



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## January 2019

*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, January 6 – Epiphany**

**Communion / 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Special Music

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

#### **Sunday, January 13 – Baptism of the Lord**

**Food Pantry Offering**

Choir

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Helen Hawk

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

#### **Sunday, January 20 – Giving Bibles to Youth**

Praise Team

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Leslie Freed

Liturgist: Marilyn Edwards

Acolytes: Clara Brauen and Avery Talavinia

#### **Sunday, January 27**

Choir

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Cathy Carroll

Liturgist: Sarah Brauen

Acolytes: Owen Brauen

#### **Sunday, February 3 – Communion / 3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo



### Mark Your Calendars!

- January 6 – Youth Group – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- January 6 – Annual Reports Due to Cathy Carroll
- January 10 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- January 13 – Ordination/Installation of Officers
- January 13 – Fellowship Sponsored by Nominating Committee – Following Worship
- January 16 – Praise Team – 7:30
- January 16 – Deacon Meeting – 7:30
- January 20 – Sunday Snacks – Before Worship
- January 27 – Annual Congregational Meeting
- January 27 – Newsletter Items Deadline  
[CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- February 3 – Souper Bowl of Caring BPC Basement Bistro – Following Worship

### Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to be shared in worship or in the bulletin, please get it in to the church office by Thursday morning.

### Small Groups' Winter Schedule

Claralice Circle will resume meetings every Tuesday at 6:30 PM in the BPC Fellowship Hall, starting January 8.

Sister Min Circle will meet in the Family Room at Maple Crest the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 2:00 to 3:00 PM beginning January 11.

### Choir

The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. New members are welcome!

## Pastor's Letter

Throughout 2018, I drew upon a resource called "Vital Congregations" for devotional and educational material with our church leadership – the elders and deacons. Seven marks of vital congregations were identified, along with positive and negative definitions, biblical references, questions, objectives, and potential outcomes.

One of these marks (#3 if you're curious), is called "outward incarnational focus," which is about being the gathered community of Christ sent out to be on God's mission. We go because God's love cannot be inwardly contained in our buildings when we live with neighbors in need and a hurting world.

Part of this focus is about hospitality – making sure we give adequate attention to those "outsiders" among us who are unsure if they truly "belong." This is more than being friendly and welcoming. It means taking time to get to know those around us, to find out about their immediate needs and concerns, and to ask ourselves how we might attempt to meet those needs.

What can you do? For starters, take a few moments before or after worship services to look around for people you do not know well. Introduce yourself, ask how they are doing, and offer to pray for them. If it turns out that they are first-time visitors, tell them a little about your experience in the congregation, and see if they have any questions.

At least twice a month in the new year, we will have a designated fellowship time before or after worship with food and beverages to be shared (more on that later in the newsletter!). Whether it is over coffee, cookies, or those blue friendship pads passed in the pews, remember to take a moment to offer your attention to your fellow worshipers. Your attention can serve as a helpful reminder of God's love and care that they are seeking. Our hospitality in worship may be just as important as the scriptures, sermons, and prayers. In this venture we can all participate!

Peace be with you!

Pastor Karol

## Epiphany: Sunday, January 6

The season of Christmas began on December 25 and continues until Epiphany on January 6 (the 12 days of Christmas!) Epiphany is the celebration of God's self-revelation to the world in Jesus Christ. In particular, we celebrate the revelation of God's promise and purpose to the nations of the world, as the magi came from the East to worship to the Christ child, and God's covenant of grace is extended to all who believe the good news of Christ Jesus. The symbolism of light is important: not only because of the star that guided the magi, but as it relates to the bright dawning of God's self-revelation in Christ.

The word "epiphany" means "appearance" or "manifestation" of God, and has roots in the word for sunrise or dawn. In ancient times, an epiphany meant either a visible manifestation of a god or the solemn visit of a ruler venerated as a god.

Epiphany not only discloses the Savior to the world, but also calls the world to show forth Christ, to be witnesses to God's true Light. The timeless mystery of the incarnation, God in flesh, leads us forth to show and tell of Christ as God's gift of grace and salvation for all persons. Some call this ongoing epiphany *the work of Christmas*.

## Word in the World

You are invited to the weekly Word in the World discussions with Pastor Karol. Join us any time you are free on a Wednesday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM at the Twisted Whisk Café. We enjoy connecting God's word to today's world! We will meet each Wednesday in January EXCEPT January 16.



