



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

June 2017

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, June 4 – Pentecost

Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Good Group

Lay Reader: George Stultz

Greeters: Brauen Family

Acolyte: Owen Brauen

Sunday, June 11

Retirement Party Following Worship

Food Pantry

Special Music: Dave Good/Dave Sycks

Lay Reader: Sue Mathewson

Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall

Acolyte: Megan Sycks

Sunday, June 18

Pulpit – Susan Meier

Special Music: Lori Schmidt

Lay Reader: Lori Schmidt

Greeters: McVetta Family

Acolytes: McVetta Girls

Sunday, June 25

Pulpit – Tenna Rhonemus

Organist: Sue Van Eman

Lay Reader: Tammie Hursh

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avert Talavinia

Sunday, July 2

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Pulpit – Tanya Best

Lay Reader: Lin Rumer

Mark Your Calendars!

- June 4 – Fellowship for Graduate Recognition and Pentecost – Sponsored by Worship and Christen Ed Committees – Following Worship
- June 4 – Relay for Hope Fundraiser Picnic on the Lawn – Following Worship
- June 8 – Session – 7:00 PM
- June 11 – Pastor Dave's Last Sunday and Retirement Dinner – Following Worship
- June 16 – Wheels Festival Dinner – 4:30-7:30 PM – Church Lawn
- June 16 – Animated Movie "Sing" Sponsored by Ignite – 9:15 PM – Church Lawn
- June 18 – Happy Father's Day
- June 19 – Family Promise – St. Mary's Catholic Church – 5:00 to 8:00 PM
- June 21 – New Beginnings – 6:30 PM
- June 21 – Deacons – 7:00 PM
- June 23 – Bluffton Relay for Hope – BFR
- June 25 – Ignite Pool Party, Fellowship, and Meal – At the home of the Gillen's – 3:00 to 7:00 PM
- June 25 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- June 28 – Open House Retirement Party for Tanya Best – Red Pig Inn, Ottawa, OH – 5:00 to 9:00 PM
- July 2 – Fellowship sponsored by Ignite – Following Worship
- July 16-20 – Vacation Bible School – English Lutheran Church – 6:00 to 8:00 PM

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.

Stuff

At the close of our time I bring you a significant thought,

buried beneath a simple title.

Stuff – Part 1

I thought Part 2 was first. But there is something that must be said first. Our culture **is obsessed with stuff**. **BECAUSE THEY CAN SELL IT TO YOU AND MAKE MONEY!!!**

So we have advertising. We had ads in the Sunday paper (in the 1980's) but now we have "Push" advertising. Coming to your phone or tablet. Tailored to your viewing history. And we have designer everything. And you need it. You desperately need it! You can't live without it. (Buyer beware because – Part 2)

NOT

Stuff – Part 2

And here is the truth of it.

Stuff Doesn't Matter.

In the end...

You can't take it with you. This fact is the stuff of irony and jokes across decades of life. **YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU**. Movies have pictured it, plays have dramatized it, books have written it, and sermons have extolled. You can't take it with you.

It doesn't make you happy. It is not love. **It is not life.**

And in the end. *It is nothing.*

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,

Stuff doesn't matter.

Designer clothes = dust. Phone and tablet = ashes. Furniture = dust. Jewelry = ashes. Tools = dust. Paper = ashes. Yes, even books = dust.

Whatever you think is precious. It is dust. (Well Dave, thanks for that uplifting message.)

Stuff – Part 3

Except. Except that stuff carries bits of life. Laid on its back like a saddle bag, stuff can carry association. Association is **life one step removed**. And here is where we can get confused. The certificate of achievement on the wall – it carries memories of hope, and creativity, and accomplishment, it carries years or decades of effort. Your musical instrument carries the flavor of melody and rhythm. Books. Books carry the taste of distant worlds, and familiar (like family) characters. A wedding ring embodies love and commitment and years of shared life. A picture brings to the eye and mind that time and place, whether with joy or despair. That electronic tablet is the connection point, that communication "interface" with abiding friends and family and insignificant "likes", thumbs down and "trolls". The table from grandmother's house is an accumulation of Sunday dinners shared, bread broken, excellent pork chops, family laughter, tense moments and revelations, and Grandmother quick to jump from the table to serve.

