



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

April 2014

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 6 – 5th Sunday in Lent Communion/3 Cents a Meal Offering

Vocal: Pastor Dave Good

Duet: Linda Sycks, oboe and Jeremy Szabo,
English horn

Lay Reader: Jana McVetta

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolytes: Libby and Morgan McVetta

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Helen Hawk

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Acolytes: Tucker Neff and Jacob Szabo

Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday

Dinner following by worship service

Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday

Choir

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity

Greeters: The Gillen Family

Acolytes: Avery Talavinia and Paige McVetta

Sunday, April 27

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Darlene Hey

Greeters: The Talavinia Family

Acolytes: Wyatt Marshall and James Freidenberg

Sunday, May 4 – Communion 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Diane Winebar

Acolytes: Sarah Gillen and Megan Sycks

Greeters: The Marshall Family

Mark Your Calendars!

- April 5 – Youth Group – 8:00-10:00 AM
- April 6 – One Family Fun Night Chili Dinner and Bowling – Following Worship
- April 10 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- April 12 – Deacon's Annual Bake Sale – 9:00 to 12:00 Noon – Citizens National Bank
- April 16 – Deacon Meeting – 7:30 PM
- April 17 – Maundy Thursday Dinner/Service – 6:00 PM at Bluffton Presbyterian Church
- April 18 – Good Friday Procession of Cross – 11:30 AM
- April 18 – Community Good Friday Service – First United Methodist at Noon.
- April 20 – Easter Breakfast – 8:30 to 9:45 AM
- April 20 – Easter Egg Hunt – 9:28 AM
- April 23 – Praise Team Practice – 7:30 PM
- April 27 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- May 2-3 – 30 Hour Famine – Bluffton Presbyterian Church



Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month of April, get it to the church office by Wednesday morning so it will be announced by our Worship Leader for the month.

April Worship Leader – Diane Winebar

Coffee Talk

Wednesday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

Choir Practice

Wednesday – Church Sanctuary – 6:30-7:30 PM

*They were on their way up to Jerusalem
with Jesus leading the way
and the disciples were astonished
while those who followed were afraid.
Mark 10:32*

We now enter the heart of the sacred story. Across these last weeks of Lent we find the truth of God's love. It is a costly love. Love and death. And Life.

April 6: "The Lazarus Gambit: the sacrifice play". Jesus will bring Lazarus back from the dead. AND IN DOING SO – he will guarantee his own death. Come join us for this pivotal story – which sets in motion the events of Holy Week.

April 13: The Sacred Story on Palm/Passion Sunday. There will be no sermon this Sunday. There will only be the Sacred Story from Matthew. Jesus enters Jerusalem, fully enters conflict with the authorities. He shares a sacred – Passover meal. He is arrested, tried, and executed. Come hear the story that is rarely told: the Passion of our Lord.

April 17: Maundy Thursday. Join us for a simple supper, a simple worship, and a simple scripture: love one another. The scripture is a command (mandatum), the command for which the day is named (Maundy). This is a spiritually quiet evening; quiet but deep. Dinner begins at 6:00. Worship follows immediately after.

April 20: The Resurrection of our Lord. We will hear three stories, three different stories. One thing will be clear: different people meet the Risen Lord at different times and different ways. One question cannot be avoided: how will *you* respond to the Risen Lord.

April 27 – "Doubting" Thomas. Thomas asks the questions which need to be asked and as a result gets branded as a "doubter" for all eternity. Who ever said life was fair? There is much to learn about faith and questions and "doubt".

Join us for worship during April. It is a spiritual journey.

Rev. David Good

"New Beginnings" – Arrives in Bluffton

If I said "the world is changing" the question would not be if that was a true statement; the question would be to which way the world is changing that it refers. Technology, communication, demographics, culture, societal structure. The world is changing. The world has changed.

So how will the church of Jesus Christ meet the new world which is already here and is changing further every day?

This is a foundational question which the "New Beginnings Program" of the PCUSA poses through a simple question: What is God calling your congregation to do and be in your community (with your neighbors)?

