



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

December 2016

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion and 3 Cents a Meal Offering
Choir

Lay Reader: Megan Sycks
Greeters: Dusty and Leslie Freed
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, December 11 – 3rd Sunday of Advent
Food Pantry

Youth Sunday
Greeters: Talavinia Family
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, December 18 – 4th Sunday of Advent
Choir

Jayne and Sue: Piano/Organ Duets
Lay Reader: Diane Winebar
Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall
Acolyte: McVetta Girls

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

6:30 PM Prelude Music
7:00 PM Service
Greeters: Gene and Sue Mathewson
Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Lay Reader: TBD
Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Sunday, January 1 - Communion
3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: TBD



Mark Your Calendars!

- December 4 – Ignite Group Christmas Caroling – Meet at BPC – 1:30 PM. Fellowship at the home Darin and Amanda Leugers following
- December 4 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00-7:00 PM
- December 8 – Session – 6:30 PM
- December 8 – Session/Deacons – 7:00 PM – Deacons meet separately after joint meeting
- December 11 – Youth Leading Worship Service – Refreshments Following Worship
- December 11 – Congregational Meeting – Following Worship
- December 11 – Youth Group Gift Wrapping – Following Worship until 2:00 PM – Lunch Provided
- December 18 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Service
6:30 PM Prelude Music
7:00 PM Candlelight Service
- December 25 – No Youth Sunday School
- January 1 – No Youth Sunday School



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 – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

Fa la la la la

Fast away
the old year passes.

Yeah and that (passing away) even in the best of times. But this reflection on a Christmas/New Year's carol began in earnest in **June** of 2014. It's all because of Emily and Sam(antha). You see I had come to depend on singing in the choir. And every week the folks in back row were there. Dependable. Like a rock. Something you can lean on. And then June 2014. Boom. What do you mean graduating? Yes, and going to college. Yes. That's good. But. They left. It was time for them to move on. The back row of the choir ... just had to move along. (Even I was sitting in "Joel Kimmel's chair".)

Times change.

So how do we handle change, the old passing away? Across this year I have watched 6 friends retire (a graduation of a different sort). They have done it with different amounts of hope and fear. Different amounts of accomplishment and dreams. Some have handled it graciously. And a few, less than well. One is resplendent, moving forward in freedom. One is fighting it, wishing for professional recognition that will probably not arrive. One failed to meet his fears, and made rash decisions, injuring those he loved. One does it as he cares for his partner who already has fully developed Alzheimer's.




So you see there is a full assortment.
Hope. Fear. Joy. Responsibility.
Accomplishment.

Those that handled it well, let go of the season which was past and reached forward to what was ahead. They met the change and anxiety and communicated through the changing times. Those who didn't handle it well didn't face their fears, and didn't communicate with those they loved. They didn't bid farewell to the one life in order to begin the new life.

Life is changing. Meet it. Face your fears. Find hope. Share Joy. Meet your responsibilities. Celebrate the accomplishments which were given for you to accomplish.

Fast away the old year passes.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses.
Go with God.



In case
you missed
the memo.

On Sunday November 20, I shared with the congregation my decision to retire from full-time ministry at the end of June 2017. You have been a genuine gift to me. There will be time for full thanksgiving as we move forward, but allow me to say - **I am so thankful that God gave me the best church as my last.**

During the coming months the Session will be moving ahead to shape a successful transition as you find and enter a new pastoral relationship. I trust God to bless the conclusion of our relationship and the beginning of your next.

Oddities of the Calendar - Christmas Sunday

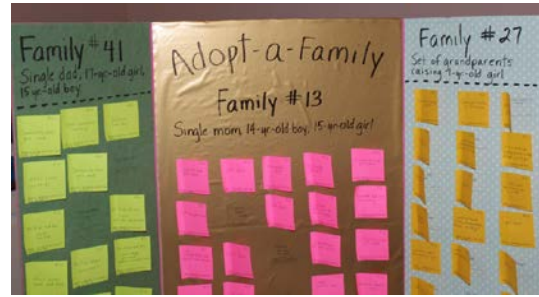
It happens on an irregular basis, but approximately once every 7 years we will be here for worship on Christmas Eve. Ah, but we will be back the next morning – Christmas morning, for morning worship. Whether you are here, or whether you are there for family Christmas near or far, may God's love in Christ touch you, and may Christ's purpose guide you through the coming year.

