



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

August 2016

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, August 7 – Communion**  
**3 Cents a Meal Offering**  
Special Music: Lori Schmidt  
Lay Reader: Carole Enneking  
Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall  
Acolytes: McVetta Girls

**Sunday, August 14**  
**Food Pantry**  
Sue Van Eman – Organist  
Guest Vocalists: Michael and Sharon Wildermuth and Sheila Rowe  
Lay Reader: Diane Winebar  
Greeters: Talavinia Family  
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

**Sunday, August 21**  
Special Music: Don Brauen  
Lay Reader: Jay McCracken  
Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar  
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

**Sunday, August 28**  
Special Music: Lisa Culbertson and Laura From  
Lay Reader: Megan Sycks  
Greeters: Gillen Family  
Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

**Sunday, September 4 – Communion**  
**3 Cents a Meal Offering**  
Lay Reader: Dave Sycks

August  
2016

## Mark Your Calendars!

- August 4 – Session – 7:00 PM
- August 7 – Ignite Pool Party, Fellowship, and Meal – At the home of the Gillen's – 3:00 to 7:00 PM
- August 17 – Deacons – 6:30 PM
- August 21 – School Supply Collection Due
- August 28 – Newsletter Deadline  
[CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)



## Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month, get it to the church office by Wednesday morning so it will be announced by our Lay Reader.

## Coffee Talk

Wednesday Morning Coffee Talk will not meet during the summer. The group will resume September 7.

## Personal Information

Don't forget to let Cathy Carroll know when you have a change in address, phone number, and/or email address.

If your birthday or you know of a birthday that does not show up in our newsletter, please let Cindy Gillen know.

# "It ain't what it used to be"

(to the tune "the ol' grey mare")

Summer! It isn't what it used to be.

Do you remember summer? Hot summer nights with the windows open and the fan running. You could hear Woodward Avenue (4 lanes each way) at half mile away, even in the middle of the night. And summer drifted, with engineering projects (setting up the train table in the garage) and afternoon bike rides out to Cranbrook (12 miles). Ah summer! Gentle but focused. Until (prum, ta duhm duhm, (the menacing Dragnet theme) Labor Day. Labor Day was the end of summer. So much so that I still feel a little ill at the thought of it. I loved school, but losing the freedom of summer was enough to bring on *physical* dread. Labor Day and **then** you headed back to school. Right?

Flash forward (50 years). It is mid-summer; we have five weeks to Labor Day.

But the calendar isn't what it used to be.

"Kids" are going back to school. College "Kids" are heading back within 2 weeks. Elementary kids will be in school 10 days BEFORE Labor Day. So get those school supplies now!

August is no longer "summer"; August is now "back to school". *The markers we used to anchor our lives have shifted.* Just in case you didn't hear me: **The markers we used to anchor our lives HAVE shifted.** (bad punctuation=heavy emphasis).

So it is time to adapt. Sorry, let's be blunt...**Change.**

## *It is time to change.*

And as we change, it is time to communicate. Share expectations. Share support. Build life together. And move forward.

Or we can sit around, complain, and kick at whatever and everything we can. We can blame somebody. We can blame the government. We can blame the Presbytery. We can blame the group of which we are a part. We can blame the group of which we are a part as if we didn't have a part. We can blame "them".

Or we can: Communicate. Share expectations. Share support. Build the life together and move forward. I'd never say it is easy.

(P.S.: This article isn't really about "summer" and Labor Day.)

I'd never say it is easy. Racism. Terrorism. Gun violence. Refugee crisis.

Which brings us to the fall (season). This fall there are things we need to address. Change in the church. Change in Society. Lack of change in society. But this is the time for reasonable thought. And construction. Not grouching. Not blaming. And no epithets. Nor huddling fear.

We are a kingdom people. Struggling to share the Kingdom hope, the Kingdom goal, "Thy will be done one earth".

So our work is communication. Sharing. Supporting. Building. The Kingdom is now, (It is "at hand") and **we are called.**

With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Book of Confessions 9.55

I'll see you in the Kingdom fields!

*Pastor Dave*





## Thank you, gardeners!

God bless our gardeners. Owen, out several mornings a week doing the weeding, Nick out trimming the hedges, Jeannie watering the flowers at the corner and (sneak sneak) Cathy and Don bringing in several truckloads of mulch. (And Tom Hursey taking out the fallen tree.) (And excuse me if I didn't name someone else.)

