



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

July 2019

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 7

Communion / 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Sarah Gillen

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: Betsey Angus and Bev Begg

Acolytes: Owen and Clara Brauen

Sunday, July 14

Food Pantry Offering

Special Music: Tanya Best & Karol Farris

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Tanya Best

Greeters: Jane Benroth and Craig Bowman

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, July 21

Special Music: Don Brauen & Megan Sycks

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Talavinias

Liturgist: Jana McVetta

Greeters: Tanya Best and Helen Hawk

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, July 28 Outdoor Worship – 9:00 AM

Special Music: Jazz Trio

Sound: Jeff Gillen

Liturgist: Julia Szabo

Greeters: Beth Buist and Jeanette Warren

**Sunday, August 4 – Communion /
3 Cents a Meal Offering**

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo



Mark Your Calendars!

- July – No Session or Deacons Meeting
- July 9 – Pastor Karol leads MMH worship service – 6:30 PM
- July 14 – Fellowship following worship hosted by Session
- July 16 – Claralice Circle Summer Birthday Party – 6:30 PM
- July 20 – Swimming 4:00 PM/Picnic 5:30 PM – Betsey Angus's Home
- July 21 – Sunday Snacks – Coffee and juice will be served at 10:00 AM
- July 21 – Fall Faith Formation Discussion following worship
- July 21-25 – Vacation Bible School – St. John's United Church of Christ – 6:00 – 8:00 PM
- July 28 – Outdoor Worship – 9:00 AM
- **July 28 – Newsletter Items Deadline**
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- August 1 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM

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

Small Groups will not be meeting during the summer months. If you would like to talk to someone about joining or starting a small group in September, please see Pastor Karol, Beth Buist, Jayne McGarrity, Jeanette Warren, or Diane Winebar.

July Sermon Series:

Stop! Redirecting Our Lives for God



Pastor's Letter

For the past several weeks, the sermons in worship were centered around the theme of The Surprising Acts of God. We considered several texts from the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament, and we recognized that without the empowering work of the Holy Spirit, those apostles would have been quite limited in their ability to share the gospel with Jews and Greeks, with slaves and free persons, with men and women. We learned about An Unlikely Friendship, An Astonishing Imitation, A Change of Dinner Plans, An Amazing Detour, A Dazzling Departure, An Ironic Freedom, and The Ultimate Surprise Party.

More recently when we looked at the story of the daughters of Zelophehad in Numbers 27, we saw that it, too, conveys yet another surprising action of God. Even though the laws in Israel's patriarchal society excluded women from most rights, these five sisters approached the leaders on behalf of their deceased father to ask for an inheritance in his name. Moses, being a wise leader in this moment, took the request directly to God. Lo and behold, God told Moses that the women were right, and that he should fulfill their request.

Though we sometimes imagine God as unchanging or "immutable," we must remember all the times throughout scripture where God hears, interacts with, and responds to the people of the covenant. In response to a plea for justice, God commands Moses to make changes to the law. Of course, it could be argued that God is merely correcting human laws, while God remains unchanged. That may be true. In any case, scripture reveals to us a God who actively relates to his people. Even when we drift into habits of thinking God is distant and unconcerned with our lives, God is always waiting to hear from us, hoping to speak to us, yearning to bathe us in conditional love and grace.

Even though the series is "officially" over, I encourage you to keep your eyes open to surprising acts of God that await us at any given moment.

In Christ,

Pastor Karol

Activated Faith Community Challenge

Activated Faith Community Challenge (the Challenge) is a new program sponsored by West Central Ohio Health Ministries and Activate Allen County to assist faith organizations in pursuing projects that sustainably promote physical and mental health and wellness. Session approved BPC's potential participation in the Challenge as a good opportunity to promote health and wellness. Approved projects qualify for up to \$500 of funding from Activate Allen County to offset project costs (potentially more for larger projects). Activate Allen County receives funding from organizations such as the Mercy Health Foundation.

Information about various types of challenges sponsored by Activate Allen County can be found at <https://activateallencounty.com/activated-challenges/>.

