



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

August 2018

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August Sermon Series: The Loyalty of Ruth

Sunday, August 5 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Julie and Jeremy Szabo

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Owen and Kay Ziessler

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, August 12 – Back to School Blessing

Special Music: Lori Schmidt

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Sarah Gillen

Greeters: Dusty and Leslie Freed

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, August 19

Special Music: Don Brauen

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Leslie Freed

Liturgist: Tenna Rhonemus

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, August 26

Organist: Sue Van Eman

Special Music: Pastor Karol Farris

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Cathy Carroll

Liturgist: Diane Winebar

Greeters: Brauen Family

Acolytes: Owen and Clara Brauen

Sunday, September 2 - Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Dave Sycks

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Mark Your Calendars!

- August 5 – Faith Formation Committee Meeting – 9:00 AM
- August 5 – Share the Spirit Fellowship – Hosted by Deacons – Following Worship
- August 5 – Pastor Karol leads Communion Service at Maple Crest – 4:00 PM
- August 7 – National Night Out at Bluffton Community Pool – 5:00 to 9:00 PM
- August 9 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- August 12 – Back to School Blessing
- August 15 – Deacons – 6:30 PM
- August 15 – Mission Committee – 7:30 PM
- August 19 – Brunch with College Students at Lulu's – 9:00 AM
- August 19 – College/Young Adult Sunday
- August 19 – Worship Committee Meeting – Following Worship
- August 21 – Pastor Karol leads worship at Mennonite Memorial Home – 6:30 PM
- August 26 – Newsletter Items Deadline CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- September 6 – Community Meal at Senior Center – 6:00 PM
- September 8 – BPC Officers Retreat – 9:00 to Noon
- September 9 – Faith Formation (Sunday School) begins for all ages – 9:00 to 10:00 AM
- September 9 – Youth Group – 5:00 to 7:00 PM (after this they will meet the first Sunday of every month)
- September 16 – Community Picnic on Church lawn – 4:30 to 6:30 PM

Small Groups

There will be no small group meetings during August. Look for startup dates in September.

Pastor's Letter

What does it mean to be a *member* of a church? I don't know if you have ever been asked or asked yourself this question, but it is an important one for each of us to ponder. "Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission. A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church." (BoO, G-1.0304).

Many aspects of being part of our church are open to anyone, regardless of membership status. Anyone can attend worship, sing in the choir, take Communion, teach a class, share joys and concerns, request and receive pastoral care, attend fellowship events, and volunteer to help with special events. What further benefits could there possibly be for those who are members?

I would say there are 2 reasons for becoming a member of the church, one of which is practical, and relates to our Presbyterian structure of church governance; the other is theological, which is important to our self-understanding as a community of faith. I will address the latter first, as I believe it applies more universally to all who are among our community.

Membership in any group signifies to yourself, to the group, and to the larger community that you are willingly identify yourself with them. You choose to belong, and you seek the group's recognition of your belonging. Susan Andrews describes 3 C's of Church Membership: Covenant, Commitment, and Community.

1. **Covenant.** Throughout the Bible God says to us, *I will be your God and you will be my people—no matter what.* God's covenant with us becomes the model for our human covenants, our promises to be loving and faithful and constant in all our relationships. Church membership is our primary covenant response to God's dependable presence in our lives."

2. **Commitment.** Just as God stays connected to us no matter what, we are called through church membership to stay connected to God faithfully,

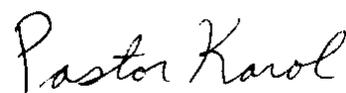
regularly, permanently—in good times and bad. It is only through long-term commitment and disciplined participation that membership can root us in what is really important in our faith.

3. **Community.** The apostle Paul envisions the church as the body of Christ, an interconnected, interdependent, integrated community of believers. Our covenant commitment is not just with God but with one another. As church members we admit our need for others and their need for us. We are at our best as Christians when we are together, committing to the covenant community of the body of Christ.

Practically speaking, membership allows a person to vote in congregational meetings (we usually have 2-3 each year) and to serve as a church officer. Our Session consists of 9 ruling elders, and we have a Board of Deacons made up of 6 deacons. Any member of the church may be nominated to serve in one of these roles.