Opportunities of the Season

Dec. 4 – Sunday afternoon – caroling with Ignite
Dec. 6 – Evening worship w/Mennonite Home
Dec. 20 – Evening worship w/Mennonite Home

And don't forget - **Adopt- a- family**

Pastor Dave



Christmas Adopt-a-Family



Christmas is fast approaching, and we have neighbors in need.

We have adopted three family units through the Bluffton Area Community Assistance program this year. One family is made up of a single dad with a teenage boy and girl. Another family consists of a set of grandparents raising a one-year-old girl. The third family consists of a single mom with a teenage boy and girl. You will find a board in the back of the sanctuary with suggested donation items.

Please consider providing an item or two, and return your donations by December 11. Our youth will sort and wrap the donated gifts. All the items will be delivered on December 17 in the morning.

Please attach the post-it notes to your gifts so we can get the items to the proper family. If you donate an item of clothing, a gift receipt is always a good idea, in case an exchange is needed. Please avoid glass containers for food donations; they can become a safety hazard.

If you have any questions, see Tenna Rhonemus or Diane Winebar. Thank you for supporting this program as we reach out and connect with our neighbors!

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee on Sunday, December 11, following worship service.

Annual Report

Committee chairs are asked to have typed year-end reports to Cathy Carroll in Church Office by Sunday, January 8.

Small Groups

Claralice Circle (6:30 PM BPC Library)

Dec. 6

Dec. 13 - Caroling

Dec. 20 - Christmas Party

Sister Min Circle (2:00 PM Family Room at Maple Crest)

Dec. 2

Dec. 16

Dec. 30.

PDA Mission Trip

There is the possibility of doing a collaborative mission trip with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to Louisiana after flooding there last summer. Please contact Jessie Myers if there are some in your congregation who would go Jessie@findlayfpc.org. Youth would need to be 16 years old. The presbytery is willing to help facilitate if there is enough interest!

This is a great opportunity for churches who struggle to have enough folks interested do to a national mission trip, and allows for us to do mission with one another.

Mission

Mission helped with family promise meal. We are working on blankets to distribute for Christmas. Anyone who wishes to make one; it takes 2 yards to sew and 2 1/2 if you want to knot one. We want to give to adopt-a-families, family promise, and shut-ins. We also worked on the lights and display in the church yard; a big thank you to all who helped. We are excited to do God's mission during this holiday season.

Christmas Joy Offering

For more than 80 years, Presbyterians have given generously at Christmas to lift up those who have devoted their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). On December 24, churches throughout the denomination will again receive this special offering. The Christmas Joy Offering is shared equally by the [Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions](#), which provides much-needed assistance to PC (USA) church workers and their families, and Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling.



Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service

The holiday season is normally a time of joy, but when someone you love has died, it can be a time of loneliness and pain. To help ease the pain and provide some comfort, Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services is offering a *Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service* in Bluffton on Sunday, December 4 at the Centre in Bluffton, 601 N. Main Street.

All families in attendance will receive a free glass ornament personalized with the name and dates of their loved one that will be placed on the Christmas tree. Families may begin arriving at 1:00 PM followed by a brief memorial service at 2:00 PM. At the conclusion of the service, the ornament is yours to take home.

There is **no charge** to attend; however reservations are requested. To make a reservation or for more information call 419-358-2051 or email the funeral home at chilesbl@wcoil.com.

All families are welcome.

In Memory of a Loved One!!

If you would like to give a gift in memory of a loved one for the Advent and Christmas seasons, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form included in the newsletter or church bulletin to make a monetary donation.

Please place your completed form (with cash or check) in the offering plate or send to the church (P.O. Box 149, Bluffton). Thank you!

