



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

January 2018

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, January 7 – Communion**

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Julia Szabo

Lay Reader: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

### **Sunday, January 14**

Special Music: Choir

Sound: Mike Rhonemus/ Slides: Diane Winebar

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity

Greeters: Ryan and Brauen Family

Acolyte: Owen Brauen

### **Sunday, January 21**

Special Music: Praise Team

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Leslie Freed

Lay Reader: Diane Winebar

Greeters: Kevin and Jana McVetta Family

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

### **Sunday, January 28**

Special Music: Choir

Sound: Jeff Gillen/ Slides: Cathy Carroll

Lay Reader: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Phill and Michelle Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

### **Sunday, February 4**

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Julia Szabo

Lay Reader: Leslie Freed



## Mark Your Calendars!

- January 7 – Annual Reports Due to Cathy Carroll
- January 7 – Small Groups Leaders Meeting – Following Worship
- January 7 - Stewardship & Finance Committee Meeting – Following Worship
- January 7 – Committee Annual Reports due to Cathy
- January 11 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- January 14 – Ordination/Installation of Officers – During Worship
- January 14 – Fellowship Hosted by Nominating Committee – Following Worship
- January 14 – Youth Group – Virtual Mission Trip to South Korea – Following Worship until 4:00 PM
- January 17 – Deacons Meeting – 7:30 PM
- January 17 - Praise Team – 7:30 PM
- January 28 – Annual Congregational/ Corporation Meeting – Following Worship
- January 28 – Newsletter Items Deadline [CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- February 4 – BPC Basement Bistro –Hosted by Youth Group – Following Worship
- February 20 – Chili Cook Off – 5:30-7:00 PM – Bluffton Middle School Cafetorium

## Small Groups

- Claralice Circle will meet every Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30 PM in the church.
- Members of the Claralice Circle will carol at Maple Crest on Tuesday December 12.
- Sister Min Circle will meet the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 PM at Maple Crest.

## Choir Rehearsal

- Wednesdays at 6:30 PM at Church

## Pastor's Letter:

Now that the church has celebrated the beginning of the liturgical new year with Advent and Christmas, the rest of the (western) world is catching up by marking the start of 2018! Do you have traditions to mark the occasion? New year's resolutions – that repeat or vary from year to year?

As a community of faith, I challenge us to think about *new beginnings* that will sustain us for the long haul, not just a few weeks. What is one change to our community that could create excitement and possibility? What have you heard, dreamed, or experienced that you'd like to share with others? In November and December, the theme of light shone through many of our worship times. How do you hope to experience and spread the light of Christ at this time?

One of my goals for 2018 is to spend time with each individual/family within our congregation. While I feel confident with the basics (names, faces, where you sit in worship), I have hardly begun to get to know all there is to know about you! To that end, I hope to meet with each family that I haven't already connected with during the past few months. I'll be putting something in the bulletin in the coming weeks as a reminder, but if you have an idea for a time that would work well for you for conversation (and perhaps enjoying a meal together!), I'd love to help make that happen.

In 2018, may we, the members of Bluffton Presbyterian Church, resolve to be open to new ideas, to become familiar with complex realities, and to pay attention to the Spirit moving in and among us. New year, new beginnings: here we are!

In Christ,

Pastor Karol

## Highlights of December Session Meeting

- Deacons met with Session to review their activities for the year – will be printed in Annual Report.

- Newly elected officers were invited to attend. Each new officer answered questions and affirmed they were willing to serve. Approved that having examined the new officers, they be approved for Ordination/Installation. Ordination will either be January 7 or 14 depending on personal schedules.
- New projection system has been installed. Will be working to switch lens for clearer image. Present clickers are being evaluated to see how well they work with new system. Approved advertising with Shannon Theater's information trailer which runs 30 minutes prior to movies. Rate is \$450 for the year – and Diane Winebar has agreed to create the advertisement for our church.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery met at Napoleon in November. Approved 2% cost of living increase in Minimum Terms of Call for 2018 for full-time installed clergy. Approved minimums for Professional Expenses \$3,000 and Continuing Ed \$850. Rev. David Bartley is retiring and welcomed Terrie Haithcock to Faith Christian in Lima and Bill Lindeman as Interim at Findlay First. Last restructure was in 2003 and requires 134 people (including 67 pastors to create balance between lay people/pastors) to operate committees at full strength.