All of these are – associations. Associations of **life**. Memories. But even when passed as stories from one generation to the next, they fade. So there it is. **Stuff**.

Warning: **They will sell it to you – and it's a lie.**

It doesn't matter – in the end.

Yet it may carry associations of **life** which are powerful – for at least a time. The associations are powerful because **life empowers them**.

But that brings us to the actual heart of the matter.

Life. Live it. Give it.

Build relationships which touch the lives of others, so that **life** redounds, across decades, generations, and communities.

This life **will** pass away. End. Relationships will have their season; their time.

But life and relationships – **are a part of God, and have their place in God.** And even while they pass, unable to be held or put in a bank, they are **real.** They are **real** in God.

Treasure this life.

Live it. Give it. Share it.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Personal reflection:

Regarding Your Support

A word about your support for me across these last few weeks, weeks which are a blur of grief, travail, struggle, and the support of friends. 3 weeks ago, or even 4, Lori spoke to me to say: “Whatever time you need to, take. Take it, we can cover it. You need to do what needs to be done.” And I thank her for saying that, and for stating it to and with the Session at their meeting. But I need to say, I already knew it. I knew Bluffton. I knew your love for me. I knew your support. From the beginning, I knew it.

So while I charted a course, a course which required revision every week as things progressed so quickly, **I knew** a full week **before anything was said.** I knew your support. I knew your love. And I knew your encouragement through the difficulties. (Thank you)

From the first to the last, **God has blessed me with you.** You are a blessing. AMEN

A Proper Good bye

My Friends, **I will** write and send a proper good bye. But given the travail of these last weeks, and given the pressures of this week I will send it as a Newsletter Post script. So, till next week, or so.....

You have, as always,
my thanks, my affection, and the love of Christ.

Dave

Pastor Dave’s Retirement Party

Pastor Dave's retirement celebration will be Sunday, June 11 following the morning worship service. All are invited to share favorite memories and join us for fellowship during lunch - BBQ chicken, beef brisket, cheesy potatoes, calico beans, salads, cake, and drinks.



New Beginnings – May 24, 2017

- No meeting in April due to scheduling conflicts.
- Looking for volunteers to assist with video editing and uploading of sermons.
- "Little Free Pantry" is under construction, summer installation targeted.
- Preschool planning is progressing, safety inspection has passed, awaiting Fire Marshall inspection results.
- Suggested items: a community playground on the lawn; coordinate with the library to provide after school childcare for approximately 1-hour until the start of 4:00 PM library programs.
- Still looking for an additional 1-2 volunteers to join the group.
- Next Meeting: June 21 at 6:30 PM.

Highlights of May's Session Meeting

- Pastor Nominating Committee is meeting weekly. Participated in MVP's "Meet and Dream" on April 29. Received 1st set of 30 Pastor Information Forms which we reviewed/evaluated. Received 2nd set of 30 Pastor Information Forms. Able to utilize technology – asking for video sermons.
- Approved by electronic vote 8-0 Ignite's request for church lawn on June 16 to show movie. Approved by electronic vote 8-0 request from Dick McGarrity to share cost of Exit light expense with Bluffton Preschool. Total amount of electrician's bill was \$135.
- Planning to have a work day at the manse in June after Pastor Dave moves out. Manse committee consisting of Jodi Brauen, Cathy Carroll, and Lynda Best walked through the manse and made the following recommendations: Kitchen – replace the countertop and make the bar and countertop the same height, remove pot/pan rack and replace with a light, add trim to cupboards and paint, new hardware, remove end shelves on peninsula, new vinyl flooring, new lights about sink and dining room table, paint, new backsplash, new sink, paint/scrape windows, new light going into basement. Bathroom – remove wall which separates areas, paint cupboards, new hardware, new light above mirror, new vinyl flooring, paint, new towel bars, new fan/light, and new tub/surround. Some of the work could be done by volunteers, other by John Shaw. Approved that up to \$5,000 be used from building fund for expenses to renovate kitchen/bathroom. It's possible that once estimates are in additional money may be needed. Approved to have group start making decisions on countertop and Diller's for flooring so work can begin in June. Approved that John Shaw be contacted by Tom Hursey to get booked into his work schedule. Approved adding new insulated exterior door from kitchen to garage as part of the manse project. Both front door and garage door keyed the same. Front door at manse has been ordered.
- Crimson maple tree in memory of Lynda Best's relatives was planted on the church lawn.
- Received a clean audit report on 2016 Financial Books completed by students at Ohio Northern. Recommended upgrading Quickbooks software – plan to do at end of calendar year.
- Pulpit supply has been secured for June, July, and August – many of those Sundays will be covered by members in our church.
- Pastor Dave led 6 worship services, made visitations, served Communion, breakfast group, plans for Mennonite Home worship on June 6, BAMA - joint worship experience will be in August, not July as previous years, COM, moderator of Ottawa Session. Plans to serve Communion to shut-ins at Maple Crest and Mennonite Home before he retires. Church is to have Devotion in Bluffton News on August 18 – need volunteer to write. Working with Cathy to learn power point for worship services.

Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

Since the PNC was formed, the committee has:

- Met for over 25 hours
- Reviewed 63 candidates
- Watched many, many video sermons - we may be experts at the Easter sermon :)

We continue to evaluate and narrow down potential candidates. We remain optimistic in our search. For further details, please contact any of the committee members.



Deacons Meeting



Deacons Report from May Meeting

- A heart-felt *thank you* to everyone who chose the name of a homebound member on May 7. Those whom you chose will be blessed to receive your card, note, or visit in the coming month. Our next Share the Spirit event will be held in September.
- We reviewed our upcoming event dates for Share the Spirit in Sept. and Nov. Our turn for the Community meal is in July. We will discuss at our next meeting food options.
- We plan to update our Deacon Church Directory with member addresses, phone numbers, emails, and birthdays. You may receive a call over the next few weeks from your deacon if they need to verify your information. These new updates will help us, as well as our new Pastor when he comes.
- If anyone would like to receive the Presbyterian Today Magazine at home, please contact Laura or any Deacon so we can get you signed up. Be on the lookout for the bi-monthly subscriptions as they come in, a few will be placed in the back of the church for all to share.

Retirement Open House

There will be an open house at The Red Pig Inn, Ottawa, Ohio on Wednesday, June 28, from 5:00 to 9:00 PM to celebrate the retirement of Tanya Best from Columbus Grove Local Schools. Only the honor of your presence is requested; no gifts or cards. Just come and enjoy all you can eat ribs, cake, and beverages!



Family Promise

Our next date to host Family Promise guests is Monday, June 19. The meal will be served at St. Mary's Catholic Church. We will need hosts and food to arrive a little before 5:00 PM and stay until 8:00 PM. Tenna will arrive around 6:30 or so to help with clean-up and stay until 8:00, so we need a couple people to arrive at 5:00. Suggested menu items are listed below if you would like to choose a particular item to donate. If you are willing to help with this mission outreach please let Tenna Rhonemus know. She will pass on more details as they are received from St. Mary's.

Sandwiches/ Buns- Tenna
Vegetable or Salad
Fresh Fruit or Fruit Salad
Cheese plate
Dessert
Beverages
Paper Products



Ignite - *merging fellowship, families, and service*

1. We will host a Move Night on the Church Lawn after the Festival of Wheels on Friday, June 16! We have secured a license to play the movie *Sing*. This will be a community event, so please support us by dusting off your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and bringing your neighbors, family, and friends! For questions, please see Diane Winebar or Sarah Brauen.
2. The Gillen's will have a summer party at their home on Sunday, June 25. Anyone can come and swim or just relax and visit at 2:00 PM and there will be a potluck picnic at 5:00 PM. Table service, sandwiches, calico beans, and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. You could also bring your lawn chairs. RSVP if yes at 419-358-5331.



An Invitation to Support our Community!
Team BPC is now forming for the Relay for Hope fundraiser in June.