Our flower beds look good because of our elves, I mean gardeners.

## Thank you.

## God bless Ohio

I don't mean this blessing as an unmerited, grace-is-free blessing. I mean: how wonderful it is living in semi-rural Ohio. This is a merited blessing!

So I take my car to the shop. The air conditioning is broken. I need an oil change, (Honda always wants my tires rotated.) So I say to the desk people, I need an oil change, tire rotation, and then I tell them the symptoms of my defunct air conditioning.

Two hours later I get an apologetic phone call, "Mr. Good, your tires don't really need to be rotated at this time."

Now, in the city, would they call you to say they want to charge you less? Not to disparage the city, but – an auto repair facility which calls you to check that they want to charge you less. Ah. Semi-rural Ohio. Gotta love it!

Official disclaimer: While blessing Ohio, it should not be construed that such a blessing would apply equally to Ohio State. There are some things that a Michigan boy just shouldn't do.

## Ohio. Gotta love it!

## Small Group Quiz

What would you do if you felt isolated?

- Go to the mall.
- See friends at small group.
- Line up some teddy bears.

What will you do for your birthday?

- Get depressed about how old you are.
- Sit on the couch and eat ice cream.
- Celebrate with cards and cake at small group.

How can you keep up with what's going on in church?

- Hack into Pastor Dave's computer.
- Hear church news at small group.
- Look through Cathy's trash.

What would you do if you needed help with a life change?

- Consult the tarot cards.
- Try eeny meeny miny moe.
- Bounce ideas off small group.

How could you make yourself feel useful?

- Participate in mission projects with small group.
- Help old ladies cross the street whether they want to go or not.
- Clean out the attic.

How can you keep your connection with God between worship services?

- Go out in the desert and hope for guidance.
- Send money to a TV evangelist.
- Come to small group to explore God's word in your life.

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**Small Groups** start September 13. Please see the Task Force Committee for more information: Roy & Mariah Pneuman, Beth Buist, Jayne McGarrity, George Stultz, Jeanette Warren, Diane Winebar.





## Fellowship/Action/Service

Upcoming Projects/Events:

### August:

National Night Out – August 2 – members of Ignite are filling volunteer positions in Bluffton.

Fellowship Gathering at the Gillen's, Sunday, August 7 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. The entire congregation is welcome for an afternoon of swimming and visiting! The Gillen's will provide the meat, *Ignite* members will help with sides and desserts. Please RSVP to [cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com](mailto:cegillen@marathonpetroleum.com) or call them at 419-358-5331.

Bookbags for Children: Mission Committee and *Ignite* are joining together to provide backpacks for children in need. See information under Mission.

*Ignite* is a gathering of individuals for active fellowship, we are family-friendly and inter-generational; we strive to build a stronger community. Join for all or just some of our projects. Contact Sarah Brauen or Carole Enneking for more information.

### Deacons' Report

Thank you to all who helped with the July 7 Community Meal. Our church served approximately 70 people. Your time, monetary donations, and pies were all very much appreciated!

### Aluminum Can Recycling

Remember to save your aluminum cans. The Mission Committee sells recyclable cans and uses the proceeds to support mission causes in our area, most recently for a shelter and feeding ministry in Lima. Bring the cans to the church basement and contribute them to a worthy cause.

### Weekday Christian Education Annual Report

The annual meeting of the WCE-RT Board was held in late June. This voluntary, Christian Education program has been running in the Bluffton schools for 92 years! A large number of elementary students meet at First Mennonite Church; 677 student participants, 90% of children in grades 1-5. Middle School groups meet every other week in the Youth for Christ building. Bibles were distributed to 50 2nd graders. The school has asked that the program be expanded to kindergarten during the second half of the year.

The WCE program is funded by donations and student fees. Some churches pay the fees for their children, our church budget does not do that. Scholarships cover the fees for children who cannot pay. Donations are welcome for scholarships or to cover supplies.

Special thanks to those in our congregation who assisted with walking on the nine assigned days: Mike Rhonemus, Jeff Gillen, Jim Enneking, Laura From, Diane Winebar, Sarah Brauen, Julia Szabo, Dorothea Radabaugh, Ryan Brauen, Lori Schmidt. Several community members helped to fill in days, as well: Kristi Lora, Crystal Warren, and Gennifer Ackroyd. If you know these folks, show your appreciation for their help!

