



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

August 2013

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 4

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Speaker – Drew Van Horn

Special Music: Jack Henry Neff - Cello

Lay Reader: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Dave and Shirley Kisor

Acolytes: Patrick Rhonemus and Jacob Szabo

Sunday, August 11 - Communion

Food Pantry

Special Music: Dave and Jane Sycks

Lay Reader: Michelle Zuehlke

Greeters: Jeanette Warren and Barb Fett

Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Sunday, August 18

Special Music: Michelle Zuehlke

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolytes: Morgan and Libby McVetta

Sunday, August 25

Special Music: Don Brauen

Lay Reader: Darlene Hey

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Acolytes: Paige McVetta and Avery Talavinia

Sunday, September 1 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Diane Winebar

Greeters: Szabo Family

Acolytes: Sarah Gillen and Molly McCracken

Sunday School starts again September 8.

Mark Your Calendars!

- August 6 – Christmas In July – Ornament Items Due to Church
- August 8 – Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:40 AM – Church Parking Lot
- August 11 – BPC Youth Pool Party – 2:30 to 6:30 PM – Jeff and Cindy Gillen's Home
- August 25 – Small Groups Organizational Meeting – Following Worship
- August 25 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- August 26 – Prayer Luncheon – 11:00 AM



Announcement Procedure

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

August Worship Leader – Lori Schmidt



June Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 18,379.01
Receipts	13,776.64
Expenses	(9,600.06)
Balance	22,555.59

Pastor's Letter

New Things

*Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
~ Isaiah 43:18-19*

Most of us have heard this passage from the Book of Isaiah. It's a wonderful thought: that God is doing new things. New things sound nice. Wouldn't most of us like something new? And that is particularly the case if those new things God is doing are making a way for us out of the wilderness. I know I have some wilderness in my life that I'd like a way out of! All in all, it sounds nice....as long as I have time for it.

This time of year can feel very scripted. It's summer wrap up and getting ready for fall time. After the laid-back attitude of June and July, August is the last chance for trips, school shopping, and plans. Here in the church office it is also a time of wrap up. It's a time to look at Sunday School programs, worship series for the Fall, Advent and Christmas plans, and a host of other items. It's remarkably busy. Too busy. So busy that I don't always stop to see those new things that God is doing. In fact, sometimes it feels like nothing new is happening because I've seen this all before.

This morning that truth struck me. God has been doing new things all around me. I would like to share some of the new things that I've seen in the past few weeks:

I was able to hold new William (Hursey) Culbertson not even a day after he was born and to have him look up at me (likely wondering who this weird guy was) and then a week later being in intensive care with little Brennan (Montgomery) Leugers praying over his little warming bed for health and healing. Both young men are doing God's new thing.

I watched as the finishing touches were made to the basement project: brand new carpet, linoleum in the kitchen, the walls repainted, and new lights everywhere. It looks amazing due to the giving and participation of many individuals. It makes me think what this building is even doing God's new thing.

I was able to talk with Kory Enneking about going off to college for the first time; about the classes he's going to take and new life experiences he will find. And a week before, I was able to talk to Amanda Rhonemus about her first teaching job and her first apartment with all the excitement that goes into both. Both of these young people are doing God's new thing.

I see the newness that went into organizing, cataloging, and even trying new choral pieces. Knowing that it only came together because of many hands and open hearts. I see the newness committee's work over the past months to not just rest upon what we have done, but to ask what can we do. In these areas and more, I see God's new thing.

I think about our members who are sharing their first sermon, experiencing a change in health, those in their first year in a start-up business, those who are resigning from roles, those having a change in living conditions, and so many more stories. And I see, that we are doing God's new thing.

All of these sisters and brothers, as well as so many more, are heeding the call of God to a new thing: to re-creation, to renewal, to life. So, whenever I feel tempted to feel that things are not going forward to God's purpose, I see that I need to quiet my life to see clearly. Once I do, I can look around, and the new ways are all around me. Take a few minutes now (or when you can) to stop and think: "*where am I seeing God's new things in my life?*" Write them down. And then praise God in prayer, song, or art that in His love, God is always doing a new thing to lead us out of the wilderness.