Carole Enneking completed the assessment for BPC. Josh Unterbrink, Co-Director of Activate Allen County, recently met with BPC representatives and indicated that BPC is a good candidate for the program. The action plan phase consists of developing a narrative action plan and budget. BPC's deadline for completing an action plan is soon, **August 15**. Following submission, action plans are reviewed and approved by Activate Allen County. The implementation plan would consist of us receiving funding and implementing the action plan. Activate Allen County would also conduct a follow-up assessment.

Keeping in mind our August 15 deadline for completing an action plan, we seek your input and assistance in identifying a good Challenge project and developing the action plan. Please offer your thoughts, ideas, and questions to Pastor Karol, Carole Enneking, or Clair Winebar no later than July 14.

Preliminary discussions of a potential Challenge project included the installation of a bike rack to promote healthy forms of transportation. Potential users of a bike rack would include church members, preschool clients, and possibly general downtown visitors (depending on placement). We also discussed potentially installing and maintaining a healthy recipe card rack to the free little pantry, sanctuary, or bulletin board. Our action plan could also possibly consist of multiple projects. A requirement of the Challenge is that projects must be designed with a goal of resulting in sustainable benefits.



Daily Devotional Books

For many years, copies of two daily devotional books have been made available in the church sanctuary for personal and family use. We are considering a continuation of our subscription to Our Daily Bread and a cancellation of The Upper Room. Before we do so, we would like to get any feedback from those who frequently use the resources. If anyone wishes to continue receiving a copy regularly of The Upper Room, please contact Pastor Karol or Cathy Carroll.



Word in the World

You are invited to the weekly Word in the World discussions with Pastor Karol. Join us Wednesday mornings 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 this month on July 10, 17, and 24.

Church Security

Bluffton Police Chief Ryan Burkholder met with Pastor Karol, Don Brauen, Lori Schmidt, and Clair Winebar to discuss church security. Topics included: security during worship service, security during week, financial security, evacuation plans for fire/weather emergencies, staff background checks, and emergency contact list. If you are interested in helping to create our church's plan, please contact Pastor Karol or Lori Schmidt.

Due to an increased focus of preventative security measures, Pastor Karol will be implementing a new practice of locking the external office door when no one else is in the building. If you would like to enter the building during the week and do not have a key, simply knock on the door; Pastor Karol will come meet you at the door if she is here.

National Night Out – Tuesday August 6

This is a great way for our congregation to be visible in the community. Volunteers are needed from 4:00 to 6:00 PM and 6:00 to 8:00 PM to help with serving food and helping with kid's games. Contact Carole Enneking, Sarah Brauen, or Lynda Best for more information.



Community Vacation Bible School

Community Vacation Bible School will be held July 21- July 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at St. John's United Church of Christ. The theme is *Hero Central Discovering Your Strength in God*. We are in charge of the snack area and need 3-4 volunteers each night to help prep and serve the snacks. We also need to have 4 volunteers each night to serve as group leaders for the various age group as they move from place to place each night. **We need to have our volunteer list turned in by July 15.**

Any help you can offer is greatly appreciated! There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary or you can contact Tenna Rhonemus if you are able to volunteer. Registration forms are also available in the back of the sanctuary. They can be turned into Tenna Rhonemus or dropped off at St. John United Church of Christ.

Fall Faith Formation Discussion

The Faith Formation Committee will be hosting a discussion after worship on Sunday, July 21. We would like to gather thoughts and ideas on how we can encourage *Growing in Faith - Sharing God's Love* at Bluffton Presbyterian Church. Adults and children are encouraged to join the conversation. A light lunch will be provided. For planning purposes please RSVP to Tenna Rhonemus by July 14.