Members of the congregation and friends are encouraged to help meet the \$500 goal set by the Mission Committee/Team BPC toward this year's local cancer-research fundraiser. You can help meet the goal in a variety of ways:

- Help under-write the rental cost of TWO Inflatable Games at the Relay for Hope on Friday, June 23. Families with children pay a small fee to enjoy the games! If the rental fees are covered by donations, all of the night's income will go toward our goal. Volunteers will be needed that night from 5:30-8:30 PM to help with set-up, collecting money, and running the inflatables (contact Sarah Brauen to sign up).
- Picnic Lunch on the Lawn on Sunday, June 4: proceeds from an informal lunch of hamburgers/hot dogs and sides will go toward our Relay goal of \$500. Donations of food items, drinks, and desserts will increase the profits; volunteers will be needed to grill and serve that day. You can help by supporting the meal and telling your friends and neighbors, too.
- Participate in the Relay for Hope: Members and friends can support the Relay by signing up to walk between 6:00 and 10:00 PM and/or stopping by BFR for dinner and to enjoy the entertainment. Luminaries can be purchased in honor or memory of cancer patients and Flamingos can be sent around town to support the cause, as well.

- If anyone would like to walk, donate time helping with selling shirts or similar things let Lynda Best know 419-296-2790 any help would be appreciated. There will be several family things to do at Relay also, so please stop by to support us. Also any cancer survivor is invited to the survivor meal before Relay and a free shirt. Fill out forms on the bulletin board or contact Lynda Best.

More information will be provided during worship over the next few weeks. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you are invited to make the check payable to the church and mark Relay for Hope on the memo line. Mission Committee contacts are Lynda Best and Carole Enneking.

30-Hour Famine



Wheels Festival

We will be serving a dinner on the church lawn for the Wheels Festival Friday evening from 4:30-7:30 PM on June 16, with proceeds going to the General fund. Ted's Market in Pandora will be providing chicken dinners. Hot dogs, brats, desserts and drinks will also be available. More information on donations and signing up to help will be in next newsletter and church bulletins.

Any questions please call Cindy Gillen 419-358-5331/CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com or Cathy Carroll 419-477-5266/bpcbluff@wcoil.com

Pentecost Offering

On Pentecost we will receive the special Pentecost Offering. This denomination-wide offering focuses on the needs of children. Our congregation retains 40% to use locally. If you know of a program that would benefit from this offering please let Lynda Best or Pastor Dave know.

Make checks out the Bluffton Presbyterian Church and mark Pentecost offering on the memo line. Place donations in the offering plate or send to the Bluffton Presbyterian Church, 112 N. Main St., P.O. Box 149, Bluffton, OH 45817.

Cross Donated by Steven Neff



Steven Neff made and donated a cross to the church. It is in the flower beds next to the basement steps.



Thank You!!!

Thanks for the beautiful floral display for Mom's memorial. And, especially for the potted plants that will continue to be a blessing and comfort to me as I enjoy them for months to come.

Sally (daughter)
For the Good family,
Peterson family, and
Dieringer family.

A heart felt thank you to the young people of the church, and their leaders for including me as a recipient in their Lenten Season Project of learning. A well prepared study and reflection of the events leading to Christ's death and resurrection.

Avis

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of the food pantry. Your kindness helps to feed so many Bluffton families.

THANK YOU to all who worked and/or made donations to make our Craft Show lunch a huge success! Great day when you sell out of brats, hot dogs, and calico beans! Was especially nice to have some of Ropp and Mary Em Triplett's family in town to celebrate with us. Profit is approximately \$650 – Session previously agreed to split the profit with Bluffton Preschool who made donations to make the day a success.

Thanks to mulch fairies – Owen Ziessler and Don Carroll! Church looks very nice. If only those mulch fairies made house calls!!

Thank you to everyone who sent a card, an email, or just stopped me in-person to offer condolences on the recent passing of my mother, Stella Tomlin. Though she didn't visit often, she always enjoyed our special holiday services at BPC.

Tanya Best

Happy Birthday!!



June	1	Michelle Zuehlke
	2	Ethan Fifer
	3	Carla Montgomery
	6	Sheila Hurlburt Donnas Stone
	10	Andrew Van Horn
	11	Nicole Edelbrock
	12	Lori Schmidt
	15	Samantha Scoles Rosalina Aquirre
	17	Jeremy Enneking
	19	Don Brauen
	22	Sue Van Eman Gabrielle Sneary
July	1	Brandie Carroll
	5	Dave Van Eman
	6	Lisa Culburtson

Prayer Requests

Prayers of Sympathy with Pastor Dave and Jane and their family on the recent loss of Dave's Brother Larry.