But this question is not just an overarching, general question. It is a specific question for each congregation. It is a question for Bluffton Presbyterian Church.

What is God calling this congregation to do and be in Bluffton? It is a question for **you** to answer. In April, as a part of our journey toward calling a new pastor, we will be starting the "New Beginnings Program".

The New Beginnings Program begins with an objective assessment (April 21) and moves into our self-reflection (small group discussions during this summer) on what our ministry is and who our neighbors are. There will be several opportunities for small group discussion and members are asked to attend one. This discussion will help to shape the future of Bluffton Presbyterian and will inform the process of calling a new pastor. It will serve as the beginning of a journey into the future which Bluffton Presbyterian builds.

Please join us for the first step in "New Beginnings" on the evening of Monday, April 21 (at 7:00 pm); it will be an "Appreciative Inquiry". This meeting will gather our love for the church and what the church does. We will use this love for the church to invest in where the church will go next – new beginnings.

Highlights of March Session Meeting

- Our Session Minutes and Membership books were reviewed by Maumee Valley Presbytery and were found to have no exceptions. Letters of Transfer have been received for Richard and Judith Evans from Market Street Presbyterian Church in Lima, OH. Approved request from Tenna Rhonemus to borrow 6 tables/32 chairs on May 24. Approved request from Lori Schmidt to borrow glass serving plates on April 14.
- Tom Hursey and Owen Ziessler have met with local contractors (recommended by Bob Neff) concerning the Building Restoration Project. Hoping to receive bids for total project soon. Bulb in the memorial light in the rear of the sanctuary was replaced. Garage door at the manse needs a seal on the bottom.
- Secured Sunday school teachers for spring. May 18 will be the last day for Sunday school. Community Vacation Bible School will be July 20-24 at St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- Approved that we do not have the Ohio Northern accounting students complete the financial audit because it will take time to get the final quarter's information (in new software) re-entered in the previous software program.
- Pastor Dave participated in the following – served home Communion, made home visitations to housebound members, Wednesday breakfasts, Youth Virtual Mission Trip, dinners with members, BAMA – discussing Community Worship in July, serving on MVP's response team to Congregations in Conflict. February's MVP meeting cancelled due to weather.
- A "drop-box" was created to back up the church's digital files.
- Craft Show Lunch will be Saturday, May 10 – Lori Schmidt has agreed to coordinate. Wheels Festival BBQ Dinner in June – Betsey Angus and Cathy Carroll have agreed to co-chair.



February Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 38,895.48
Receipts	33,416.24
Expenses	(21,842.40)
*Balance	\$ 50,469.32
*Building Restoration Fund	\$25,920.00
*General Fund Balance	\$24,549.32

Building Restoration Project

We are making steady progress on commitments/pledges for the much needed Building Restoration Project.

- Estimated total project cost: \$110,000
- Amount to be paid from memorial and special funds: \$30,000
- Amount to be raised from member and friend commitments/pledges: \$80,000
- Payment period for commitments begins now and runs through December 2015

Please remember that it is important for the church office to hear from each member and friend household/family. All commitments are important regardless of size, even if your commitment cannot be financial and needs to consist of moral support! Please be sure to pick up a commitment card located at the sanctuary doorways and drop in the offering or send to the church office.

Thank you for your prayerful support of this necessary and worthy project!

One Great Hour of Sharing

Easter Sunday will be our One Great Hour of Sharing. This will be a special time to remember those who are in need throughout the world. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Church joins with a number of other denominations to work together against world hunger and poverty.



BPC Treasurer Position

As you most likely know, Cathy Carroll generously agreed to temporarily return to the Church Treasurer position following Michelle and Pastor Matthew's move to North Dakota. Session and the Stewardship Committee are very appreciative of Cathy's willingness to return and to serve until we are able to transition to a new permanent Treasurer. If you are a BPC member with bookkeeping skills and available time, we ask that you prayerfully consider applying for the Treasurer position.