In the Peace of Christ

~Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke

What is a Bible Commentary?

(And why would I ever look at one?)

The Interpretation series is an invaluable resource for any interested in interpreting the biblical text to the broader church. Its works are essential for pastors, educators, and church libraries. ~ Brian K. Blount, President and Professor of New Testament at Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary

I doubt that it will surprise anyone to know that I get excited over books. A quick glance in my office, and you'll see books on shelves, on window sills, and piled on my desk. Sometimes I think I have more books than I have anything else! So, it's likely little cause for fanfare when there is a new book in the church. Yet, I'd like to encourage you to look at a new book for you: a recently acquired for the church Bible Commentary Series called *Interpretation*.

"Bible Commentary? Ok, what's that?," you might ask.

A Bible Commentary is a book, or in this case a series of books, where scholars and teachers work through the Bible and give insight, or *commentary* on a passage. This insight comes in a variety of forms: it can be historical knowledge about the area, details about the people, ways that the language has changed, ideas for modern application, and even stories or teaching points. It is a go-to resource for a deeper understanding on any book or passage in the Bible. And, the Interpretation series we have is one of the best reviewed modern commentaries, from a Reformed publishing house too! The Interpretation series is written by a collection of authors, all of whom are well respected and reviewed in their area of specialty.

Certainly as one who prepares sermons, teaching lessons, and other items for the church, I have used commentaries for years. But this is not a resource for me, but for you. Say that you're leading a Small Group discussion on the Psalms of David. What do you know about the Psalms? How can you figure out which Psalms were written when? How would you help others hear a Psalm in a new way? The same can be said for

something you heard in Sunday School, preparing for a youth group lesson, or otherwise trying to understand the Bible in greater depth. And, unlike online searching, you are going to find a good answer the first time you search (rather than wasting hours in Google) and you know that the authors are trusted and peer-reviewed professionals, rather than just some random a web page.

I encourage you that next time you're preparing to lead a group or want to find out more about the Bible, to take one from the shelf and give it a try. I guarantee that you will learn something new. And, as always, let me know if I can ever be a help in your studies. ~ Pastor Matthew

Sunday School Start Up and Kick Off!

On September 8, we will be starting up our Sunday School Class year. At 9:00 AM everyone will be meeting in the sanctuary for an orientation and kick off celebration (food!) for the Sunday School year before splitting out to our different classes (primary Adult Class, optional). This year we are trying a very different curriculum for our children, youth, and one of our adult classes – a combined curriculum using *The Story* from Zondervan Publishing.

The Story is a novel (and novel) approach to Sunday School in that it is the Bible, but arranged more like a novel than we are normally used to it. Now, it is an abridged Bible, but that allows students and classes to focus on the Bible as a single book as compared to breaking it down into smaller pieces. The really interesting aspect of this class is that elementary, middle, and high school, and the alternative adult class will all be studying the same passage, the same week (but each in their own, age appropriate way). This way, parents (and grandparents) can share and relate directly to what children are studying. If you have a multi-generational family in the church, I encourage you to join us, even if you've not been in Sunday school for a while. Even if someone does not have children in the church right now, by studying the same Bible stories, it will equip adults to share and relate to those of other generations. It is going to be a neat study this year! Please see Christian Education if you have any questions. Hope to see you on the 8th!

August Sermon Series: Culture and Good News

In August we're going to try a fun little sermon series to wrap up the summer: we will be looking at how films and TV speak to some of the theological truths we know. And, just to have fun with it, we will be looking at some sci-fi hits from the past. No matter what you watch, we will talk about how to watch media with a life of faith. And don't worry, even if you're not a sci-fi fan, you won't be left behind!