## Sermon Videos Available Online

Did you know that if you miss worship, you can still hear the message that was shared? Most sermons from recent months can be seen and heard on our church website: [www.blufftonpc.org/video](http://www.blufftonpc.org/video). Thank you to Ryan Brauen and our audio/visual technicians for assisting with this project.

## Highlights of December Session Meeting

- Deacons met with Session and reviewed their 2018 activities. Role of Deacons shared with new Deacons – Bev Begg and Jeanette Warren (new elders unable to attend – will receive information in January). Approved that having examined the new Deacons, they be approved for Installation. Ordination/Installation of new officers will be Sunday, January 13.
- Following Elders/Deacons whose terms were concluding were thanked for their dedicated service – Laura From, Mike Rhonemus, Lynda Best, Dick McGarrity, and Phil Weisenbarger.
- Approved calling Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting for Sunday, January 27 following worship. Deadline for committee chairs to submit reports electronically to Cathy is January 6.
- Approved request from Lin Rumer to hold quilt meeting in church basement on December 3. Approved request to place Amanda (Rhonemus) Layer and Danielle Rhonemus on “other” list as they have moved out of the area. Approved to purchase 12 commercial grade 8-foot tables at \$70 per table for \$840 (no tax) from Menard’s. There is 11% discount which will be used to purchase cleaning supplies and various items for church. Approved to sell old tables (11) at \$30 each. Kept one long and short table for hand bells. Six tables purchased by church members – Lynda advertised on Bluffton Garage Sale. Approved that new tables can be loaned out to church members – textured tops need to be covered and if tables are damaged person will be billed. Received Per Capita statement for 2019 - \$3,552.40 – 107 members (\$33.20 per member).
- Presbytery met November 13 in Tecumseh, MI for regular stated meeting and November 27 in Findlay for called meeting. New General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke was introduced. He is writing daily devotionals – “Matt’s Morning Reflections” which can be found at [www.mattmeinke.com](http://www.mattmeinke.com). Approved to dismiss the General Presbyter Search Committee with thanks. Approved to receive the latest report from the restructuring committee and to approve the continued work of the committee towards the new structure – Central Support has been added as a fourth area along with Leadership, Mission, and Discipleship. Will remain under present structure until new proposal is developed further. Presbytery Moderator Tom Polk and Vice-Moderator Janeane Hopkins were installed. Approved electing Administrative Commission to work with Grace Presbyterian in Toledo as they are presently in conflict. Lori Schmidt was elected to serve on this commission.
- New frame purchased for directional sign above water fountain and has been rehung. Church sign corner of yard needs ballast and lamp replaced - Fultz Sign Co. gave estimate of \$300. Tom Hursey plans to repair himself. Gutter downspout outside office door was plugged – has been cleaned out and replaced. Miracle Worker Handyman repaired drywall and plaster in church basement, sanctuary, and handicap entrance. Areas have been painted (except for handicap entrance which was not dry yet). New motion detector light installed by office door. Installed new blind in pastor’s office. New tables unwrapped and placed in cabinet. Furnace filters were replaced. Drew’s Landscaping hired for snow/ice removal.
- Staff reviews have been completed. Christmas gifts will be given to staff. Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman will be sharing organist position – Sue will play one Sunday each month, with Jayne playing the remaining Sundays. Next year’s budget will have two lines for organist to reflect this shared position.
- Approved to serve Communion in the pews for Christmas Eve Service.

- November Pastoral Care: 7 home/hospital/nursing home visits, 5 conversations, and 16 cards sent. Home communion at Maple Crest Communion Service - 8 residents served with Deacon Marilyn Edwards, Elder Tom Edwards, pianist Jayne McGarrity. Home communion also served 2 with Deacon Tanya Best. Congregational activities: Word in the World discussion group, Claralice Circle, posted sermon videos on website, Weekday Christian Ed walker (twice), lunch with Bluffton University students at Luke's, committee meetings, meal with Bluffton University students at Ryan/Sarah Brauen's, New Elder Orientation, Youth Group, Adopt-a-Family Gift Wrapping. Presbytery activities: BAMA article in Bluffton News, Presbytery Stated Meeting at FPC Tecumseh, MI, High School Retreat at Kirkmont Center, Presbytery Called Meeting at FPC Findlay, and BAMA Meeting. Community Engagement: met with Jessica Strahm, MHCO Volunteer Coordinator and led worship at Mennonite Memorial Home. Approved Vacation request for August 8-18 (including Sundays August 11 and 18) for wedding (August 10) and honeymoon. Reminder that Pastor Karol will be away for vacation December 25-31, including Sunday December 30.