The Treasurer is responsible for conducting the routine financial functions for the church. Primary functions include:

- Maintaining the financial records (books)
- Maintaining records and balances for Church funds (general, memorial, building, special events)
- Tracking of funds by budget line
- Tracking pledges and donations; preparing and distributing quarterly giving statements to members and friends
- Acknowledgement of memorial and special gifts
- Reconciliation of financial records to bank statements
- Payment of bills and payroll; ensuring disbursements are authorized
 - Payroll tax and reporting functions (withholding and tax returns and payments)
 - Handling medical, insurance, and pension reporting for Pastor
 - Preparing monthly statements for Session
 - Preparing annual report for Congregation

The 2014 salary for the Treasurer position is \$4,906. The position typically requires four to six hours a week. Required skills include bookkeeping or accounting experience, diligence, basic computer skills (Excel spreadsheets, etc.), and good communication skills.

Session feels that we are better served by having a member serve as Treasurer, and would like for the Church to continue this practice if we are able to do so. If we must hire an outside accounting firm to handle the Church's finances, Session estimates that annual costs would most likely increase to roughly \$7,500. Using an outside accounting firm would represent a significantly higher level of expense for our Church. The Church's business function would also become a little less personable, and transactions and reporting would likely require longer lead-times.

If you have any questions regarding the Treasurer position, please feel free to discuss with Cathy or any member of Session.

Deacon Report

- The deacons thank everyone who participated in the St. Patrick's Day Potluck held last month. Very special thanks to Dave and Jane Good for setting up a delightful Celtic art display and sharing their knowledge of Celtic Christianity with us.
- Plans are being finalized for the deacons' annual Easter Bake Sale set for Saturday, April 12. We thank everyone who has already turned in donation forms. The deacons voted to distribute the proceeds as follows: 30% to the BPC Youth Group for use during their upcoming 30-Hour Famine/World Vision mission project, and 70% to the church's Building Restoration Project.
- Plans are being made to help celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates with a reception May 18 after worship.
- We are still in the process of collecting birthdates and anniversary dates from our members and friends. If you haven't already provided this information, your CARE deacon will be asking for it in the coming weeks. We want to be able to celebrate milestones together.
- Deacons assisted with transportation to doctors in March.



One Family Fun Night Chili and Bowling

The next One Family Fun Night will be on Sunday, April 6 following worship. We will gather in the basement for chili and hot dogs and then head to Southgate Lanes for bowling from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. Not able to bowl, please stay for the lunch and program. Can't stay for lunch, join us for bowling at 12:30 PM. Please sign the sheets in the back of the church so we can be sure to have enough lanes reserved.

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Season, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form included in the bulletin to make a monetary donation. Please send names and money to church office by April 8.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter Lilies and other items needed during the Easter season. The money can be given in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Please place your completed form in the collection plate or send it to the church office at P.O. Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817.

Easter Breakfast

Don Carroll, Gene Mathewson, Jay McCracken, Tom Hursey, Tom Edwards, and Bob Angus will be cooking and serving breakfast Easter Sunday from 8:30 to 9:45 AM. Join us in celebration of the joy of Easter morning! The sausage is being donated by Jeanette Warren.

Easter Egg Hunt

Following the breakfast on Easter, April 20, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the youth at 9:28 AM. Weather permitting, it will be outside. Reminder – no Sunday school on Easter.

Weekday Christian Education Walkers

Our next assigned day to provide the walkers to escort the students to Weekday Christian Education is Thursday, April 10. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex if you are available to help.



Deacons' Annual Easter Bake Sale Saturday, April 12

It's the bake sale Bluffton waits for every year! Donation forms are coming in, and we thank you for supporting this event. Please bring your goodies to Citizens National Bank by 8:30 AM. (Set up begins shortly after 8:00 AM.) If you're unable to bring your baked goods to the bank, please contact a deacon, and we'll be happy to pick up your donations!

We are also looking for two or three more volunteers to help during the bake sale. If you can spare a couple of hours that morning, please contact Diane Winebar at 419.957.4046 or dwinebar711@gmail.com.

As we did last year, a schedule of our church's Holy Week services will be distributed. This year's proceeds will benefit the church's Youth Group and our Building Restoration Project.