- August 11: Star Wars – The Force & How Everything is Connected (also Communion).
August 18: Star Trek – Go Boldly Where No One Has Gone Before!
August 25: Dr. Who – Help Everyone You Meet (and Have Fun in the Process).



For Your Consideration

The Mission Committee would like to draw your attention to a need that may have left the headlines, but is nonetheless ongoing and will be for some time to come. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is still requesting help for the victims of the Moore, Oklahoma, tornado. Please consider making a donation to help these folks, and let's give thanks that (so far) this year Bluffton has been spared. We haven't always been so lucky. If you'd like to help, please make your checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, and put "PDA – Moore, OK" on the memo line. Thank you!

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next opportunity to serve at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is Thursday, August 8. Volunteers interested in carpooling, meet at the church parking lot at 9:40 AM. Please contact Shirley Kisor (419) 358-0085, if you are able to participate.

Hot Enough for You?

Looking for A/C and lemonade and swimming pools? All time-tested methods of beating the heat, but this summer the Mission Committee would like you to consider one other cooling remedy: Christmas in July!

Once again we will be taking up a collection of food and sundries for Samaritan House, a women's and children's shelter, and Our Daily Bread soup kitchen, both located in Lima and both established ministries of Bluffton Presbyterian Church. Beginning on July 14, and continuing through August 6, we will be taking up the collection. A Christmas-themed easel board with detachable "ornaments" listing items needed will be set up in the rear of the sanctuary, along with collection boxes. Please take as many ornaments as you like!

Return the items any time before August 6, at which point the Committee will sort and deliver the goods. This mission has been very successful for the past few years and we hope to continue the tradition for a long time to come. Merry Christmas!



Food Pantry Meal Sunday

Reminder: Our church continues to support the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. With the reorganization of the food pantry, our congregation is encouraged to continue to emphasize the 3Cs: cereal, crackers, and cookies. There is also a current need for canned fruit. If you would like to continue to support this mission, please bring donations the second Sunday of each month.

Our church has also been placed on the program coordinator's list – so stay tuned for opportunities to help organize donations during local events promoting our local food pantry.

3 Cents a Meal Offering

The first Sunday of each month the little church is placed on the floor in the front for the 3 cents a meal offering.

During the month you place 3 cents for each meal, which is 9 cents a day or about \$2.70 a month per person into a container and bring that money on the first Sunday and place it in the church during the offering.

This money is donated to the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. Thanks for your help.

Community Meal – September 19

The Bluffton Presbyterian Church will host the Community Meal at the Bluffton Senior Center at 6:00 PM on Thursday, September 19. Deacons will be serving chicken spaghetti, cucumber salad, sliced tomatoes, garlic bread, and pie. If anyone is willing or able to donate a pie, the Deacons would greatly appreciate your help. A sign-up sheet will be at the back of the church (or you may contact a deacon). All are welcome to join us!

BPC Youth Pool Party

There will be a BPC youth pool party on Sunday, August 11 from 2:30 to 6:30 PM at the home of Jeff and Cindy Gillen.

Sandwiches, beans, drinks, etc. will be provided. The kids are welcome to bring a bag of some sort of chips or cookies if they would like. Parents/families are welcome.

Highlights of July Session Meeting

- Approved purchasing subscription to ICON Systems church accounting and payroll software at approximately \$440 annually. This service is an online, cloud-based software which allows multiple authorized users to view the financial records on a secure basis. Approved that any non-payroll check to a relative of Treasurer is required to have two signatures.

- Approved hiring Michelle Zuehlke as Treasurer effective September 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013 at current Treasurer's salary rate. Performance will be reviewed by year's end. Training will be provided by Cathy Carroll during August. Michelle will be compensated for training which could be approximately \$371 depending on when training is initiated.
- Approved transferring \$310 from these line items for 2013 budget under Ministerial Services - Continuing Education to Travel and Professional Expenses (in contract ending August 31, 2013). Pastor Matthew has incurred more mileage than expected and was able to secure additional funding sources for continuing education which was previously approved for August.