2007	Maumee Valley Presbytery	2017
76	Churches	62
55	Full time pastors	24
11	Commissioned Ruling Elder	6
10	Part time pastors	16
11	Pulpit supply	18
48	Retired pastors	38

Presently in process of restructuring based on data – expect reorganization plan to be created/approved in 2018. Approved the Presbyter for Common Life Search Committee of 11 members.

- Pastor Karol and Betsey have met with Secretary, Treasurer, Custodian, Organist, and Choir Director for year-end reviews. Noted that Tony has been employed for 29 years with us! Christmas gifts will be distributed.

- Electronically approved request to use Bob Angus' Memorial money to purchase Nativity set (9-0). Committee Chairs asked to send year-end reports electronically to Cathy by January 7. Approved request by Cindy Gillen for tables/chairs for graduation party on weekend of June 2.
- Sump pump at manse malfunctioned with water coming into basement. Thompson's was called and extracted 30 gallons of water, ran blowers, and sanitized carpet for \$500. M+R replaced the sump pump and rerouted pipes in that area. Original sump pump cover now fits area in basement. Motion detector light by office door was adjusted by Pastor Karol. Approved to install motion detector lights in alley area by door leading into preschool room and at top of handicap ramp for security and safety purposes. Stained glass window in narthex area has been recaulked. Ballast in light in office replaced – will need to replace ballast in light in manse basement. LED lights were purchased for church light in yard and will be installed when weather allows. Approved to spend up to \$600 to have pews, chairs, carpet cleaned in the sanctuary now that plaster/paint work completed – probably be done in spring.
- Ignite and Claralice Circle caroled to homebound members – given treat bags and Scandinavian Stars. Children and Youth presented December 10 worship service. Working to develop a policy for permission to post on electronic media. Adopt-A-Family donated gifts for our three families have been wrapped.
- Proposed 2018 budget (2% increases for staff) was presented, discussed, and approved. Approved to “roll over” to 2018 any remaining funds in Local Mission (budgeted) and Unbudgeted mission accounts.
- Former office chair was sold online. Approved to sell the old pulpit chair presently located in the “Holy Hardware room” online.
- Pastor Karol made 5 pastoral care visits in November. Pastor Karol and various deacons (Darlene Hey, Gayle Marshall, Laura From, Barb Fett) served Home Communion with members at home/four care facilities. Pastor Karol led a Communion Service at Maple Crest which was attended by 16 residents. Congregational activities included: Claralice Circle, Sister Min Circle, Youth Group, committee meetings, Ignite/Mission Blanket making and Caroling, Hanging of the Greens, personnel staff reviews, and Pastor Relations Committee. Presbytery activities - attended Presbytery meeting in Napoleon and met with another pastor. Community engagement – Hancock County Chamber Women's Lunch, Bluffton Chamber Breakfast, met with John Kinn and Shirley Wagner at Chiles-Laman, non-profit networking event, Bluffton Community Meal and Thanksgiving Worship, Youth for Christ bowling, Blaze of Lights, First Mennonite Song and Prayer Service, Chiles-Laman Tree of Remembrance Memorial Service, CHOPIN hall Mobile Food Pantry, and Advent Oasis Retreat. Planning a gathering for our college aged/young adults at the manse over break. While appreciating Pastor Karol's involvement in various activities, cautioned to not over extend and still take time for herself. Arrangements made for Emergency Pastoral Care while on vacation December 25-January 2.
- Proposed by-law changes were presented – most changes were made to reflect similar language/format. While the Congregation would be the one to approve changes, session was in agreement to present the proposed revisions to them.
- Approved having Annual Congregational Meeting, including approving Terms of Call for Pastor and amending By-laws, following the morning worship service on Sunday, January 28. Approved to update the “contact information” section of the church directory – by printing updated information which can be inserted in members' binders.

## Ordination/Installation of Officers

Congratulations to newly elected church officers: Elders Betsey Angus, Jodi Brauen and Tenna Rhonemus and Deacons Tanya Best, Helen Hawk, and Dave Van Eman. Installation/Ordination for the Elders/Deacons will be January 14.

## Per Capita

You are invited to help cover the per capita cost of your membership by making a special donation through our congregation as part of your discipline of stewardship. The per capita amount is \$30.75 per member in 2018. Thank You!

## 2018 Weekday Christian Ed Walkers

Thursday, January 25  
Friday, March 9  
Tuesday, March 20  
Thursday, April 5  
Friday, April 20

Contact Tenna Rhonemus to volunteer.



