



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

June 2013

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 2 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: The Sycks Family

Lay Reader: Tammie Hursh

Greeters: The Hursh Family

Acolytes: Libby and Paige McVetta

Sunday, June 9

Food Pantry

Special Music: The Rhonemus Family

Lay Reader: Tenna Rhonemus

Greeters: The Rhonemus Family

Acolytes: Megan Sycks and Patrick Rhonemus

Sunday, June 16 – Father's Day

Special Music: The Szabo Family

Lay Reader: Bob or Tammie Hursh

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolytes: Will and Tucker Neff

Sunday, June 23

Special Music: Sarah Gillen and Karis Wilson

Lay Reader: George Stultz

Greeters: Roy and Mariah Pneuman

Acolytes: Skyler and Samantha Scoles

Sunday, June 30

Special Music: Lori Schmidt

Lay Reader: Dave Sycks

Greeters: Sycks Family

Acolytes: Sarah Gillen and Avery Talavinia

Sunday, July 7

Lay Reader: Carole Enneking

Greeters: The Scoles Family

Acolytes: James Marshall and Jacob Szabo

Mark Your Calendars!

- June 2 – Graduate Recognition
- June 2 – Open Forum – 9:30 AM
- June 2 – Alternative Devotions – 5:00 PM
- June 3 – Session Meeting – 700 PM
- June 6 – Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – Meet in Church Parking Lot – 9:40 AM
- June 9 – Open Forum – 9:30 AM
- June 9 – Alternative Devotions – 5:00 PM
- June 14 – Wheels Festival Dinner – 5:00-7:00 PM – Church Lawn
- June 16 – Father's Day
- June 16 – Open Forum – 9:30 AM
- June 16 – Alternative Devotions – 5:00 PM
- June 19 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 PM
- June 23 – Open Forum – 9:30 AM
- June 23 – Alternative Devotions – 5:00 PM
- June 24 – Prayer Luncheon – 11:00 AM
- June 30 – Open Forum – 9:30 AM
- June 30 – Alternative Devotions – 5:00 PM
- June 30 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- July 7 – Open Forum – 9:30 AM
- July 7 – Alternative Devotions – 5:00 PM



Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to present in church during the month of June, get it to the church office and it will be announced by our Worship Leader for the month.

June Worship Leader – Dave Kisor

Pastor's Letter

In the early days of colonial New England, there was an eclipse of the sun. Not having enough scientific background to explain or predict an eclipse, there were those who wished to give the phenomenon a more sinister meaning – surely such an event signaled the end of the world, or some such calamity. Lamar Williamson, Jr in his History of New England explains what happened amongst men seated in a meeting of the colonial legislature:

“The sky turned dark rapidly and without explanation. Some of the legislators panicked and several moved to adjourn. But one of them said, “Mr. Speaker, if it is not the end of the world, and we adjourn, we shall appear to be fools. If it is the end of the world, I should choose to be found doing my duty. I move you, sir, that candles be brought.”

Mark's Gospel tells of a conversation Jesus had with four of his followers (Peter, James, John, and Andrew). Jesus and his disciples had spoken that day concerning the destruction of the temple and the subsequent war that was to envelop Jerusalem (Mark 13). These words must have seemed to have taken on fresh meaning to the early Christian church at the time that the Gospel of Mark was written because these words were set down in the years immediately following the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. The disaster was no longer a prediction – it was a reality. Early Christians must have been asking themselves: “What should we be doing in times like this?”

The parable that Jesus shares concerns a man going on a journey, leaving his servants with work to do, and no clear understanding of when he will return. *“It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come....”* The paradox of the parable is that it tells us to watch, while at the same time it tells us that we have jobs to do. Perhaps it does not seem possible to do both at once, but on the other hand, perhaps doing our jobs is one way of watching. As we walk down the path that Christ has shown us, as we share with others a

cup of cold water, learn to forgive, do unto others as he did unto us, and hold God holy in our hearts, are we not watching for Him until He comes? Could there possibly be a better way to watch?

Recently, in the United States (and around the world) we have been shocked by tragedy, from the different shootings to local murders. And now we're facing the problems with the tornadoes in Oklahoma. A portion of the state hit three times in recent memory. After each occurrence, there is a temptation to wander around, at a loss and confused. It's easy to become lost in the feeling: “what do we do now?” The Church, like anyone else, can be stunned by tragedy. It is good to remember that, no matter what happens, we (Christians and the Church) have work to do. As Christ teaches: *“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”* (Matthew 25:40) Our best response to tragedy is to get back to the work of the Church. It is the best way to watch.

~Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke



April Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 11,193.46
Receipts	14,476.07
Expenses	(16, 368.73)
Balance	\$ 9,300.80

To be paid back \$ 0.00

One Great Hour of Sharing \$895.35
Bake Sale Proceeds \$356.75

Per Capita

It's not too late 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 \$27.95 per member in 2013. Thank You!



Remodeling Fund Drive

As of March's Session Meeting, the church is now accepting donations for the project of fixing up our basement / kitchen area. Plans are that we will paint, carpet, and otherwise tidy-up the area. It is also hoped that we might improve storage facilities in our church for the benefit of all. If you would like to contribute financially, drop / mail your donation to office or drop it in an offering plate. Please mark your donation "basement project" or "building funds" so that your donation will reach the appropriate funds.

Wheels Festival Dinner

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will be serving a dinner on the Church lawn during the Wheels Festival on June 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. As always, we are looking for volunteers to help! A copy of the "Volunteers List" is provided in the newsletter. If you can help in any of these categories, it would be **GREATLY** appreciated! Please put the completed lists in the offering plate on Sunday, or take to the church office, or give to either Betsey Angus or Cathy Carroll. Thank you!

Nursery Volunteers

Want to get to know the younger youth better? We still need volunteers for the nursery. A sign-up sheet for the months of June – August is in the back of the church.

Community Vacation Bible School

This year's Community Vacation Bible School for ages 4 years through 5th grade will be hosted by First Mennonite Church and will be held July 21 - 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM each night. We are responsible for Preschool this year, along with St. John's United Church of Christ. Additional information on number of volunteers and supplies needed will be provided in July.

Open Forum with Pastor Matthew

On June 2 through July 28, Pastor Matthew will be facilitating an open forum at the church from 9:30-10:00 on Sunday morning. This is a great time to bring thoughts, ideas, and questions about church, church history, theology, etc. in an unstructured, casual environment. Hope to see you there.



Prayers of Celebration with the Class of 2013.

Prayers of Sympathy with the families of Sherry Halker and Dean Martin.

Prayers for the Communities of Shawnee and Moore, Oklahoma.

Prayers for the Community of Ottawa.

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

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Gordan Diller, Darlene Hey, Brenda Anderson, Rebecca Hursey, Ken and Helen Kershner, Shirley Reineke, and Michael Lee Bucher.



BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or dwinebar711@gmail.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 be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Diane or another deacon.



Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next date for serving lunches at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen will be June 6. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Shirley Kisor. Volunteers meet at the church parking lot at 9:40 AM and typically return by 12:30 PM.



Food Pantry Meal Sunday

Reminder: Our church continues to support the Bluffton Community Assistance Program. With the reorganization of the food pantry, our congregation is encouraged to continue to emphasize the 3Cs: cereal, crackers, and cookies. There is also a current need for canned fruit. If you would like to continue to support this mission, please bring donations the second Sunday of each month.

Our church has also been placed on the program coordinator's list – so stay tuned for opportunities to help organize donations during local events promoting our local food pantry.

Get Ready for Christmas in July!

Once again, the Mission Committee is planning to celebrate a bit early with a "Christmas in July" service project to support two Lima area missions, The Samaritan House and Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen. Summer can be a time when donations run low, so Bluffton Presbyterian Church will be collecting food and other needed items to help these organizations.

The "items in need" board will again be placed in the back of the sanctuary starting **July 14**. Please choose an ornament and bring your donations to the collection boxes in the back of the church by **August 4**. Let's help spread Christian Joy throughout the year!

Happy Birthday!!



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|------|----|---------------------------------|
| June | 1 | Michelle Zuehlke |
| | 3 | Carla Montgomery |
| | 6 | Sheila Hurlburt
Donnas Stone |
| | 10 | Andrew Van Horn |
| | 11 | Nicole Edelbrock |
| | 12 | Lori Schmidt |
| | 15 | Samantha Scoles |
| | 17 | Jeremy Enneking
Min Lindsey |
| | 19 | Don Brauen |
| | 22 | Gabrielle Sneary |
| | 25 | Twylah Ludwig |
| July | 1 | Brandie Carroll |
| | 3 | Alice Niswander |
| | 6 | Lisa Hursey |
| | 8 | Stephanie Scoles |



The Deacons sincerely appreciate all of the support from the congregation in hosting the Community Meal on May 16. About 80 people enjoyed our meal. Thank you to those who volunteered to bake pies, made monetary donations, and to those who assisted with serving and clean up. The evening was a tremendous success!

