



*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## May 2024

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, May 5 – Communion**

Pulpit Supply: Tenna Rhonemus  
Liturgist: Helen Hawk  
Special Music: Dave and Linda Sycks  
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Betsey Angus  
Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Acolyte: Morgan  
Greeter: Chris Hochstetler

#### **Sunday, May 12 – Cents-Ability Offering**

Pulpit Supply: Carole Enneking  
Liturgist: Jade Hochstetler  
Special Music: Choir  
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Clair Winebar  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolyte: Bowen  
Greeters: Lynda Best and Lou Best

#### **Sunday, May 19 – Pentecost**

Pulpit: Rev. Matthew Zuehlke  
Liturgist: Lori Schmidt  
Special Music: Don Brauen  
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen  
Slides: Michele Talavinia  
Acolyte: Avery  
Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

#### **Sunday, May 26 – Trinity Sunday**

Pulpit: Rev. Matthew Zuehlke  
Liturgists: Diane Winebar  
Special Music: Jayne McGarrity  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus  
Slides: Linda Nelson  
Acolyte: Robbie  
Greeters: Jeff and Cindy Gillen



### 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

**Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

May 1 – Mission Meeting 7:30 PM

May 5 – Deacon Meeting 9:15 AM

May 9 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

May 11 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

May 12 – Mother's Day

May 19 – Pentecost

May 19 – Rev. Matthew Zuehlke Joins Us

**May 26 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy**

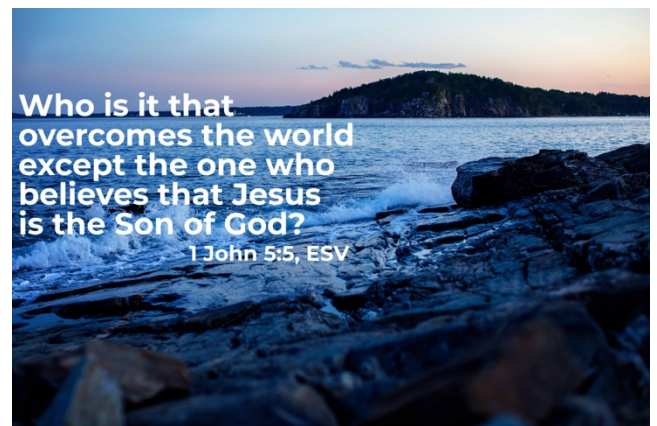
May 27 – Memorial Day

### DEACONS

No Deacon's meeting was held in April.

### WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Starting in June, 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.



## SESSION

### Highlights of Session's April Meeting

- Approved to receive David and Barbara McClurg as members by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Working on final touches at the manse before Pastor Matthew moves in: installing a 220-volt receptacle for the garage and fixing the sagging deck. Team has been assembled to help clean manse one more time. John Marshall will mow the church lawn again this year.
- Brooklyn Phillips (Sunday School and Nursery Leader) has resigned effective end of April - end of Bluffton University's school year. In the fall, Brooklyn will participate in an internship in Chicago and will then have enough credits to officially graduate. We are searching for a replacement for next school year.
- Gift card given to Cathy Carroll for Administrative Assistant's Day. Pastor Appreciation "Love" gift given to Pastor Dave on April 14 lunch.

## FAITH FORMATION

Dick McGarrity presented Brooklyn Phillips with a token of the church's appreciation for leading Youth Group, Sunday School, and Children's Church since January 2022. Next fall she will be a social worker intern in Chicago.



We are now 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

### Pentecost Offering

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering will be used locally to make an impact in the lives of young people; this year's portion will go to National Child Safety Council. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

The Pentecost offering runs April 21-May 19. To support this work, send a check to the church office or give online:

<https://www.blufftonpc.org/give.html>.

For more information about this denominational offering, visit:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/pentecost/>

A graphic for the Pentecost Offering featuring a red and purple background with a stylized flame icon on the right. The text is in white and reads: "Let us pray — God of Every Age, may we return thanks to you by enlivening a world where our children know they are safe, have what they need to thrive, and are left with a world that is more like your reign of justice, love and peace. In Christ's name, Amen." At the bottom, there are logos for "PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS" and "MATTHEW 25 April 1 - May 19, 2024".

### Little Free Pantry

April 29-May 5 – Jodi Brauen  
May 6-May 12 – Jayne McGarrity  
May 13-May 17 – Carole Enneking  
May 18-May 26 – Sue Van Eman  
May 27-June 2 – Sarah Brauen

Please consider donating boxed cereal, chicken and beef ramen noodles, and canned fruit this month. Thank you!



Thanks to Dave and Barbara McClurg for helping Tammie and Bob Hursh to cover April Pizza Night at Lima Rescue Mission. We continue to have 35-40 men come this month and enjoy pizza and pop. Also, thanks to everyone who continues to help with donations.

We have coverage for May 11 and are looking for servers for June 8 and July 13. 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](http://www.blufftonpc.org/give)). Thanks!



### FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

#### March 2024 – General Fund Summary

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Balance March 1, 2024        | \$  |
| March offerings and receipts |     |
| March expenses               | ( ) |
| March 31, 2024 balance       | \$  |

Thank you for supporting BPC’s ministries!



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!*



#### 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.

#### Prayers of Joy for:

Jane Sycks who recently got engaged to her partner, Grace.

