: Linda Nelson  
Acolyte: Morgan  
Greeters: Jeff and Cindy Gillen

#### **Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday**

Pulpit: Cole May/Tenna Rhonemus  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus  
Greeters: Betsey Angus and Phil Bower

#### **Sunday, March 9 – First Sunday in Lent Cents-Ability Offering**

Pulpit: Cole May  
Liturgist: Tom Edwards  
Special Music: Choir and Phoebe  
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolyte: Avery  
Greeters: Tanya Best and Carole Enneking

#### **Sunday, March 16**

Pulpit: Cole May  
Liturgist: Clair Winebar  
Special Music: Don Brauen  
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen  
Slides: Michele Talavinia  
Acolyte: Robbie  
Greeters: TBD

#### **Sunday, March 23**

Pulpit: Cole May  
Liturgist: Dick McGarrity  
Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus  
Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Acolytes: Owen and Clara  
Greeters: Helen Hawk and Lori Schmidt

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### **Sundays:**

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary

#### **Tuesdays:**

Claralice Circle Advent Study 6:30 PM

#### **Wednesdays:**

Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Mar 2 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Mar 2 – Deacon Meeting 9:15 AM

Mar 5 – Ashes to Go 7:00 to 9:00 AM – Church Front Yard

Mar 5 – Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 PM

Mar 8 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Mar 9 – Daylight Savings Time – Spring Forward

Mar 9 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Mar 12 – Mission Committee Meeting 7:30 PM

Mar 13 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Mar 16 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Mar 16 – Faithline 6:30 to 8:00 PM – Methodist Church

Mar 23 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Mar 23 “Bingo” 3:00 PM – Fellowship Hall

**Mar 23 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day**

Mar 30 – Confirmation Class 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall



#### **Ash Wednesday – Ashes to Go**

“Ashes to Go” sponsored by Bluffton Area Ministerial Association will be held on Ash Wednesday, March 5, from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. in front yard of church.

#### **Sunday, March 30**

Pulpit : Cole May  
Liturgist: Jana McVetta  
Special Music: Lori Schmidt  
Sound: Rob McGarrity /Camera: Lynda Best  
Slides: Linda Nelson  
Acolyte: Robbie  
Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll



## SESSION

### February Meeting Highlights

- Deacons and Elders were ordained/installed on January 26 during the Annual Congregational Meeting. All year-end forms for Maumee Valley Presbytery and General Assembly were submitted electronically. Session Minutes Book and Church Membership Rolls Book will be reviewed by MVP in early March. Approved to not object to Greenhorn's request to transfer Liquor Permit to new owners that will operate at same location.
- Hazel Rodabaugh passed away on February 3, 2025. Services will be February 28 at the Ada Funeral Home. Deacons and Cole May are reaching out to family.
- Approved request from Bluffton Area Ministerial Association to use front church lawn for "Ashes to Go" on Ash Wednesday in the morning.
- Few faulty carbon monoxide testers were replaced at the church. Removed snow/ice at the church. Replaced the refrigerator at the manse and hooked up the water/ice maker. Manse cleaned one last time (thanks, Kerry!) before the May's move in. Upon Orkin's inspection of the attic in the manse, we became aware that mice had taken up residence in the attic. Their recommendation to remediate this problem includes removing all insulation in the attic, sanitizing the area, installing new insulation, and closing possible entry points. Crawl space under the kitchen will also need to be evaluated. Orkin's estimate to remedy this was \$10,000. A second estimate is being secured. Approved spending up to \$10,000 to remedy the mice problem at the manse. Cole May will be informed that because of health concerns they are not able to move in/drop things off until this has been corrected.

- Initial Confirmation Class (led by Tenna Rhonemus) was held on Sunday, February 3 with 7 attendees and the class went well.
- Ohio Northern University students in the Advanced Auditing course are conducting a review of the 2024 financial controls and records, similar to past years. Annual review is required by PC(USA). Treasurer has met with the students a couple times and provided information. Students will issue a final report in late April.

## DEACONS

### February Meeting Highlights

- Finalized details for February Community Meal.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Faithline

Our middle school and high school members are invited to attend FAITHLINE; a monthly non-denomination gathering at the Methodist church. The gathering starts at 6:30 p.m. on a Sunday night with dinner, a short non-denominational message, and then a live Christian band. The evening ends at 8:00 p.m. There is no cost to attend, and the gathering meets once a month; the next gathering is March 16.

If you would like more information, please contact Lori Lewis or Linda Nelson.

### Christian Education Release Time

The schedule for Christian Education release schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 6, 11:30 to 12:35

(Kindergarten only)

Thursday, April 10, 1:00 to 3:00

(1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Volunteers are needed for Thursday, March 6. We are looking for 2 volunteers for each session, a one-hour commitment. Kindergarten: 11:30 to 12:35

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.

### Confirmation Class

The confirmation class meets Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. The class will meet for 12 sessions, and run into May. Further information will be communicated directly to those participating.

### FELLOWSHIP

#### Bingo!

Please join us on Sunday, March 23 at 3:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall for an exciting afternoon of family friendly BINGO! We will be playing 10 games, lasting 1 hour to 1 1/2 hours. Prizes will be awarded to BINGO winners of each game. Please feel free to bring a snack to share (but it is not required to play!) and beverages will be provided. Fun and fellowship for all ages!

#### Coffee/Tea Time

The fellowship committee is now going to have coffee and tea available before church at 10:00 a.m. in the back of the sanctuary each Sunday. Help yourself to a delicious cup while visiting with your church family.