## Deacons Report

- Home communion went wonderfully for December. We plan to continue offering home communion to a few members at the beginning of each month. If you are interested in receiving it and have not been previously contacted, please call the office or any Deacon.
- The 2017 yearly report was compiled and presented to Session on December 14.

**“Be willing to help and care for each other because of Christ. By doing this, you honor Christ.” Ephesians 5:21**



The Deacons are searching for volunteers to help transport members to church who are unable to drive themselves. They may need some assistance when entering certain vehicles.

Your participation in this program will continue to allow us all worship the Lord together as a family. If you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Karol or any Deacon.



## Youth Group

The Youth Group's January meeting will be moved to January 14. We will have a mini-retreat starting after worship and lasting until 4:00 PM. From the comfort of the church basement we will go on a virtual mission trip to South Korea!

Our trip will include an exploration of the South Korean culture, the work the Presbyterian Church is doing in that country, and the work God is calling us to complete. Our guest speaker will help us prepare an authentic Korean meal for lunch. As a tribute the Winter Olympics being held in South Korea in February 2018, we will have some Olympic-style competitions of our own.

Friends are invited! Please RSVP to Tenna by January 7, so we can plan appropriately.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

The youth will be hosting a BPC Basement Bistro on Sunday, February 4 immediately following worship for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be serving a variety of soups, salad, rolls, and sweet desserts. A free will offering will be collected with proceeds going to the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. We hope you can join us!

## Bluffton Area Food Pantry

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry thanks you for your continued support. Listed below is a revised list of some items to consider for the pantry:

Canned Meats  
Hamburger Helper and similar meals  
Tuna and Tuna Helper  
Breakfast Cereals and Instant Oatmeal  
Chunky Soups and Crackers  
Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce  
Tomato Sauce  
Macaroni and Cheese  
Mexican Food Products: Tortillas, Sauces  
Canned Fruits  
Chili Beans and Baked Beans  
Peanut Butter  
Noodles and Beef Ramen Noodles  
Baking Items: Brownies, Cookies, Cakes  
Rice and Riceroni Items  
Condiments: Catsup, Mustard, Mayo  
Paper products: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Tissues, Napkins, Paper Plates  
Personal Hygiene Products: Deodorant, Shampoo and Hair Care Items, Lotions, Soft Soaps, Toothbrushes, Combs and Brushes

## Little Free Pantry



A Little Free Pantry is now open in downtown Bluffton. Our Little Free Pantry is housed on the church grounds near the Family Dollar parking lot. The community is invited to donate food or personal products. Anyone needing these products is welcome to take them at any time. No registration is necessary.

The pantry contains canned vegetables and proteins, pasta, powdered milk, personal care products, and other shelf stable items. Selection will vary. Please don't put freezable items in the Little Free Pantry.

## Mission Report

Mission has distributed the blankets we put together to Adopt-A-Family and Family Promise. We have also sent out save the date information for our chili cook off to be held on February 20. Proceeds will go to the Bluffton Area Food Pantry.



## Habitat for Humanity

As a Christian organization, Habitat for Humanity not only seeks to provide and advocate for affordable housing, we hope to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ in our work. We count on the generous gift of volunteer time from people like you.

We have two current needs at the Lima Habitat for Humanity ReStore:

1. Once a month continuing commitment for 2-4 hours: This would involve 4-6 people organizing and tidying up the showroom floor. (If we would have four churches do this and each chooses a different week of the month, the ReStore would always be kept in a pristine condition that encourages shoppers to more fully enjoy and support Habitat for Humanity through their purchases.)
2. One time commitment for 2-4 hours: This would involve any number of people or even a Sunday school class to organize and clean the back storage room. (The ReStore is preparing to refurbish its showroom floor in February and space is needed to store numerous items.)

Contact Mark Suderman, Volunteer Coordinator at [mark@habitatlima.org](mailto:mark@habitatlima.org) or 419-230-5368.

Thank you for your help with this. We appreciate your time and prayers as we all work to bring Christ's Kingdom here on earth.





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Thank You from FPC Findlay –

Many thanks for volunteering for the CHOPIN Hall Food Distribution at First Presbyterian Church, Findlay on December 9, 2017. Nice to meet "you all" and share your helping hands and spirit. As you can see - doing God's work is hard work, but rewarding and sustaining and joy!