Prayers of Celebration with Jay and Anne McCracken on the birth of grandson Ryan Robert Blaskay and to Katie and Bryan and Aunt Molly.

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, Autumn Sprunger, Charles and Jane, Bob and Jean Braden, Sylvia Morman, Francis Schmidt, Walter Schmidt, Bob and Betsey Angus, Dorothy Hursey, family of Becky McClellan, Keith and Esther Brauen, John Vrooman, Dortha Radabaugh, Ingo Montgomery, and Peggy Hursey.

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 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.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School, Operation Arctic, will be July 16-20 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM each night. English Lutheran is the host church and we are helping with the preschool area this year. We are in charge of the Bible story and games for these youngsters each night. Typically the preschool group consists of about 50 children (ages 4-6) so we will need 4 volunteers to help move the children between stations, as well as 1 helper with games and 2 with Bible story. It is helpful to have some volunteers available each night, but it is not mandatory. If you are willing to help, please let Carole Enneking or Tenna Rhonemus know. More details will be shared as we move forward with planning.

Small Groups

Both BPC small groups will take a break for the months of June, July, and August. From September through May, The Claralice Circle has been meeting Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the church library. The Sister Min Circle has held meetings from 2:00 to 3:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Fridays at Maple Crest. Look for information about fall scheduling in the August newsletter. If you would like to join, start a new group, or have any questions, see Beth, Diane, Jeanette, Jayne, Mariah, Roy, or George.



Bluffton Area Food Pantry

The Bluffton Area Food Pantry thanks you for your continued support. Listed below are some items to consider for the pantry:

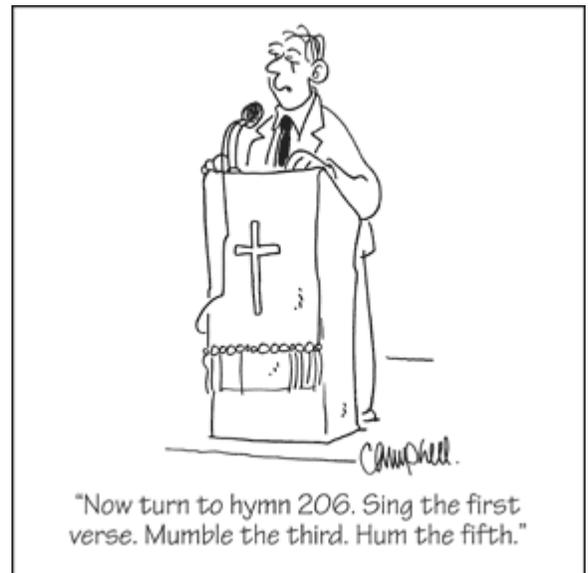
Lotions and Creams
Cereals
Soups and Crackers
Spaghetti and Sauces
Macaroni and Cheese
Paper products: TP, Paper Towels, Kleenex
Canned Fruits
Canned Vegetables (No corn or green beans needed at this time)

Personal Hygiene Products: Deodorant, Shampoo, Hair Care Items (No bath soaps or toothpaste needed at this time)
Spaghetios and similar canned foods
Canned Meats
Hamburger Helper
Tuna and Tuna Helper

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.



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.



Free Outdoor Community Movie!

10¢
popcorn!

family-
friendly
fun!



family-
friendly
fun!

10¢
popcorn!

Friday, June 16, 9:15 p.m. on our church lawn
after the Festival of Wheels

Bring blankets or lawn chairs!

→ Tell your friends and neighbors! See you there! ←

*Sponsored by Ignite of
Bluffton Presbyterian Church*

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

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

2017 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 – Lori Schmidt
Worship – Cindy Gillen
Members at Large – Tom Edwards, Lori
Schmidt, and Phil Weisenbarger

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Laura From
Members: Marilyn Edwards, Barb Fett, Laura
From, Gayle Marshall, Mike Rhonemus, and
Donnas Stone.