An Offering of Letters

Bread for the World (bread.org) is an organization whose mission is to alleviate suffering throughout the world by encouraging our leaders to support food aid. Mission Committee has decided to hold a letter writing campaign urging Congress to reform food aid on May 4 after worship. We will have the addresses of our local congressional leaders, paper, pens, stamps, envelopes, and sample letters to assist all who participate. Join us in this mission to keep our leaders mindful of hunger in our world.

Youth Group

The youth group will be participating in the 30 Hour Famine on May 2-3, here at the church. We will be raising money to send to World Vision to help hungry children around the world. We will be completing Bible studies, a service project locally, building a cardboard village (hopefully outside), and playing the *TRIBE* game, all while going without eating for 30 hours! And yes, we really look forward to this event!!

If you would like to support our efforts through prayers, donations or even a fast of your own, please contact a member of the youth group. We would love to tell you all about the Famine!

Presbytery Commissioner

We are in need of a Presbytery Commissioner to represent our church at Maumee Valley Presbytery meetings. MVP meets about 4-5 times a year in various parts of our presbytery – northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Only requirement is that you must be an Elder (does not have to be currently serving). If you are interested, please contact Lori Schmidt, Cathy Carroll, or Pastor David Good.



Arts and Crafts Show

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will once again be serving a lunch during Bluffton's annual Craft Show held on Saturday, May 10. Items requested to be donated include pies, cookies, brownies, canned pop (name brands only), and bottled water. Workers are needed for various shifts: set up, kitchen crew, serving, cleaning up. If you are able to help that day by working or donating items, please either complete a bulletin insert or contact Jodi Brauen. Proceeds from this meal are designated for our general budget. Thanks in advance for your part in making this event a success. Prayers for good weather would also be appreciated!



Graduates

We would like to recognize our high school and college graduates on Sunday, May 18. If you or a member of your family will be a graduate this year, please contact a member of the Christian Education committee. We would also like to have each graduate submit a brief description of your accomplishments and future plans for the May Newsletter. We would love to include a picture too! Please submit this information to Cindy Gillen prior to the May Newsletter deadline of April 27.



Vacation Bible School

This year's Community Vacation Bible School will be held July 20-24 at St. Mary's Catholic Church. This year we are responsible for the Bible Adventure. More details and opportunities to volunteer will follow.



Dear Friends:

I write in this holy season of Lent, when the whole church gathers to enact One Great Hour of Sharing, to thank you for your generous gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, a gift that helps to bring renewed hope and joy to those individuals and communities suffering from disaster and its aftermath.

The season of Lent invites Christians to walk alongside Jesus on his path toward Jerusalem, a road marked by suffering, fear, and loss. Jesus' poignant cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" must rise in the hearts of many of those who have suffered unimaginable calamities in this past year, as in ours who bear witness to the suffering of neighbors throughout the world. But in Tacloban, the Philippines, after Super Typhoon Haiyan in Sparks, Nevada, following the shocking middle school shooting spree; from refugees and displaced persons still fleeing conflict in Syria and violence in South Sudan; and in so many other places – because of gifts like yours, other words rise just as strongly: words of blessing, gratitude and hope from those who know they have not been forgotten.

Your act of open-hearted giving blesses those who walk the hard road toward recovery, letting them know they are not alone, helping them to find hope in the midst of chaos, and making tangible the promise of Easter – which is life out of death, resurrection.

It is a privilege to serve together in a Church that takes seriously the mandate of Jesus – that whatever you have done to the least of these, you have done for me.

In Christ's peace,
The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Krause,
PDA Coordinator

Dear Cathy:

I'm very sorry to hear that Pastor Matthew has moved on. I would like for you to please accept this check as a donation to the church from our Mother's estate. Although time has passed, the Memorial Service that was put together by Pastor Matthew, the musicians, many volunteers, and the wonderful luncheon that was served afterwards remain a pleasant memory now and a wonderful way in which to remember our mother.