Walkers will be needed starting in September. Contact Carole Enneking if you would like to be included. In just over one hour, you can serve the community and share God's love with the younger generation.





## Community Vacation Bible School at Emmanuel UCC

Over 130 area children took a Dive into the Bible during the annual Community VBS. Held at Emmanuel UCC, seven churches worked together and provided lessons, snacks, crafts, games, and nightly message. Nightly cash donations were received for the Family Promise program in Lima. BPC was in charge of games with Carole Enneking, Tenna Rhonemus, Samantha Rhonemus and Libby McVetta entertaining the elementary-age groups. Group leaders from our congregation were Lori Schmidt, Diane Winebar, Jana McVetta, and Jay McCracken. Pastor Dave attended and provided many photos. To learn more about Deep Sea Bible Discovery, find the Bluffton VBS page on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).



## Mission

Bluffton Relay for Life/Hope was a great success and it was great to have Presbyterians join us. We were able to give American Cancer Society a check for \$26,000, that is \$5,000 more than last year and we are already brainstorming for next year.

We are also in the process of collecting school supplies for local schools that have need for supplies. There is a poster in the rear of church with post it notes for these items and are due back by August 21.

We also are going to make magic pillow/blankets in the next few months to give to Bluffton food pantry, adopt a family, and maybe Family promise. So watch for more info to come. We are very excited of our mission projects and helping others where we are able.

## **We Went and Now We are Ready to Go!**

Sarah Gillen, Megan Sycks, Patrick and Tenna Rhonemus attended the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium and it was awesome! From July 19-23 we worshiped, explored our faith, played games, developed new friendships, and renewed old ones. We did this with 4700 other Presbyterian youth from all over the country and across the world. For 5 very hot days, Purdue University became one of the most energized, loving, accepting, and faith filled places on earth!

This year's theme was "Go", a very small and incredibly powerful word. Each day we explored a different aspect of our call to "Go". We met in small groups, comprised of people we have never met, to explore the Bible lesson of the day and build new friendships. We met as Presbytery Delegations for more Bible exploration and connecting to those nearer to home. The recreation events offered opportunities to express what we had learned in creative, active ways and through service projects. One project involved taking old jeans and making shoes for those who have need. The youth made over 300 pairs of shoes without ever sewing a stitch!

The favorite part of Triennium for our youth was the worship services. Yep, you read that right! They described them as engaging and fun! The "energizers", short choreographed routines to popular songs, that began before worship got everyone up and moving together. Some were clumsy (Tenna) and some were skilled (the youth) but we were all dancing together and anticipation was building for the message we would receive that day. Each service was 2 or more hours long and we left with new insight and feeling refueled. In part our energy level was boosted by the blessing of an air conditioned building, but mainly because of the very powerful and motivational messages we received from the pastors who spoke each day.

**DAY ONE – “GO and See!” – Luke 2:8-20**  
**Dr. Rodger Y. Nishioka**

**DAY TWO – “GO and Do Likewise” – Luke 10:25-37**  
**Anna Sweet Brockman w/Rev. Lisa Cook**

**DAY THREE – “Teach Me the Way I Should GO!” – Psalm 32**  
**Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill**

**DAY FOUR – “Let My People GO!” – Exodus 3-7**  
**Rev. Dr. Steve Wilde**

**DAY FIVE – “The Great GO-Mission!” – Matthew 28:16-20**  
**Rev. Dr. Perryn Rice**

We learned that in God's eyes and with God's help we are "enough" to make this world a better place for everyone.

We learned that God can turn every moment in our lives, good or bad, into a teachable moment, a chance to discover God's plan for us.

We learned God is F.U.N. (Forgiving, Understanding, and Never- Too- Busy)!

We learned that negative perceptions, attitudes, and self-doubts "gotta go", so we can fully experience God and live out God's plan for our lives.

From Rev. Dr. Perryn Rice in our final worship service we learned, “G-O means get out. The Lord wants us to get out and see, do, and apply what we have learned. Get out and be set free. Get out into the world. That’s what the Lord wants for each and every one of us.”