If you are not currently a member of our church and would like to find out more, please let me know. There are 3 paths into active church membership: profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, and certificate of transfer. We have no age restrictions; no one is too old to become a member, and any youth who feels ready for this commitment should talk with their parents and/or myself. I will gladly offer educational opportunities for potential and current members to become more familiar with denominational theology, polity, and more. But the primary profession of faith is this: *to proclaim Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.* On behalf of Session, who are the spiritual leaders of the church, we are eager to welcome more people as active members of this family of faith, where we are *Growing in Faith and Sharing God's Love.*

In Christ,



Summer Office Hours

Pastor Karol's Summer Office Hours: Mon 1-4, Tues 9-12, Wed 10-12 and by appointment.

Conversations with Pastor Karol

One of Pastor Karol's goals for 2018 is to spend time with each individual/family within our congregation. Consider arranging a time to meet – perhaps over ice cream or a meal – on one of the following dates (or suggest another)!

August 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24

Word in the World

Did you know...that 11 different people have participated in the weekly Word in the World discussions on Wednesdays with Pastor Karol since it began in April? You can join us any time you are free on Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at the Twisted Whisk Café. We have a good time connecting God's word to today's world! We will meet every Wednesday in August EXCEPT August 29.

~ Pastor Karol

Back to School Blessing for Students, Teachers, and Staff

Another fall is approaching, which means it's time for students, teachers, and staff to return to school. We will offer a special Back to School Blessing during worship on August 12. Come and prepare for the start of another great year.

College/Young Adult Sunday

On August 19, you are invited to join our college students and young adults for brunch from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at Lulu's (RSVP to Pastor Karol by August 17). Then in worship, we will have an opportunity to bless our college students as they begin a new academic year and our young adults as they engage in new and ongoing adventures.

Deacons Report

We are continuing to look for volunteers who would be interested in helping to provide transportation for our elder members to church services, as well as other appointments. If you are interested in helping please contact Pastor Karol or any Deacon.

June 2018 Financial Report

Highlights of July Session Meeting

No Session meeting was held in July.

Share the Spirit and Connect with our Homebound!

Share the Spirit is designed to bring our church's homebound members together with caring members of the congregation. To someone who is homebound, being remembered is important. Family also is important, and isn't a church a spiritual family? *Thank you to everyone who has participated in this event in the past.*



Let's do it again! On August 5, you're invited to stay after worship for fellowship time and another opportunity to remember those who can't share in the life of the church as they once did. There will be cookies and punch for all. We encourage those who wish to take part this month to choose a slip of paper from our basket filled with the names of our homebound members. The next step is to visit the person whose name you have drawn, send an encouraging note/card, or give them a friendly phone call within a month.

This is a wonderful way to reach out to our homebound and offer a sense of connection and belonging. Share the Spirit drawings will be held every few months, so there will be plenty of chances for you (and your family!) to take part in this ministry. We hope you'll say "Yes!" and support a special someone.



Opportunity to Serve our Children

Pastor Karol would like to have a member of the congregation lead the Time for Young Christians once or twice a month. Please let her know if you would be interested in doing so on occasion. She will coordinate a date with you and can provide you with a theme and resources if needed.

Faith Formation Committee Meeting

The Faith Formation Committee will be meeting on Sunday, August 5 at 9:00 AM in the basement.

Sunday LIFT: Living in Faith Together

Would you like to get caught up in the excitement of someone discovering *The Word* for the first time? Perhaps encouragement from someone who has *walked with God* for a while is what you are seeking? Is a Sunday morning *treat* with a friend just what you need? Then *Sunday LIFT* is for you!

Beginning in September, the Faith Formation Committee (formerly Christian Education) will be offering a new experience on Sunday mornings. *Sunday LIFT* (Living in Faith Together) is an inter-generational resource developed by GenOn ministries. This inter-generational experience is open to God's children of every age. There is no minimum or maximum age requirement to participate. We will be gathering as a family in faith!

The *Sunday Lift* sessions are built around Acts 2:42 "The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers." (CEB). Following the early church's habits each *Sunday LIFT* session begins with gathering time and then moves through the four components of the first church, with all parts connected by a common theme. The components of *Sunday LIFT* are:

1. Breaking Bread Together

When we eat together it allows us to build relationship through conversation.

2. Studying God's Word Together

We read Scripture together. We also have cross generational discussion about what God's Word is saying to each of us. It is important for different generations to learn from each other when interpreting Scripture.

3. Playing Together

Play comes in many shapes and forms. We may craft, play games, learn new skills and hobbies. What is important is that we are doing this TOGETHER.