Mom told me many times that she doesn't know what she would have done without the Presbyterian Church in Bluffton. You accepted her as an import from eastern Ohio and the community of Bluffton accepted her as a college student, then as a wife and mother. I told her that I thought that she had given a lot to the church in many ways, but she wouldn't hear of it, always insisting that the church had given her way more than she had given it.

So there we will let it rest. I just know that my siblings and I were very appreciative of the memorial service. We still hear comments about it, and about how wonderful the music was. And the luncheon put on by members of the Session provided us with a way to connect with those we love and who loved Mom, in such a comfortable environment.

I'm in charge of winding up her estate, and wanted to send a small contribution along with our thanks. Mom had many health issues in her life, as you know, and as a result of all the medical and nursing home expenses, her estate was not large. But her personality was. And we miss her greatly. She had a lot of love to give, and she loved the Bluffton Presbyterian Church and the people in it.

Please pass this message on to the appropriate people, if you would. I almost hate to mention names, because so many people were involved in the service and the luncheon that I will most certainly leave out names unintentionally. But of course the Session members deserve our thanks, as well as the musicians, whom we will thank individually. A special thank you, though, to Lori Schmidt and Marilyn Edwards, who were not only good friends of Mom's, but who did so much "behind the scenes" work for the service.

Thanks to you all. Peace, Joy and Love, always.

Warm Regards,
Tomm Triplett
(for siblings Timm and Tish)



Prayers of Sympathy with Darlene Hey on the recent loss of her nephew Bill Crouse.

Prayers of Sympathy with the family of Jim Daily.

Prayers of Sympathy with the family of Tammy Clifford.

Prayers for the victims and families of the mudslides in Washington.

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

Prayers for our members and friends serving in the armed forces: especially Kyle Begg, Andrew Warner, and Lucas Woodward.

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Gordan Diller, Jill Burkholder, Brenda Anderson, Michael Lee Bucher, Claralice Wolf, Joel Kimmel, Clarence Kooker, Charlotte Bell, Stella Tomlin, June Ferguson, Matthew Pneuman, Terry Dobbs, and the family of Joe Goodman.



BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or dwinebar711@gmail.com), or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and they will pass along the information. If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain other than yourself, 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 Diane or another deacon.

New Address

Joel Kimmel
Hilty Home
P. O. Box 359
Pandora, OH 45877

Happy Birthday!!



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|-------|----|--------------------|
| April | 1 | Megan Sycks |
| | 2 | Danielle Rhonemus |
| | 3 | Brian Edelbrock |
| | 4 | Beth Buist |
| | 5 | Helen Hawk |
| | 8 | Ashlin Gable |
| | 13 | Scott Parker |
| | | Avery Talavinia |
| | 14 | Marilyn Bullock |
| | 16 | Mary Barnett |
| | 23 | Pam Weisenbarger |
| | | Lynn Nowak-Sneary |
| | 24 | Will Neff |
| | 25 | Dorothy Hursey |
| | 26 | Cathy Carroll |
| | 29 | Kristi Fifer |
| | 30 | Sally Reeder |
| May | 1 | Louise Reichenbach |
| | 2 | Patrick Rhonemus |
| | 3 | Paige McVetta |



The image features three black crosses of varying heights silhouetted against a vibrant sunrise sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow of orange and yellow light. The foreground is a dark, silhouetted hill. The text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

IN HIS GREAT MERCY

he has given us
new birth into a
living hope
through the resurrection
of **Jesus Christ...**

1 PETER 1:3, NIV

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St.
P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-5806

Pastor: Rev. David Good
Phone: 765-993-7791
Email: mangendave@frontier.com
Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:30
Website: blufftonpc.org

Sunday School Programs: 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 AM

2014 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey
Christian Education – Jay McCracken
Finance & Stewardship – Cindy Gillen
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Dave Kisor and Cindy Gillen
Personnel – Lori Schmidt
Presbytery Commissioner
Worship – Jeanette Warren
Members at Large – Dave Kisor, Rhonda
Moor, and Donnas Stone

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Diane Winebar
Members: Don Carroll, Tom Edwards, Laura
From, Lin Rumer, and Kay Ziessler.