Highlights of November's Session Meeting

- Pastor Dave shared with elders that he would be requesting a 6-month contract for 2017 with plans to retire in June. Pastor Dave reassured session that his health was good, but that he wants to be able to spend more time with his family. Pastor Dave shared that he felt God saved the best church for last. Pastor Dave plans to share with congregation on Sunday, November 23. He passed out information of various options for a pastor. Agreed to have Susan Meier – MVP General Presbyter, our COM rep, and Deacons attend the December meeting to receive more information.
- Kid Kare program – process of creating a job description. Bluffton Community Preschool needs to find a new home for 2017-18 school year – presently meets in Methodist church. Dick has talked with the leaders and they have made an initial walk through of our church to see if our facilities would work. Elders were open to further discussion in December with their representatives – will meet at 6:30 PM to discuss Preschool.
- Deaths of Twylah Ludwig – (October 17) and Min Lindsey – (October 22). Pastor Dave officiated at Twylah's funeral and a Celebration of Life will be held for Min on Sunday, November 30. Lori accepted 6-year term on Synod's PJC – will represent MVP. Received thank you note from Maumee Valley Presbyterian Women – offering from worship was \$234 for the Bluffton Area Food Pantry.

- Approved request by Van Emans to borrow chairs / high chair for Thanksgiving.
- Approved having Drew's Landscaping remove snow/ice on church grounds at \$40 per time with de-ice as needed (\$35 per time if used). Wendell Badertscher has agreed to fix the window/front door at the manse.
- Agreed to have elders approve expenses for line items before they are paid – will start in January 2017. 2017 budget will be approved in December.
- Approved calling a Congregational Meeting for December 11, following the worship service for the purpose of electing Deacons, Elders, and a Nominating Committee.
- During last month Pastor Dave led four worship services at BPC, Twylah Ludwig's funeral and graveside, served Home Communion to several members, visited members, Bluffton Trick or Treat, Ignite group, Lunch at Maple Crest for Pastor Appreciation month, set up Blaze of Lights, presentation at St. John's UCC, committee work, COM, and Council.





Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service

The afternoon of Sunday, December 4, Ignite will go Christmas Caroling. We will provide the gift of music to our shut-ins and meet afterwards at the Leuger's home.



Youth Service

The youth will be leading a special Joy Filled Advent service on December 11. Please join us for worship and then stay for a fellowship reception following the service.

Sunday School

The children/ youth Sunday School class will not meet on December 25 or January 1. We will resume classes on January 8 at 9:00 AM.

Youth Group

The youth group will have a busy start to December and will be looking forward to some extra fun in January! Here is the schedule of events:

December 4 – 1:30 PM – Caroling with the Ignite group.

December 4 – 5:00 to 7:00 PM – Youth group/ Rehearsal – Remember to bring your favorite appetizer or finger food to share at this Holiday themed meeting.

December 10 – 6:00 to 8:00 PM – Rehearsal for Worship. We may end early if everything is going well.

December 11 – Lead worship. We will meet at 9:45 AM to prepare. Following worship we will host a reception for the congregation. *I am asking each youth group family to please bring 1-2 dozen cookies to share.* We will stay after the reception to wrap the gifts for the Adopt-A-Families. I will supply a quick lunch for us before we start the gift wrapping. The goal is to have everything sorted and wrapped by 2:30 PM.

January 1 – No meeting. Enjoy the first day of 2017 with your family!

January 21 – A group trip to Scene 75 in Dayton! We will leave from the church at 9:00 AM and return by 6:00 PM. This will allow us about 4 hours of game time and time to eat "Luper" or "Linner" as a group at Smash Burger. Below is a link to the web site, so you can explore the game options and determine how much money you might need. Transportation and \$10 towards dinner will be provided. You may bring one guest to this event. Each participant must have a permission slip signed by their parent. I will have these available at our December 4 meeting. Parents, I may need an additional driver to help with transportation. So that I can make plans, I will need an RSVP from everyone by January 15. <http://www.scene75.com/dayton/>

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.