Highlights of June Session Meeting

- Approved request from Bill Triplett to use the church basement on July 19 (Friday PM) and 20 (Saturday AM) to prep for the Ride to Remember which raises funds for Bluffton bike paths.
- May Pastoral Care: 8 home/hospital/nursing home visits and 12 cards sent. Home Communion on May 19 with Deacon Dave Van Eman, Clara Brauen – served 2 and June 2 with Deacon Jeanette Warren and Owen Brauen – served 1. Congregational activities: Word in the World discussion group, Claralice Circle, Sister Min Circle, funeral and graveside for Jean Braden, completed Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations process, Church Security Meeting, Steve and Tammie Mericle recognized as new members, and committee meetings. Presbytery activities: Presbytery Meeting in Waterville and “Spiritual Leadership in a God-Powered Church” Seminar in Norwalk. Community Engagement activities: BAMA Meetings (2) and led worship service at Mennonite Memorial Home – with communion. Approved Vacation request - Thursday, July 18.
- Still waiting to hear from village concerning grading of soil along edge of alley. Church sign at the corner is being cleaned/repainted/ and new bulb installed. Light bulbs replaced in the sanctuary. Motion detector light installed by preschool rear door. Stairway behind sanctuary cleaned out and plan to place non-stick tread surface on the steps. Approved that the former nursery items (stored in closet at manse) be donated to Family Promise or sold online. Bottom weather-stripping needs replaced on the French door leading to patio at the manse. Several shingles are missing from church roof and needs to be investigated.
- Approved that our share of Pentecost Offering be given to “Freedom School” – summer program for youth in Lima.
- Presbytery met on May 21 at Waterville Presbyterian Church. Elected Rev. David Montgomery as Vice Moderator for 2020. Approved that Maumee Valley Presbytery concur with the request of the Grace Presbyterian Church Congregation (Toledo) to close their church and direct the ACDC to work with the Grace Administrative Commission in dissolving the corporation of Grace Presbyterian Church. Approved that Maumee Valley Presbytery agree to the sale of the Grace Presbyterian Church building and property to The Tabernacle for \$160,000 with the understanding that the building will not be sold in the next five years without a portion of the proceeds going to Maumee Valley Presbytery after improvements are subtracted. Hope is that after all expenses are reimbursed to Maumee Valley Presbytery (loans that were paid by MVP, past unpaid per capita, and other unpaid expenses) the money that is left will be used to support racial justice ministry. Approved transfer of lot with house owned by Lima Market Street Presbyterian Church to Family Promise of Lima, OH - future use of the lot and house will be a day care center for Family Promise.
- Church has been approved for a Chase "Ink Business Cash" credit card account. Three credit cards given to Darin Leugers, Cathy Carroll, and Clair Winebar to purchase church goods and services. The cards will have no annual fee. A \$10,000 check was received from the Board of Pensions for Pastor Karol's grant under the Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations program. The check is to be cashed by the church and contributed into Pastor Karol's retirement savings plan as an employer contribution.

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.

3 Cents A Meal Offering

Three Cents a Meal invites every member of our congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Ideally, contributions come from “living more simply so that others may simply live.” Participation in Three Cents a Meal is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus’ command, “You give them something to eat.” Daily participation is a reminder of the reality of hunger for millions of our sisters and brothers in the world. As the money accumulates, those participating become aware that small, regular acts can result in significant responses to hunger and that there is great strength in working together with other Christians. We collect this offering on the first Sunday of each month.

Consider Advance Directives

One important thing we can all do is take time to think about end of life issues. One aspect of this is considering our future healthcare options and standards for quality of life. It is important to have the *documents* completed, but it is more important to have the *conversations* about what your health care wishes are, if in the event you are unable to speak for yourself, the person you appoint knows how you want to be cared for and decisions are made that reflect your wishes. Pastor Karol has information in the church office if you would like to learn more.



May 2019 Financial Report

Thank you for financially supporting the church’s budget.

Wills Questions and Answers

The following was excerpted from an article that appeared in the New York Times on February 8, 2017. If you are thinking about drawing up a will or revising an existing will, please take into consideration the role Bluffton Presbyterian Church plays in your life.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee

Do you like thinking about your death? Probably not and that is why you are likely among the 58% of people in this country who do not have a will (Source: Caring.com). If you are among the 58% you may find the following Q&A helpful.

Q - What happens if I die without a will?