4. Praying together

We worship and praise God through prayer. Prayer comes in lots of different styles and can be done in lots of different ways.

Sunday LIFT uses stand-alone sessions, so if you can't attend every Sunday you can still have an enjoyable and engaging experience when you can join us.

Our first theme will be **Seed to Harvest** and the session themes are:

Session 1: A Seed Story

Session 2: A Pumpkin Party

Session 3: Trees

Session 4: Fruit for All

We will be meeting in the church basement from **9:00 to 10:00AM** each Sunday beginning on **September 9**.

We want to give this new Faith Formation experience a three-month trial. At that time, we will assess *Sunday LIFT* to determine if we should continue to offer these experiences. *Sunday LIFT* will replace our traditional children and youth Sunday School classes for this three-month trial, but remember *Sunday LIFT* is for everyone! We will continue to offer our traditional Adult Sunday School class for those who are seeking to form their faith through discussions with their peers. Please read more about that class in another part of the newsletter.

We are very excited about *Sunday LIFT* and we hope you will join us! After all, who doesn't need a *LIFT* now and then!

Adult Sunday School Class

If you are looking for lively conversations about faith and theology from both historic and current day perspectives you should check out the Adult Sunday School Class! This group meets from **9:00 to 10:00 AM** in the main classroom of the education wing. Beginning **September 9**, we will be starting a video curriculum called "*First Light, Jesus and the Kingdom of God*".

This series delves into the person and ministry of Jesus, placing him in the context of a Jew in a Jewish community under the Roman Empire's occupation through the stages of his ministry, through the resurrection narrative, the history of the Christian movement, to placing it all in relation to our modern world. It features John Dominic Crosson and Marcus Borg, two of the world's leading Jesus scholars.

A few of the questions that will be explored with these guides on location throughout Galilee and Jerusalem are:

*Why did Jesus happen when he happened?
Why the confluence of the Baptism movement of John and the Kingdom movement of Jesus?
Why the tiny villages around the Lake?
Why the confrontations in Jerusalem?
Why then? Why there?*

*Why were the titles of Caesar Augustus – Divine, Son of God, God from God, Lord, Redeemer, Liberator, and Savior of the World – taken from a Roman emperor on the Palatine hill and given to a Jewish peasant on the Palestine plain?
Was it low lampoon or high treason?
Either way, the Romans were not laughing.*

*What were the priorities of Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom?
How was the status quo of Roman imperial theology subverted by this obscure Galilean whose message continues to indict empire today?*

The discussion of these questions is sure to be enthusiastic and thought provoking! We would love to have you join the conversation!

Youth Group

The first monthly meeting of the Youth Group will be held on Sunday, September 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Youth in the 5-12th grades are invited to attend. We will discuss what we want youth group to study, do, and become in the upcoming year. We need your creativity, ideas, and questions. Please join us for a meal and fun planning! If you have any questions, please see Tenna Rhonemus.

Permission/Release Forms

We are collecting **permission/release forms** from everyone in the congregation who is willing to have their photo included in any form of media we might use as a church. This may include our website, Facebook page, and any print or digital promotions. Forms are located at both entrances to the sanctuary and in this newsletter. Please give your completed forms to Tenna Rhonemus or the office. Thank you!

BPC Internet

Building and Grounds

Building and Grounds is making a master list of who has a key to the church. If you have not already been contacted and own a key, please call the office to let Cathy know or call Tom at 419-722-4811. Thank you.

Receipts Reminder

If you have Community Market receipts, please bring them in and place them in the baskets on the bulletin board or in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you to Kay Ziessler for coordinating our congregation's participation in this rewards program.

Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS was LifeWay's "Game On!". The motto was: *Gear up! Get ready! Game On!* Each night the children practiced reciting the theme verse: *His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3*

Through Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, and even snacks they learned that Jesus cares about them, gives them hope, helps them believe, loves them and brings them joy.

The mission project this year was to raise money to donate to the Abilities Baseball League in Lima. Several children from the community participate in the league. The children had a goal of raising \$500. They actually topped that and raised \$680.29! This money will be used toward a flag pole at the Abilities Baseball Field.



Heard in Small Group: "How was your week? Did you see God?"