Winter Address

Nick and Jeanie Nichols
10101 Burnt Store Road
29 Aloe
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

Love Thy Neighbor

Lord, we are thankful that we can be sure about your love for us. But sometimes we get confused, thinking that our own opinions about earthly matters such as politics, the economy, the governing of nations, and the like are also divinely inspired. Forgive such arrogance. Remind us that we are human and can err. Give us a special measure of patience toward those with different opinions. Help us realize that they feel as strongly about their opinions as we do about ours. Give us ears to listen, without first judging or jumping to conclusions. Give us wisdom for clear-headed thinking and forgiving hearts when those who disagree with us are rude or offensive. Make us more like our Savior, who always went the extra mile, reaching out to people with his love, even when they didn't understand his missions or his motive. Amen.



Dear Lori and the Women of the Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you all for your hospitality in hosting our Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering. We all thoroughly enjoyed our day with you. The luncheon was delicious! Enclosed is the check for \$243 to the Bluffton Community Food Pantry which was the offering at the Gathering. Thanks again for everything.

Patricia McVetty
PW of Maumee Valley Presbytery

Thank you to the Deacons of the Church for providing a meal for the family after mom's graveside service. Your great meal was greatly appreciated by us.

Thank You and God Bless,
Diane, Rey Ludwig and Family

Did you know...?

Anyone can get on ourdailybread.org and subscribe to download to mobile phone or email.



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.



Prayer Requests

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

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.



Happy Birthday!!

December	4	Marilyn Edwards Jim Enneking
	5	Ariana Zuehlke
	9	Tenna Rhonemus Jack Henry Neff
	11	Jeanie Nichols Cheryl DeWitt
	15	Sarah Gillen
	17	Ben Miracle
	21	Linda Sycks
	22	Samuel Neff
	29	Billy Marshall
	31	Darlene Hey
January	3	David Sycks Chad Carroll
	7	Dwight Nichols Barb Fett

Aluminum Can Recycling

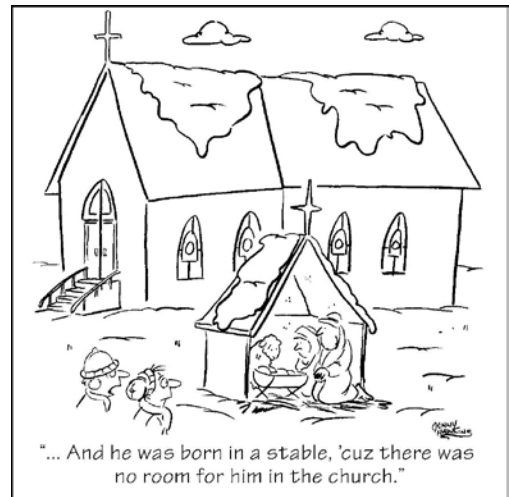
Remember to save your aluminum cans. The Mission Committee sells recyclable cans and uses the proceeds to support mission causes in our area, most recently for a shelter and feeding ministry in Lima. Bring the cans to the church basement and contribute them to a worthy cause.

Bluffton Area Food Pantry

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry shelves are bare, so if you could continue to bring in food items for the month of December, it would be appreciated. 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
- Personal Hygiene Products: Deodorant, Shampoo, Hair Care Items, Bath Soaps, Toothpaste, etc.
- Spaghetios and similar canned foods
- Canned Meats
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna and Tuna Helper

Thank you for your interest in Bluffton Area Food Pantry.



Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!!

If you would like to help prepare the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form below to make a monetary donation.

The money collected will be used to purchase flowers and other items needed during the Christmas Season.

Please place your completed form (with cash or check) in the offering plate or send to the church.
(PO Box 149, Bluffton) Thank you!

I/We wish to donate \$ _____.

I/We would like this gift to be given in **Memory Of**:

I/We would like this gift to be given in **Honor Of**:

Name: _____

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Name: _____

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

Treasurer: Darin Leugers
Email: dleugers8319@yahoo.com

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

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.