A - Your estate will be settled in accordance with state law which typically means your assets go first to a spouse, then to children, then to your siblings and so on. This may not necessarily be in accordance with your wishes.

Q - Must I have a lawyer draw up my will?

A - Not necessarily. Creating a will with a do-it-yourself software program may be acceptable in some cases – for example, if you are a single person with modest assets or a couple with no children. But if you have significant financial assets or a complex family situation – it is best to seek expert advice.

Q - How much will a will cost me?

A - The price varies by location, but nationally a couple will most likely pay between \$1200 and \$5000 for an estate planning package that includes wills and related documents such as healthcare powers of attorney. Online options include LegalZoom which offers wills for as low as \$69. Quicken Willmaker can be downloaded or purchased as a disk, Prices range from \$35 to \$55 depending on the version.

Q - Once I have a will, where should I keep it?

A - If a professional prepared your will you should keep the original document at the lawyer’s office. If you created the will yourself you could either keep it at home – perhaps in a fireproof safe – or in a bank safe deposit box.

Freedom School

The Mission Committee plans to use our **40% of this year's Pentecost Offering** to support the Freedom School through Trinity United Methodist Church in Lima. Checks may be made to Bluffton Presbyterian Church with Pentecost Offering in the memo. Freedom School is a summer literacy and cultural enrichment program. This year, the Lima program will serve 40-50 children in grades K-5 at South Magnet School from June 17 - July 26 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

If you would like to volunteer directly with the program, people are needed to read to the children in the mornings. If interested in becoming a **volunteer reader**, please contact Andrea Guice, Program Director, at 419-228-7766 or aguice1@woh.rr.com. Thank you for your support of this special offering that assists young people in our region and around the world.



Deacons

- Ordered Presbyterians Today magazine.
- The church kitchen was cleaned on meeting night. There is a glass lid to a casserole dish and glass pie plate located on kitchen counter if you are missing one.
- There will be no Deacons meeting in July, but please contact any Deacon if needed.

(Tanya, Craig, Marilyn, Dave, Jeanette, Helen)

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.

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 website:

www.blufftonpc.org/sermons.



BPC Swimming/Potluck Picnic

Betsey Angus will have a summer party at her home on Saturday, July 20. Anyone can come out and swim at 4:00 PM and there will be a potluck picnic at 5:30 PM, weather permitting. Table service, meat, water, and lemonade will be provided. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share. Also bring your lawn chairs and a life jacket if you are going to swim. RSVP appreciated at 419-643-8000.



K & C

BECAUSE YOU HAVE SHARED IN THEIR LIVES
WITH YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE

Karol June Farris
&
Christopher Lawrence Schilling

REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT THEIR WEDDING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

2:30PM CENTRAL TIME

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PARIS
241 WEST COURT STREET
PARIS, ILLINOIS

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
O'SHAUGHNESSY HALL
SAINT MARY OF THE WOODS, INDIANA



RSVP by July 19 at www.theknot.com/us/karolandchris, or
call 567-226-1123. More details can be found on our website.

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**Reception for Karol Farris and Chris Schilling
Sunday, September 15, after Worship**

Mark your calendars! We'll all gather on the church lawn to congratulate Pastor Karol and Chris, who will be married August 10. In case of rain, the party will be moved into the fellowship hall. Details in upcoming newsletters and Sunday bulletins.

You are invited to contribute toward a Love Gift for the happy couple, which will be presented at the reception. Please make checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, and write Love Gift on the memo line. Mail to the church, place in the offering plate, or bring to the church office. Cash gifts, in an envelope marked Love Gift, may be brought to the church office or placed in the offering plate.



Mission Committee

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in July. The items needed this month are **cereal and canned fruit**. 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 Going Strong!

Our church's Little Free Pantry is making a difference in the lives of those who use it. The LFP's mission is to help people with immediate food needs.

Church members (and even people from the community) keep the LFP stocked. We are grateful for your support!