Our conversations run from mundane to inspirational. We talk about:

- A new potluck recipe
- That scary MRI diagnosis
- The cat's latest antics
- Family connections (or disconnects)
- Annoying things on Facebook
- Career challenges of someone close
- Another gun tragedy
- A Pinterest idea for a craft project
- A vacation setting that moved us
- Something from our past that deeply affects us

- A friend's wedding
- The hilarious remark a little one made over the weekend
- A worship service that stirred us
- Bullying in our school days and now
- Attending someone's end-of-life moments
- A news story about an ordinary young man saving a child's life

Small group is about sharing and exploring how the Bible is relevant in our lives. In small group you can share or not share. There's no right or wrong answer because we look at the Bible using an inductive method – reading scripture as if for the first time, having the group interpret what it means and then applying it to our lives.

Currently, BPC has two women's small groups. Who's to say that men can't benefit from sharing too! We could form a general men's group, a men's special interest group, or a work/projects group. We could also consider a mixed group or a couples' group. If there's enough interest, we can even start another women's group!

If you'd like to join an established group or become part of a new group, please speak to someone on the Small Group Steering Committee: Roy & Mariah Pneuman, Beth Buist, Jayne McGarrity, George Stultz, Jeanette Warren, Diane Winebar, or Pastor Karol.

Meetings start in early September: Claralice Circle meets every Tuesday 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the BPC Fellowship Hall and Sister Min Circle meets the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month 2:00 to 3:00 PM in the Maple Crest Family Room.

We'd love for you to be part of the conversation!

Jayne



Paper Recycling

Please note that paper recycling is available in the front and back of the sanctuary. Place any unwanted bulletins, etc. in the blue bins, and all other trash in the trash bins. Thank you!



Fellowship/Action/Service

Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service

➤ **Bluffton's Biggest Event – 2,500 Expected**

Don't miss out! Be in the middle of all the action on Tuesday, August 7!!

Join **Ignite** as we volunteer with Bluffton's 5th annual **National Night Out Event** at the Bluffton Community Pool. Two shifts are available 5:00 to 7:00 PM and 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Some of the jobs include serving food, face painting, and manning bounce houses. Please reach out to Sarah Brauen at 419-236-0099 or snbrauen@gmail.com for questions or to sign up!

The night ends with Fireworks, so even if you cannot volunteer, please join us for the show!



➤ **Mission Committee**

Please save your aluminum cans so we can turn them in to get money for movie passes for families who use the food pantry.

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in August. The items needed this month are **canned soup, mac and cheese, and pudding cups**. This is not to say that we don't welcome other items, but these are the items they need the most at this time.

We will be collecting school supply items through August 19.



2018 SCHOOL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTION

Again this year, the Bluffton Area Ministerial Association and the Bluffton Area Community Assistance Program will be providing free school supplies to children on the free and/or reduced lunch program within the Bluffton School District.

WHERE: St. John's United Church of Christ
223 West College Avenue
Bluffton, OH (419-358-5641)
WHEN: Saturday, August 11, 2018
TIME: 9 a.m. until noon

It would be best to call the church to enroll your child.



Little Free Pantry

We are in need of supplies for the **Little Free Pantry**. Items you may consider donating: boxed food, (cereal, etc.), dry mixes, rice, noodles, peanut butter, personal hygiene items, paper towels, Kleenex, baby items. Please drop off in the office.

Community Picnic

Join us on the church lawn for a **FREE Community Picnic on September 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM!** Food will be provided including shredded chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, cookies, lemonade, and more. A variety of lawn games for all ages will be available to play.

Mission committee is providing meat and drinks; members of the congregation are invited to bring finger food sides: cookies, chips, or veggies. We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of fellowship, food, and fun!



Prayer Requests

Prayers of Celebration for Tanya’s mother-in-law, Norma Best on her 100th Birthday!

Prayers of Celebration for the boys’ soccer team and coach in Thailand.

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

Prayers of Healing for Emily Parker, Roy and Mariah Pneuman, Michael Lee Bucher, David Rempelsmucker, Dr. Howard Shelly, Roger Brodman, Sandi Waebel, family of Russell Garrett, Fred Arnold, and Carolyn Dahms.

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus (419-358-8148 / 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.

We Lift Our Prayers



Put a prayer request in – take a prayer request out. Look for prayer request slips in the pews and near the prayer box. Or use your own paper. Requests can be as simple as “I’m having back pain,” or “My son is looking for a job.” The slips can be placed in the box or in the offering plates. Prayer requests can be submitted anonymously. Allow someone in your church family to support you in private prayer.