Welcoming our new pastor Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke starting May 19.

Sarah Brauen on birth of nephew Jay David Hart.

#### Prayers of Sympathy for:

The family and friends of Katrina Riepenhoff who recently passed.

Steve and LeAnn Carr and family. LeAnn’s brother Brian recently passed.

The family and friends of Taylor Zsiros who recently passed (Jeff and Kerry Fremont's son’s fiancé).

#### We Pray for God’s Healing for:

- Jodi Diller
- Sue Mathewson
- Jeannie Nichols
- Mariah Pneuman
- Dave Van Eman
- 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)
- Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey’s daughter)
- Eileen Rhonemus (Mike’s mother)
- Paul Siefker (Helen Hawk’s friend)
- Joel, Shelby, and baby Andrew Sycks (Dave Sycks’ family)

**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**

- May 2 Patrick Rhonemus
- 3 Paige McVetta
- 8 Dan Noland
- 9 George Stultz
- 11 Yuji Elwood
- 14 Jade Hochstetler  
Elaine Thompson
- 15 Lilly Friesel  
Jeremy Zank
- 20 Sarah Brauen
- 21 Becky Winebar
- 24 Carole Enneking  
Kevin McVetta  
Sunny Zank
- 25 Ethen Friesel
- 26 Kory Enneking  
Rebecca Hursey
- 29 Heidi Hotmire
- June 6 Donnas Stone

**Anniversaries**

- May 8 Dan and Sarah Noland
- 11 Bob and Tammie Hursh
- 19 Tyler and Jade Hochstetler
- 23 David and Barbara McClurg
- 28 Don and Jodi Brauen
- June 4 Ryan and Sarah Brauen



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 Thank you for the flowers and gift card for Administrative Assistant day. I loved both and I am truly grateful.

Blessings, Cathy

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 Thank you to Don Carroll and the men of the church who prepared a wonderful Easter Breakfast for everyone. And thank you to the Christian Ed committee for the children's Easter egg hunt!!

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 Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for the Beef and Noodle dinner in April.

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**Challenged Champions Equestrian Center**

Hello, my name is Olivia Westhoven from Challenged Champions Equestrian Center, located outside of Ottawa. We are a nonprofit therapeutic horseback riding center that helps over 450 individuals annually with special needs. With that, we need a lot of people to help these individuals during our riding lessons. The volunteers participate in classes by being horse leader (keeping the horse on task throughout the lesson) or side walkers (aiding the rider with balance, communication, or encouragement). There is NO horse experience needed, volunteers must be 14 years or older and be able to walk for an hour. Classes are offered in the mornings, afternoons, and evenings Monday through Friday. We were wondering if anyone would be interested in coming out to the farm and volunteering for an hour or two a week. Thank you, Olivia Westhoven

**CHALLENGED CHAMPIONS**

- Classes held Monday - Friday
- Morning/ Afternoon/ Evening volunteer opportunities
- NO horse experience required!
- Must be at least 14 years old to participate.

If you're interested in volunteering please contact our volunteer coordinator Olivia: (419)235-0626

Address: 11913 Road 6, Ottawa, OH  
[www.challengedchampions.com](http://www.challengedchampions.com)



## TRIBUTE TO DAVE – 4/14/24

This story starts 10 years ago when Dave became our pastor.  
Jane had other plans for him, but he forgot to ask her.  
Ne'er before had we a leader so "good", multi-taskable.  
His preaching, singing, keyboard, drama, all quite unsurpassable.

When Dave first came among us, he thought we needed screens.  
We balked at his idea – to worship with machines?  
But when we saw what he could do with outlines and with art,  
We knew that worship was enriched and now we think it's smart.

Another great idea that our Dave initiated  
Helped community and church become a lot more integrated.  
Our lawn became the new town square with concerts and mosquito,  
With summer worship on the lawn in our brand new gazebo.

There came to pass some instances when neither Jayne nor Sue  
Could play a service at the church – my goodness, what to do!  
Well, Dave had synthesizer, wind controller, things on hand.  
He saved the day a couple of times - he's quite the one-man band!

When Dave was here full time he came to practice with the basses  
On Wednesday night and Linda really put them through their paces.  
But with two Daves in the back row there was quite the playful banter,  
While Linda tried to gain control and deal with all the chatter.

Dave chose hymns quite carefully with music that would flow.  
He stressed theology & message ("careful, not too slow!")  
When we were struggling with new hymns and couldn't get it right,  
Dave's strong voice steered us onward and led us to the light.

The sermons David shared with us were always something new,  
Scripture readings came alive. We learned some Greek words too.  
A "right relationship with God", a favorite quote of his,  
And the greatest commandment of them all – watch out, there'll be a quiz!

We know that Dave will miss those early hours on Sunday morning,  
When he'd get an inspiration, change his sermon without warning.  
He'd change his notes and change his slides, give Jane a farewell kissing.  
But somewhere between home and church the slides would go a-missing!

Well, we will miss Dave's caring, all the wisdom he supplied.  
He sang with us, encouraged us, he prayed with us, he cried.  
Now he and Jane can travel, work the farm, throw dogs a bone.  
We hope that they'll consider us their church forever home.

**BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**112 N. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 149**

**BLUFFTON, OH 45817**

**(419) 358-5806**

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

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