When donating items to the LFP, please remember: **no glass jars or bottles**, which can break if dropped. Instead, consider donating non-perishables in cans or boxes: vegetables, canned chicken, beef, or salmon, cereal, oatmeal, pasta, canned pasta sauce, rice, noodles, granola bars, dried fruit, Tuna Helper, mac and cheese, etc.

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

For safety's sake, please check the expiration dates of the items you donate. 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!

“Our Daily Bread” Mobile Meals

Mennonite Memorial Home and Hilty Home both offer a mobile meals program known as “Our Daily Bread.” Through this program, a hot noon meal is delivered Monday through Friday within a 5-mile radius of Bluffton and Pandora. Cost is just \$5/meal. Call 419-358-1015, Ext. 218 for more information.



Host Families Needed through EMF

We are a small non-profit, foreign-exchange student organization looking for caring host families in your community, and we need your help! We have 2 Christian students from Spain who would like to come for the 2019-2020 school year and are waiting for their match with a volunteer host family. Many school districts in the United States limit the number of exchange students; they are willing to accept to just a few.

This is why it is important for host families to apply as soon as possible. I do believe that sharing the life of an American host family and going to school contributes to a better world understanding and is an unforgettable experience for both the student and the host family.

American students benefit from meeting foreign students. In the past, churches have been very helpful in assisting us in finding volunteer host families. Open your heart and home to a Christian exchange student from Spain for the coming 2019-2020 school year.

Volunteer host families (with or without children), as well as single parents are needed to provide food, a bed, and a loving home for the coming school year, one or two semesters, starting in August. EMF students have medical insurance, spending money for their personal expenses and expect to share their host family's daily lift including household responsibilities. They speak English, are well-screened and eager to experience life in America. Their stay here is sponsored by EMF (Educational Merit Foundation), a non-profit, educational exchange organization. For more information on EMF students, please call Marie-Claude Dijoud now at 1-800-467-8363 or visit our Web Site at WWW.EMFUSA.ORG.



Prayer Requests

Prayers of Sympathy for Valorie Vandernaald and family on the loss of Pastor Lew on June 12.

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

Prayers of Healing for Laura & Tyler From, Mark From, Bob McVetta, Wally Herald, Bob Braden, Jeremy Szabo, Yvonne Shaffer, David Fisher, Sasha Jeffries, Scott Benroth, Mark Blunk and David Rempelsmucker.

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 (419-722-3793). PLEASE leave a message if no answer. If you can’t reach Jeanette, please call Helen Hawk (419-516-3125). PLEASE leave a message, if no answer. Or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and we 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.

Praying for You Cards

The Deacons have started a program with “Praying for You” cards available in the pews for you to write notes to others. Ideas for who to write to include: homebound members, those on our prayer list, and our Church Person of the Week. Upon receipt of a card in the offering plate, the Deacons will mail it during the following week to the recipient you have indicated. Let’s send some kindness to those who could use our prayers!

Birthdays

- July 1 Judy Evans
- Brandie Wagner
- 5 Dave Van Eman
- 6 Lisa Culbertson
- 8 Kim Best
- 10 Bill Gable
- 16 Diane Winebar
- 19 Bob Braden
- Ryan Brauen
- 23 William Culburtson
- 24 Betsey Angus
- 29 Brennan Leugers
- 30 Mike Rhonemus
- August 4 Judy Miracle



Thank you to Lynda Best, Dave and Linda Sycks, Owen Ziessler, Clair Winebar, and Chris Schilling for helping beautify the manse on July 24. Also thank you to Laura From for mulching the sign out front and to Jodi Brauen for helping with church flowers and bushes.

Thank you to all who donated and helped with Relay for Life. ~ Lynda Best

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. Your Chili Cookoff was obviously a great success and we really appreciate your kind gift!

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

Summer Schedule
Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris
Phone: 419-581-9232
Email: pastor@blufftonpc.org
Office Hours: Mon 2-5, Tues 9-2,
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

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman
Choir Director: Linda Sycks
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
New Beginnings – Sarah Brauen
Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Cindy Gillen
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: Tanya Best, Craig Bowman, Marilyn
Edwards, Dave Van Eman, and Jeanette Warren