Joan Work, Elder, Mission Committee (FPC Findlay)

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Thank you to elders/deacons whose terms have ended – Betsey Angus, Barb Fett, Gayle Marshall, Tenna Rhonemus, Lori Schmidt, and Donnas Stone. Congratulations to the following officers who were elected - Elders Betsey Angus, Jodi Brauen, and Tenna Rhonemus and Deacons Tanya Best, Helen Hawk, and Dave Van Eman.

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Thank you to all those who helped decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Your help is greatly appreciated!

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To the Carolers,

Thanks so much for your beautiful singing and for the goodie bag. I had to sample it immediately - delicious. With best wishes to all of you and your families ~ Jean Szabo

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The caroling visit was such a surprise and a joy! Thank you so much for your cheerful voices, happy smiles, and for sharing your faith with me. With love in Christ to you all ~ Judy Evans

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The Deacons would like to thank those who helped us with the Community Meal on December 21. We had a wonderful meal! Thank you to those who volunteered their time. Also thank you to those who made monetary donations to help offset the cost of the meal. The support shown by our congregation is wonderful and greatly appreciated.

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Thanks for all the prayers, cards, food, and visits during my two surgeries the past few months. All was greatly appreciated. ~ Sue Mathewson

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A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Adopt-A-Family program this year. The love demonstrated through canned goods, blankets, Christmas surprises and so much more is overwhelming. God has blessed us richly and in turn we have reached out to bless others!

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Thank you to the carolers who came to my home bearing tidings of Good Joy. ~ Avis Marshall

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### 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. As you gather the leftover cans from your graduation party or summer barbeque, bring the cans to the church basement and contribute them to a worthy cause.

### Ignite “Welcome Neighbor” Sign

If you would like to purchase a “Welcome Neighbor” sign to display in your yard, please see Sarah Brauen. The cost is \$10.

# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

## 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.

**Prayers of Healing** for Michael Lee Bucher, Carl Wolf, Tyler and Laura From, Jenny Bogart, Bob and Jean Braden, Norma Best, Rev. Matthew Zuehlke, Roy Pneuman, Bill Zajac, Sue Delnay, Sue Mathewson, Jeff Patterson, Brian Megotto, Dr. Howard Shelly, Alice Schmidt, Walter Schmidt, Emerson Basinger, Nina Shank, and McKenna Family.

## 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.

## Lost & Found

Are you missing something that you brought with you to worship some Sunday? Perhaps an umbrella, hat, or sunglasses? Please take a moment to check the Lost & Found box in the back of the church to see if anything belongs to you.

## Secretary’s Office Hours

Please note that Cathy’s office hours have changed to Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

## 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.



January	3	Chad Carroll
		Dave Sycks
	7	Barb Fett
		Dwight Nichols
	10	Sue Basinger
		Addie McGarrity
	13	Chris Gable
		Matthew Zuehlke
	21	Colletta Mullenhour
	25	Shirley Kisor
	29	Richard McGarrity
	30	Tammie Hursh
February	1	Dortha Radbough
	2	Jodie Parker
	5	John Marshall

## Reminder

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



# Save the Date!

## 2018 Community Chili Cook-off



Tues., February 20, 2018 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Bluffton Middle School Cafetorium

A community event to benefit the

**Bluffton Community Assistance Program**

**Your congregation or individuals can:**

- Provide & serve Chili
- Organize donations & sales of desserts
- Organize donations & sales of sandwiches
- Assist with set-up & tear-down
- Promote & participate in the "People's Choice" competition



**Respond to the Bluffton Presbyterian Church Mission Committee:**

Lynda Best 419-296-2790

Carole Enneking jcenne@gmail.com or 419-348-7691



## Youth-Led Worship Service



## Ignite Group Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins



## Claralice Small Group Christmas Caroling at Maple Crest



## Youth Choir



## Scandinavian Stars

Our Claralice circle members were busy making Scandinavian stars to give away when Christmas caroling the past few weeks!



**Bluffton Presbyterian Church**  
112 N. Main St., P.O. Box 149  
Bluffton, OH 45817  
419-358-5806  
[blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

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

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris  
Phone: 419-581-9232  
Email: [pastor@blufftonpc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonpc.org)  
Office Hours: Tues & Wed 10-4,  
Thu 9-11; or by appointment

Secretary: Cathy Carroll  
Email: [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com)  
Office Hours: Tues & Thu 8:30-12:30

Treasurer: Darin Leugers  
Email: [dleugers8319@yahoo.com](mailto: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 – 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, Helen Hawk, Marilyn  
Edwards, Laura From, Mike Rhonemus, and  
Dave Van Eman