- August 4 Judy Miracle
- 11 Bev Begg
- 12 Tom Edwards
- 18 Gene Mathewson
- 19 Kay Ziessler
- 20 Bob Hursh
- 21 Lynda Best
- 24 Emily Parker
- 26 Jenna Kisor
- September 4 Jeremy Szabo
- 5 Jay McCracken



A Special Thank You!!!

Dear Pastor Karol and the Church:

Thank you so much for the devotional book and gift card! I appreciate all your love and support over the years.

I would also like to thank everyone that came to my graduation party. Hope you enjoyed yourself!

Love,
Sarah Gillen

Dear Pastor Karol and the Church:

Thank you for the money. That was very thoughtful of you. This will be very helpful when I go to college this fall. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Emily Parker

Thanks to those who came to the Manse and did the yardwork: trimming the bushes, pulling weeds, planting flowers, and mulching.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the purchase of craft supplies for the Community Vacation Bible School. The following people helped prepare the crafts and/ or volunteered to help during the week of vacation Bible school, your assistance was greatly appreciated!

Cathy Carroll, Carole Enneking, Rev. Karol Farris, Leslie Freed, Laura From, Tammy Hursh, Amanda Leugers, Jay McCracken, Jayne McGarrity, Jana and Paige McVetta, Lori Schmidt, and Diane Winebar

Ishan Mehta and Rebecca Winebar Mehta Open House

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate our recent marriage at our wedding reception last month! Your presence helped make the evening so memorable and special to us, and we hope you enjoyed it as well. Thank you!

In peace and happiness,
Ishan Mehta and Rebecca Winebar Mehta



Outdoor Worship Service

Outdoor Worship Service Sunday, July 15, featured a liturgical dance and music by a jazz trio! Message: "Carefree Dancing and Careless Decisions" on Mark 6:14-29, 2 Samuel 6:1-23.



Vacation Bible School July 22 – 26



Wills Emphasis Questionnaire – 8/18

Our denomination encourages congregations annually to dedicate at least one Sunday each year to the subject of “Wills Emphasis”. In a recent Stewardship Committee discussion, the possibility was raised of our securing a consultant who has expertise in wills, estate planning and deferred giving, and could make a helpful presentation.

We are seeking your input regarding your interest in the subject and what schedule would be most convenient. Please indicate your interest, if any, and which of the following potential schedules would be most convenient for you. Thanks for your participation.

I(we) are interested _____
Name(s)

Schedule preference

_____ Sunday following worship.

_____ Sunday before worship (at 9:00)

_____ an evening (7:00-8:00 or 8:30): which evening is preferable _____

_____ other _____

BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LICENSE/RELEASE (Approved by Session May 10, 2018)

I, _____, hereby grant Bluffton Presbyterian Church (“BPC”) and its licensees, agents and assigns (“Licensed Parties”) a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, sublicensable, and transferable right and license to use, reproduce, distribute, prepare derivative works of, publish, display, broadcast and copyright any photograph and/or videos made of me, or my minor child(ren), at BPC or elsewhere, including use in/on BPC’s Facebook page, web site, and advertising or other materials prepared by/for BPC, in any media formats (including television), and through any media channels.

I hereby waive my right to inspect and/or approve the finished product of the advertising copy that may be used in connection therewith. I agree that I do not have nor will I claim any rights, title, interest or compensation, and I further agree that the Licensed Parties shall be without liability to me or my family for any distortion or illusionary effect resulting from the distribution of my likeness.

I warrant and represent the license granted hereunder does not in any way conflict with any existing commitment on my part, and understand that nothing herein will constitute any obligation by the Licensed Parties to make any use of the rights set forth herein.

This License/Release shall be deemed to be a contract made under the laws of the State of Ohio and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

Name:

Name(s) of minor child(ren) (if applicable):

Address: _____

Date: _____

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

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris
Phone: 419-581-9232
Email: pastor@blufftonpc.org
Summer Office Hours: Mon 1-4, Tues 9-12,
Wed 10-12 and by appointment

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30-12:30

Treasurer: Darin Leugers
Email: dleugers8319@yahoo.com

Organist: Jayne McGarrity
Choir Director: Linda Sycks
Youth Choir Director: Sue Van Eman
Youth Group Director: Tenna Rhonemus
Nursery Helpers: Kori Phipps and Shawna
Anderson
Custodian: Tony Carmack

2018 Church Officers

Session

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

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Laura From
Members: Tanya Best, Marilyn Edwards,
Laura From, Helen Hawk, Mike
Rhonemus, and Dave Van Eman