- Will continue Shannon Theatre advertisements for 2019 – Diane Winebar is willing to continue creating them. Approved giving Etcetera Shop \$1,000 for their “new” building renovation project – money from Bixel/Magee money.
- Approved having “Hospitality Time” prior to worship service on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month. Dick/Jayne McGarrity are willing to coordinate/provide for 2019.

- Chicken BBQ raised \$1,000 night of dinner. Additionally, other donations (at least \$600) have been given by church family. All money for this project was previously designated to Tyler/Laura From for newer handicap accessible van.

## Youth Ski Trip

Christ Presbyterian Church in Toledo is inviting all high school students of Maumee Valley Presbytery on their annual ski trip, taking place on the afternoon of **Sunday, January 20** at Mad River Mountain. Please contact Pastor Karol by Wednesday, January 2 for more information or if you are interested in attending.

## Young Adult Party

These BPC members had a good time bowling at the young adult party on December 21!



## Sunday Snacks at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

Beginning January 20, coffee and pastries will be served at 10:00 AM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month throughout the year. These refreshments will be served in the back of the sanctuary and may be consumed there or may be taken to the pews as worship begins; cup holders will be available. We hope you'll join us for this new fellowship opportunity!

## Youth Group

The youth group will meet on January 6 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for our monthly meeting. Come join us as we learn what being a disciple will mean for us in the New Year. As always friends are invited!



## Deacons Report

This meeting had the new coming deacons for 2019 in attendance. We discussed briefly all the many programs the Deacons do throughout the year. We also chose the deacons positions for 2019: Tanya Best - Funeral Dinner Coordinator, Marilyn Edwards - Nominating Committee Representative, Bev Begg - CARE Cards, Dave Van Eman - Community Meal Coordinator and Financial, Jeanette Warren - Prayer Chain Coordinator, and Helen Hawk - Moderator.

Laura From and Mike Rhonemus completed their terms as Deacons this past December. Thank you for your caring service, and we'll miss you. We look forward to serving with our two new Deacons Bev Begg and Jeanette Warren!

If anyone would like to help transport members of the church on Sundays, please contact a Deacon.

**“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 to worship the Lord together as a family. If you're interested in helping, please contact Pastor Karol or any Deacon.



## 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 \$33.20 per member in 2019. Thank You!



## Mission Committee

The Mission Committee appreciates everyone who helped with the blankets which were given to adopt-a-family and family promise.

We appreciate everyone who helped with the chicken dinner for Tyler and Laura. We raised \$1,020 that night and more donations were received later.

We also appreciate all those who support the Christmas Joy offering.

We are looking forward to a new year and have already set February 20 as the date for our community chili cook off for the food pantry. More info to come soon.

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



## Little Free Pantry Update

It's been a little over a year and a half since we introduced our Little Free Pantry (LFP) to the community. Does it get any use? Yes! The LFP is being visited by people with immediate food needs.

Church members (and members of the community) keep the LFP stocked with food and other necessary items, and we are grateful for your support!

Now that winter is here though, we need to switch out the types of items we stock. That means **no canned foods** (vegetables, meats, sauces) and **no glass jars or bottles**. Instead, think about boxed or bagged food: pasta, cereal, granola bars, rice, noodles, boxed mixes (Tuna Helper, mac n' cheese), oatmeal, cake mixes, dried fruit, nuts, etc.

Personal care items are also appreciated: soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, baby care items, toilet paper, tissues, etc.

Your contributions can be placed inside the LFP or taken to the church office.

*Thank you for your help as we work together as neighbors helping neighbors!*

## LIFT and Adult Sunday School

Join us Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the Basement Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome to join us for Bible study, play, worship, and a light breakfast. Classes will start up again Sunday, January 6.

The adult class meets each Sunday from 9:00 to 10:00 AM in the first classroom of the education wing. Classes will start up again Sunday, January 6.

## 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.



- Holiday Caroling & Friends



- Faith and Family Night with the Walleyes – Ignite and the Youth Group would like to invite everyone to a Faith and Family event on Sunday, February 10. This event is hosted by the Toledo Walleyes. For the event The Walleyes are looking to incorporate a live band for a pregame concert, as well as a brief discussion with the team Chaplain and a couple Walleye players about their faith and experiences throughout professional athletics. The event will last an hour, followed by the Walleye game. Tickets are \$17/person and include entry to Faith and Family Night and the Walleye game.

