



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

March 2017

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 5 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Lori Schmidt

Lay Reader: Leslie Freed

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, March 12

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Diane Winebar

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, March 19

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Megan Sycks

Greeters: Ryan and Sarah Brauen

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

Sunday, March 26

Choir

Lay Reader: Marilyn Edwards

Greeters: John and Gayle Marshall

Acolyte: McVetta Girls

Sunday, April 2 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Carole Enneking



Mark Your Calendars!

- March 5 – Share the Spirit Fellowship – Following Worship
- March 5 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- March 9 – Session – 7:00 PM
- March 10 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- March 12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins – Spring Forward



- March 15 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- March 15 – Praise Team Rehearsal – 7:30 PM
- March 16 – “Being Mortal” Documentary – 5:00 to 7:00 PM – Blanchard Valley Hospital
- March 24 – Sister Min Circle – 2:00 PM – Maple Crest Family Room
- March 26 – Bowling and Lunch – 12:30 to 2:30 PM
- March 26 – Newsletter Deadline
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- April 15 – Deacon’s Annual Easter Bake Sale – 9:00 AM on Church lawn



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.

Small Groups

Claralice Circle:

Tuesday – BPC Library at 6:30 PM

Coffee Talk

Thursday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

It is downright **WEIRD**

It is downright weird to be scheduling Sundays and have it fit on one page and that's it. One page. Period. Everything in life is measured – although we don't see it, by time. Time is that “thing” which is always here and yet it is nowhere. But I will tell you, it travels in one direction. Then it ends. Finishes. Stops. (And become something else.)

And for the first time in a long time, or perhaps ever in my life, I am coming to a big end. Not **the** end. But a big one. But the end of 30 years. All of those changes. All of those efforts/all of those successes and failures. And it comes down to 15 Sundays. “Ready or not here I come” - says time. And change. But it isn't over till it's over.

Before the exam, there is still time to study. Before the deadline for the paper there is still time to work. But in the overall scheme of things I am 1580/1595 done.

Now I am not the only one. Charles is 99 and 46/52 old. We don't know whether the span is 100 years, or 101, or 102. But at some point this journey ends. So, often, we don't talk about it. If we don't talk about it maybe it will go away!(!?)

It's impolite to bring it up. But we have 15 weeks! So, we have 15 weeks to talk about things that matter. And if we don't, then time will go its way. But if we missed it...I'm saying if we missed it, this chance, **it is on us**.

So I am working on this last 15 Sundays as if it was my last. What have I learned? What do I hope for? What do I fear? What have you given me? What have I given you?

For 20 years I have been an interim pastor, and one of the important things for an interim is to “say good bye” before you are done. You say good bye to bring the one time to a close so that the next time can truly begin. You say good bye so that they can move on.

And I am moving on. So I need to say good bye to the ministry which I have known for 1500 Sundays. And which we have shared for 154 weeks, 154 of 169. Incidentally, it is downright weird to be scheduling Sundays and have it fit on one page and that's it. For the first time in 30 years. One page. Period.

So in what remains of our time - my next to last thoughts: the worship outline for 15 weeks: Lent 2017

- Temptation
- For God so loved the world (new life is God's gift)
- The Samaritan woman and the man born blind (new life is our project)
- The man born blind courtesy of Jim Boroff
- Lazarus and the Grand Castle
- Palm and Passion Sunday
- The Resurrection of our Lord - Easter
- He comes to us as one unknown (Emmaus)

And then the last weeks:

- The 12th of April 1961 and what it did to faithful understanding.
- What story do we tell: the selfish darkness of the current story and an increase in hate crimes.
- Atul gawande – “being mortal” and what is important in the end? Is it what we do or who we are? (It's not what you know, it's who you know - in a backwards way.)
- The argument of our time: are we anthropos individualis or anthropos societus?
- It changed my life: “bringing nature home” (we are finally God's ecology!)
- It's what God demanded through the prophets: widows, orphans and immigrants or Women, Refugees, human trafficking and being human (LGBTQ)