#### 175<sup>th</sup> 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.



### FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

#### January 2025 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2025	\$
Year-to-date offerings and receipts	
Year-to-date expenses	()
Balance January 31, 2025	\$

Special non-budgeted fund balances on January 31 included \$625 for Little Free Pantry supplies, and \$1,584 for monthly Lima Rescue Mission pizza dinners.

Thank you for your generous gifts of time, talents, and financial resources in support of BPC’s ministries!

### Thank you for your Per Capita Offerings

Thank you to everyone who has provided a 2025 per capita offering! If you have not had a chance and would like to, you may provide a per capita gift anytime this year. Per capita represents the cost from General Assembly, Synod, and Maumee Valley Presbytery that we are charged for each member. The 2025 amount is \$40.29 per member.



Thank you to Sarah Noland who has volunteered to take care of the Community Markets rebate program which has been handled by Darlene Hey. Thank you, Darlene, for your dedicated service! If you ever have any questions regarding this very worthwhile program, please let Sarah or Darlene know.

As you may know, the program is an 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, any offering plate, 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. Last year, BPC received rebates totaling \$452, and Darlene just turned in a batch that will result in a \$310 rebate.

### MISSION

#### Our Monthly "Noisy" Cents Ability Offering

In 1976, the “Two-Cents-A-Meal” project began by Presbyterian Women. It was established to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Today, we collect the "Cents Ability" offering on the second Sunday of the month. The purpose remains to root out hunger by splitting the donations between our Little Free Pantry, the Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry, and Maumee Valley Presbytery to support regional activities of the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Bring your coins to support this "noisy" offering!

## One Great Hour of Sharing PCUSA Offering



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (March 5 – April 20), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterian come together every year to work for a better world.

Our congregation supports local and national efforts to address hunger and disaster. The OGHS offering allows our gifts to join with others to offer help across the globe. Gifts can be made by check using the special offering envelopes, online through the Bluffton Presbyterian Church giving page, or directly to PCUSA

<https://pcusa.org/donate/og999999-one-great-hour-sharing>



Thank you Barb and Dave McClurg for helping Tammie and Bob Hursh cover February Pizza Night. Also, thanks for the donations from the congregation, we were able to serve pizza, pop, chips, and candy bars for 28 men.

March Pizza Night is covered. We are looking for servers on April 12 and May 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.

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) urges your support in response to the devastating fires in California, which authorities are calling a historic and deadly wildfire event. PDA has already released emergency grants to meet the urgent needs of the communities and to provide immediate care. The magnitude of this event will require the development of long-term projects and assistance, both for the physical and emotional long-lasting effects. Years of recovery lie ahead, and your commitment will help PDA extend the hands of Christ. Will you stand in the “GAP” for the people affected by these catastrophic wildfires? Give. Act. Pray. Gifts can be made online at [pcusa.org/CAfires25](https://pcusa.org/CAfires25), by phone at 800-728-7228, Ext. 5885, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with “PDA-CF25-BI” written on the memo line and mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

## Little Free Pantry

During cold weather, we avoid any items that can freeze and explode (canned fruit, vegetables), dense items like canned pasta and meatballs, canned beef, canned chicken, nut butters, and individual-serving applesauce are welcome.

Feb 24-March 2 – Jayne McGarrity  
March 3-9 – Carole Enneking  
March 10-16 – Sarah Brauen  
March 17-23 – Sarah Noland  
March 24-30 – Diane Winebar  
March 31-April 6 – Jodi Brauen

Donations this month of hamburger helper, boxed cereal, taco kits, ramen noodles, and “cold weather” protein and meat items will be appreciated!



Missions  
Committee

## Mission Committee Invites New Members

If you have an interest/passion for helping others, contact Carole Enneking, Lynda Best, or Sue Van Eman to learn more about our committee's work for the local and greater church. The committee currently meets the first Wednesday evening at 7:30 a.m. (immediately following choir rehearsal).





**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.

**Prayers of Sympathy for:**

The family and friends of Hazel Rodabaugh who passed on February 3.

The family and friends of George Stultz who passed on February 18.

**Prayers for:**

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

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

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

- Jodi Diller
- Darlene Hey
- Sue Mathewson
- Colletta Mullenhour
- Jeannie Nichols
- Mariah Pneuman
- Judy Reichenbach
- Donnas Stone
- 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)
- Maria Macias (Diane Winebar's mom)
- Wanda McCullough (Jade Hochstetler's grandmother)
- Pat Rhonemus (Mike Rhonemus's Aunt)

- Joseph Robinson (Jeremy Szabo's friend)
- Alice Schmidt (Lori Schmidt's mother)
- Sandi Waibel (Donnas Stone's sister)

**Ruling Elders Communion Class**

Rev Bob Butcher, Moderator of Session, will hold a class on Saturday, March 15 or on March 22 (whichever is more popular) from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the basement of the church to teach and authorize Ruling Elders to serve communion. You are a Ruling Elder if you have ever served on Session. There is no charge, and lunch will be served. As you may be aware from the letter from Session/PNC to the Congregation earlier in February, Cole May, our Resident Preacher, is temporarily unable to preside at Communion. To sign up or for any questions, please talk to Dick McGarrity.

**Birthdays**

- Mar 1 Greg Culbertson
- 2 Emily Sycks
- 3 Jacob Szabo
- 9 Tom Hursey
- 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



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Thank you to all who contributed their time by setting up, serving, cleaning up, and providing food for George Stultz's funeral reception and Hazel Rodabaugh's funeral luncheon.

Deacon Cindy Gillen

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

[blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

Sundays: Worship: 10:15 AM

**OFFICE HOURS**

Resident Preacher: Cole May

Phone:

Email:

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

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

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Tom Edwards

Worship – Lynda Best

Elders at Large – LeAnne Carr, Jeff Gillen,  
Jana McVetta

*Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

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