## Ordination/Installation of Officers

Congratulations to newly elected church officers: Elders Lynda Best, Sarah Brauen, Clair Winebar, and Deacons Jeanette Warren and Bev Begg. Installation/Ordination for the Elders/Deacons will be January 13.



**Full Circle to Completion**  
**206 East Market Street**  
**Lima, Ohio 45801**

Full Circle is an outpatient medically assisted treatment center for individuals that are addicted to drugs or alcohol and want to work towards their sobriety and recovery. Please call to set up an appointment for an intake.

Services:

- Outpatient treatment
- Medication assisted treatment
- Individual counseling/therapy
- Peer-led support groups
- Educational groups led by staff
- Future housing in Lima
- We accept all forms of Medicaid
- Locations in Dayton, Ohio and Findlay, Ohio as well

Contact Information:

Jessica Cramer, LSW  
 Clinician  
 206 East Market St.  
 Lima, Ohio 45801  
 Work phone: 419-234-0049  
 Company phone: 567-712-6322  
 Fax: 567-712-6329



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 Thank you to everyone who contributed to the adopt-a-family program, helped sort and wrap gifts, and deliver them. The generosity of our congregation and willingness to help our neighbors was well represented!  
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Dear Church Family,  
 Thank you very much for your Christmas gift. I truly enjoy sharing music with all of you! I am very blessed to have such talented and dedicated people to work with. May God bless each of you this Christmas season and throughout the coming year!

Musically,  
 Linda

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It's such a blessing to be able to contribute to the wonderful music at BPC. Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift.

Jayne

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Dear brothers and sisters of Bluffton Presbyterian church,  
 We want to send you our heartfelt thank you for supporting our ministry. Many Blessings and Feliz Navidad.

Jhan and Ian

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Thank you to all those who helped decorate the sanctuary.

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**Weekday Christian Education Walkers**

Thank you to everyone who volunteered as a Christian Education Walker so far this year! As we enter the second half of the academic year, we will be adding the kindergarten classes to our schedule. Below you will find the dates we need to fill in January and early February. If you are willing to assist with this mission outreach, please sign up in the back of the church or see Tenna Rhonemus.

Thursday January 24 Grades 1-5	Friday February 15 Kindergarten
8:50- 9:20	8:25- 8:55
9:25- 9:55	9:25- 9:55
12:25- 12:55	
1:00- 1:30	
1:45- 2:15	
2:25- 2:55	



## Prayer Requests

**Prayers of Sympathy** with Lynn Nowak and family on the recent loss of her mother.

**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 Mary Barnett, Sue Mathewson, Sally Reeder, David Rempelsmucker, Dr. Howard Shelly, Laura & Tyler From, Blake Stutzman, Carolyn Dahms, Kathy Cook, Sarah Ransome, Kathy Buist, Linda Smith, Sister Carol, Family of Luther Shetler, Family of Christopher Constanzi and Pat Croskery, wife Maria, stepchildren Skylar, Vance and Tierra.

## 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.

## BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Jeanette Warren (419-358-6263) 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 Jeanette or another deacon.



## Birthdays

January	3	Chad Carroll
		Dave Sycks
	7	Barb Fett
		Dwight Nichols
	8	Robbie McGarrity
	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 Radabaugh
	2	Jodie Parker
	5	John Marshall

## The Souper Bowl of Caring

The youth group will be hosting a BPC Basement Bistro on Sunday, February 3 immediately following worship. The youth will serve a meal of assorted soups, salad, bread, and some sweet treats for dessert. A free will offering will be collected and the donations will be given to the Bluffton Community Assistance program. Please plan on joining us for a meal to warm your body and fellowship to warm your heart!



## New Address:

Sally Reeder  
The Springs of Lima  
370 N. Eastown Rd. Apt. #508  
Lima, OH 45807

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

Faith Formation: 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: Mon 2-5, Tues 9-2,  
Wed 10-12 and by appointment

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

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

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

## **2019 Church Officers**

### *Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt  
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey  
Faith Formation – Tenna Rhonemus  
Finance & Stewardship – Clair Winebar  
Mission – Lynda Best  
Nominating –  
Personnel – Betsey Angus  
Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt  
Worship – Cindy Gillen  
Members at Large – Jodi Brauen, Sarah Brauen,  
and Tom Edwards

### *Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Helen Hawk  
Members: Bev Begg, Tanya Best, Marilyn  
Edwards, Dave Van Eman, and Jeanette Warren