Small Groups Organizational Meeting

Dear Church Family:

This is an open invitation from Bluffton Presbyterian Church's small group leaders to attend an organizational meeting for the coming year's small groups, which will return after our summer break in early September the week after Labor Day. We are truly excited to begin our fifth year of offering Bible study, Christian fellowship, prayer support – and whatever else the groups come up with – but most of all, the opportunity to develop deep and close bonds of friendship and caring among our church family's members.

The meeting will be held in the church sanctuary directly after worship on Sunday, August 25, at which time we will decide upon the number of groups and the days and times we will be meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information, please see one of the group leaders: Beth Buist, Jayne McGarrity, Roy and Mariah Pneuman, George Stultz, Jeanette Warren, or Pastor Matthew. Or speak with one of our group members and see what we're all about!

In the love and peace of Christ,
The Small Group Leaders



Prayers for safe travel with Danielle Rhonemus and Jared Champion.

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

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Gordan Diller, Min Lindsey, Brenda Anderson, Rebecca Hursey, Harold Sponseller, Nicole Frick, Sheila Hurlburt, Bob Schwab, Chuck Bennett, and Michael Lee Bucher.

Min Lindsey is in Room #21 at Richland Manor if anyone would like to visit.



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 be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Diane or another deacon.



Congratulations!

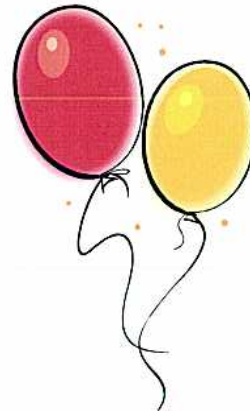
Congratulations to Greg and Lisa (Hursey) Curlbertson on the birth of William Thomas-Lee Culbertson on July 23. Congratulations also to Grandparents Tom and Rebecca Hursey, and to Aunt Laura and Uncle Tyler.

Lisa and Greg's Address:
305 E. Walnut St.
N. Baltimore, OH 45872

Congratulations to Amanda and Daren Leugers on the birth of Brennan James Leugers on July 30. Congratulations also to Grandparents Carla and Ingo Montgomery.

Amanda and Darin's Address:
6018 N Dixie Hwy.
Elida, OH 45807

Happy Birthday!!



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|-----------|----|-----------------|
| August | 1 | Dale Dickey |
| | 4 | Judy Miracle |
| | 11 | Bev Begg |
| | 12 | Tom Edwards |
| | 18 | Gene Mathewson |
| | | Dick Reeder |
| | 19 | Kay Ziessler |
| | 20 | Bob Hursh |
| | 21 | Lynda Best |
| | 22 | Ruth Wildermuth |
| | 24 | Emily Parker |
| | 26 | Jenna Kisor |
| | 27 | Robert Barnett |
| September | 4 | Jeremy Szabo |
| | 5 | Jay McCracken |

Share Your Birth Date & Anniversary Date

Please help your deacons by sharing the following information. Place the completed form in the offering plate or send to the church office.

Thank you!

Name: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

Spouse: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

Anniversary Date: _____

Children (Through college-age. Please use back if more room needed.)

Name: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

Name: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

Name: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____
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 Month Day Year

Name: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year

Name: _____

Birthday: ____/____/____
 Month Day Year



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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke
Email: revdrmz@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 567-825-3973
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30-1:00

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

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

2013 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Owen Ziessler
Christian Education – Jay McCracken
Finance – Clair Winebar
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Kay Ziessler and Tom Edwards
Personnel – Kay Ziessler
Presbytery Commissioner – Darlene Hey
Worship – Jeanette Warren
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Rhonda Moor, and Donnas Stone

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Shirley Kisor
Members: Don Carroll, Laura From, Darlene Hey, Lin Rumer, and Diane Winebar.