If you would like to see some excerpts of these wonderful messages being delivered at the worship services please visit: Presbyterian Youth Triennium on Facebook.

You have heard me say this before, but I feel it deserves repeating. We have incredible youth in this congregation! One of the highlights for me came at the worship service when we were to collect the offering. The offering collected at Triennium will help transform shipping containers headed for landfills into a storm-resistant classroom for students at the National Heroes Institute in Leyte, part of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.



The classroom, designed by Silliman University engineers, may even help save lives because it will be used as a shelter during natural disasters. At the beginning of worship offering baskets were carried to the front of the worship hall. Our youth were genuinely concerned they had missed the opportunity to place their offering in the baskets and wanted to make sure they could make their contribution to the project. Later in the worship when the baskets were circulated to collect the offering their concern turned to astonishment. There were so many donations being made runners had to take the full baskets to be emptied so they could continue to collect the offering! The outpouring of generosity in this one worship service was incredible and it did not stop there.

Our youth's commitment to generously care for others carried over to every interaction and every moment of the event. Our youth demonstrated compassion, concern, and a deep appreciation for everyone whom they met! They made new friends within our delegation, and throughout the country. When others were in need, they stepped up to help. They guided others across campus, willingly took up any task asked of them, and became a support for injured and ill delegation members. They looked out for each other and everyone within the delegation. They had fun! Their goofy antics, contagious laughter and easy going spirit made everyone comfortable and drew others to them! They made the most of this opportunity! I have no doubt that the lessons learned and the questions explored through the 2016 Triennium will continue to shape their lives and the lives of those around them for many years to come.

I encourage everyone to talk to our youth about their experience! I am certain they have some great stories to share!



## Prayer Requests

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





## BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus (419-358-8148 / [rhonstar@juno.com](mailto:rhonstar@juno.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 Mike or another deacon.



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Thank you for your continued support of the Bluffton Food Pantry. The individual bags you recently prepared were a huge success, our clients loved them and were very appreciative.

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Thank you for your support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. Our corporation is a local non-profit volunteer organization providing supplemental food and assistance to qualifying community members. The corporation helps many people within the Bluffton School District and local Bluffton Churches each year with utilities, rent, and other monetary assistance. We also provide a monthly food pantry and the annual Christmas Adopt-A-Family for the Bluffton area. This effort is supported by the generous donations of food and monetary contributions from people like you.

Thank you for your generous donation.

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## Happy Birthday!!

August	1	Dale Dickey
	2	Haley Bloom
	4	Judy Miracle
	11	Bev Begg
	12	Tom Edwards
	18	Gene Mathewson
	19	Kay Ziessler
	20	Bob Hursh
	21	Lynda Best
	22	Ruth Wildermuth
	24	Emily Parker
	26	Jenna Kisor
		Caleb Fifer
September	4	Jeremy Szabo
	5	Jay McCracken

## Bluffton Area Food Pantry

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry thanks you for your continued support. Listed below are some items to consider for the pantry:

- Lotions and Creams
- Cereals
- Soups and Crackers
- Spaghetti and Sauces
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Paper products: TP, Paper Towels, Kleenex
- Canned Fruits
- Canned Vegetables (No corn or green beans needed at this time)
- Personal Hygiene Products: Deodorant, Shampoo, Hair Care Items (No bath soaps or toothpaste needed at this time)
- Spaghettios and similar canned foods
- Canned Meats
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna and Tuna Helper

Thank you for your interest in Bluffton Area Food Pantry.



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](mailto:mangendave@frontier.com)  
Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and  
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll  
Email: [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com)  
Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:30  
Website: [blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

Treasurer: Darin Leugers  
Email: [dleugers8319@yahoo.com](mailto:dleugers8319@yahoo.com)

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

## 2016 Church Officers

### *Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt  
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey  
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and  
Carole Enneking  
Finance & Stewardship – Dick McGarrity  
Mission – Lynda Best  
Nominating – Tom Edwards and Cindy Gillen  
Personnel – Bob Angus  
Presbytery Commissioner  
Worship – Cindy Gillen  
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Lori  
Schmidt, and Phil Weisenbarger

### *Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Diane Winebar  
Members: Marilyn Edwards, Barb Fett, Laura  
From, Gayle Marshall, and Mike Rhonemus.