I think it will be an interesting 15 weeks. See you there,

Pastor Dave

Highlights of February's Session Meeting

- Session discussed options of called, installed pastor vs. temporary pastor. Motion approved to proceed with a called, installed pastor. Nominating Committee was directed to bring a proposed slate of members of a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Approved to have the stained glass window stored in church basement inspected in preparation for hanging with money to come from memorial fund. Window will be taken to Bigelow Glass in Findlay which specializes in stained glass windows.
- Pastor Dave presided at Ruth Wildermuth's services on January 26, 2017.
- Deacons have reorganized - Laura From – Moderator, Mike Rhonemus – Prayer Chain and Prayer Box Coordinator, Barb Fett and Laura From – Funeral Dinner Coordinators, Marilyn Edwards – Nominating Committee Representative, and Diane Winebar has volunteered to do the Big CARE Cards for the year. Deacons held a funeral dinner for the family of Ruth Wildermuth on Thursday January 26, 2017. Next Share the Spirit Fellowship time will be in March.
- New exterior faucet was installed at the church. Fire extinguishers have been inspected. Condensation pipe at the manse has been fixed. Approved to remove nonfunctioning water softener at the manse and evaluate in the future if it needs to be replaced. Window at the manse has been installed. Ceiling tiles have been temporarily replaced. Discussed that with Pastor Dave retiring, time to redo the kitchen/bath at the manse would be prior to next pastor. Tom, Tom, and Wendell will walk through and make suggestions to Session. Also concern about breaker box and wiring at the manse.
- Approved proposal to start Children's Choir for fall of 2017. Dave and Sue Van Emans have expressed interest in leading.
- Adult Sunday school is using Living the Questions DVD series. Considering offering on a day other than Sunday morning if there is enough interest. Youth Sunday school will be discussing "What Lent Is and What Lent Isn't". They would like to make gifts for homebound members as a service project and are considering "Easter Caroling" with Ignite group. Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$365 for our Food Pantry. 30 Hour Famine will be May 5-6. Youth Group had great time at Scene 75. Retreat consisted of Megan and Sarah – great discussion after watching "Hidden Figures". Pastor Dave led discussion of St. Patrick's Coat of Arm prayer.
- ONU students will soon begin 2016 financial review. Noted that receipts were weak in January – first Sunday was January 1 with low attendance.
- Patrick Harley from Ottawa has resigned to accept new church development position in south and that Pastor Dave will be moderating their session.
- Pastor Dave officiated at Ruth Wildermuth's funeral. Made visitations and served home communion. Participated in BAMA's pulpit exchange and COM retreat.

Deacons' Annual Easter Bake Sale

The Deacons will be restarting their annual Easter Bake Sale on Saturday, April 15 at 9:00 AM. This year we will be selling under a tent set up on our lawn. Yep, you read that right! It's the day before Easter Sunday! Please help us ensure our town will have tasty goodies on their tables this Easter made with the love of Christ from your heart to theirs.

If you are willing to donate any type of baked goods, please complete the donation form and place it in the offering plate or send it into the church office. Be sure to bring your donated items to the church by 8:30 AM that Saturday (as set-up begins shortly after 8:00 AM). If you're unable to bring your baked goods to the church, please contact a deacon, and we'll be happy to pick up your donations!

Opportunity and Connection

Have I got a deal for you. A full year of uplifting stories, mission and service, and life in God's church. It is life as a Presbyterian Today. And for only \$4 a month.

This is a deal so good I think I should offer you a free blender if you will only call this toll free number...(joke)!

If we can get an extra 3 people to subscribe, we will get a price break. The deacons will pick up \$5 and your cost will be \$4.

Uplifting stories, faith, faithfulness, Presbyterians Today. Sign up.

Share the Spirit and Connect with our Homebound!