Highlights of May Session Meeting

- Approved using \$600 from Marge Triplett Memorial for the sound/light project approved in February. Approved designating Madelyn Kimmel's Memorial fund (\$600) for choir music to be used at discretion of BPC's music ministry personnel.
- Handbells were borrowed by music professor at Bluffton College for two weeks – previously approved in winter. Granted approval to Min Lindsey to use two tables for Craft Show. Approved request from Carole Enneking to use tables/chairs for Graduation Party on Sunday, May 26.
- Craft Show lunch profits were \$454 – good considering cold weather. Thanks to all who donated their time, baking talents, and financial contributions. Money from this event is placed in the General Fund.
- The 2012 IRS Form 990 was filed to obtain the 2012 health care subsidy. Financial audit for 2012 was completed by accounting students in an auditing class at Ohio Northern University. Exit meeting was held on May 2, attended by Beth Buist and Clair Winebar. Good report, complimentary of Treasurer's work. Their three recommendations of backing up Treasurer's computer weekly, written write-ups of routine procedures, and software presently being used for payroll and financial reports is owned by another business. These items have already been addressed. Approved participating in the Scrips gift card program – members/friends may order gift cards with the church receiving rebate. There is no overhead cost for participating in the program. Complete information about this program will be coming from the program's coordinator.
- Session is discussing various options for making the basement handicap accessible. Some options were presented and Session is interested in estimates for exterior switchback to also include regular exterior steps at that door. Update on the basement project – storage was installed in a couple of closets, tent is now stored in furnace room, decided to eliminate renovations of countertops which was included in the original proposal, some mold was found in one small area, and carpeting will not be laid until final decision made concerning handicap ramp. Approved using the Noah's Ark décor (from the basement) in the nursery. Approved having burgundy accent wall in kitchen.
- Personnel Committee met in April with Pastor Matthew for his annual review. Approved hiring Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke for another year (September 1, 2013 until August 31, 2014). Expect financial package to be approved at June's session meeting.
- Approved authorizing Pastor Matthew to officiate at wedding for Kori Clum and Travis Phipps at Bluffton Baptist Church on June 8, 2013. Original pastor no longer is in Bluffton. Approved allowing Pastor Matthew continuing education time and remaining continuing education money to attend "Big Tent" Conference in Louisville, KY from July 31 – August 5. Because lodging, registration, and toddler program for Ariana, expenses will exceed amount in Continuing Education line and Pastor Matthew will pay the difference. Monday morning "Coffee Time" is on hiatus for May – perhaps longer. Alternative Devotions – Sunday at 5:00p.m. began on May 12.
- Approved having June's stated meeting on Monday, June 3 – change necessary because of elders' vacation schedules. There will not be a stated meeting in July.

Wheels Festival Dinner
Friday, June 14, 2013, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

We will be serving a dinner on the church lawn for the Wheels Festival Friday evening, June 14, with proceeds going to the general fund. Ted's Market in Pandora will be providing chicken dinners, and the church will be doing hot dogs, desserts, and drinks.

If you can help set up, tear down, serve, or donate food or supplies, please sign up below. *Monetary donations for supplies would also be greatly appreciated.*

Thanks for any help you can give!

- _____ Help set up tables/tent on lawn 3:30 pm
- _____ Food set up 3:30 – 5:00 pm
- _____ Serve 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- _____ Help tear down/clean up

Supplies

- _____ packages hot dogs
- _____ packages hot dog buns
- _____ 12 or 24 pack pop/diet pop
- _____ pie(s)
- _____ cookies/brownies

Please place in offering plate or call Betsey 419-643-8000 or Cathy 419-477-5266 to volunteer.

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Name: _____ Phone No.: _____

What bringing: _____

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

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke
Email: revdrmz@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 567-825-3973
Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll
Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com
Office Hours: Tues & Wed 9:00-12:30
Website: blufftonpc.org

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

2013 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Owen Ziessler
Christian Education – Jay McCracken
Finance – Clair Winebar
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – Kay Ziessler and Tom Edwards
Personnel – Kay Ziessler
Presbytery Commissioner – Darlene Hey
Worship – Jeanette Warren
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Rhonda Moor, and Donnas Stone

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Shirley Kisor
Members: Don Carroll, Laura From, Darlene Hey, Lin Rumer, and Diane Winebar.