Share the Spirit is designed to bring our church's homebound members together with caring members of the congregation. To someone who is homebound, being remembered is important. Family also is important, and isn't a church a spiritual family? *Thank you to everyone who has participated in this event in the past.*



Let's do it again! On March 5, you're invited to stay after worship for fellowship time and another opportunity to remember those who

can't share in the life of the church as they once did. There will be cookies and punch for all. We encourage those who wish to take part this month to choose a slip of paper from our basket filled with the names of our homebound members. The next step is to visit the person whose name you have drawn, send an encouraging note/card, or give them a friendly phone call within a month.

This is a wonderful way to reach out to our homebound and offer a sense of connection and belonging. Share the Spirit drawings will be held every few months, so there will be plenty of chances for you (and your family!) to take part in this ministry. We hope you'll say "Yes!" and support a special someone.



Deacons

- Discussed setting future dates for fellowship hour after church.
- Set "Share the Spirit" date for March 5.
- Discussed plans to restart the Easter Bake Sale on our lawn. This all-church effort is always a Bluffton crowd pleaser! Sign-up forms will be in the bulletins this month, or you may call a deacon to let us know what you can donate.

Special Note

Allie Scott, wife of Pastor Elliott Scott who served in Bluffton in the 80's, sends the following greetings: It is always great to hear from you in your Christmas letter - it makes us remember happy days in Bluffton! I can't believe it has been 19 years since we left there, that absolutely can't be possible. We are doing well, still in the same house we bought when we moved here and I was on bed rest! The triplets are in college now, freshman year. Maryallie is at Baylor in the Honors College, but not sure what she wants to study. Sam is at U of Houston studying business, and Hannah is at U of Houston studying music education. They are all loving what they are doing, but it has been great to have them home for the holidays. Jake and Judith are freshmen, too, and in the marching band at their high school. They are taking driver's ed this month! Time does fly.

I am working at a counseling center as a therapist and the Clinical Coordinator (basically the supervisor for the clinical team). I love it - it is part time, about 28 hours a week, and just enough to stretch me and challenge me. Elliott is still pastoring, our church is called LifePath Church now. We are growing and doing so much outreach in the neighborhoods nearby which are very low income and have lots of need.

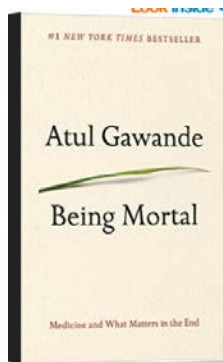
Please give our love to everyone that was there all those years ago. I know several have gone now, but we still hold Bluffton close to our hearts.

Most sincerely,
Allie

“Being Mortal” Documentary

What matters most to Patient and families when facing a medical crisis.

There will be a program at Blanchard Valley Hospital on Thursday March 16 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM, sharing discussions on the questions raised by Atul Gawande in his book “Being Mortal”. The book begins a discussion of questions and presumptions in end of life medical care.



We all come to the end of this life. And yet we are slow to discuss it. I recommend the book. I think the Blanchard Valley program will raise very interesting questions.

Moving Forward

At a congregational meeting on February 26, the congregation approved by unanimous vote the following people to serve as the Pastoral Nominating Committee:

Sarah Brauen
Don Carroll
Carole Enneking
Lori Schmidt
George Stultz
Dave Sycks
Diane Winebar

And as youth representative (one vote) shared by Sarah Gillen and Megan Sycks.

Susan Meier will provide initial training.

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Season, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form included in the newsletter or bulletin to make a monetary donation. Please send names and money to church office by April 9.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter Lilies and other items needed during the Easter season. The money can be given in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one. Please place your completed form in the collection plate or send it to the church office at P.O. Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817.

Hospice Volunteer Training Courses

Bridge Home Health and Hospice, a non-profit organization providing home health care and hospice services, will offer training courses for prospective volunteers beginning on Tuesday, March 21.

The training will be held in the Hub Conference Room at Birchaven Retirement Village, located at 15100 Birchaven Lane within the Easternwoods Healthcare Complex, and will take place for six consecutive Tuesdays from 9:00 to 11:30 AM.

Courses will cover topics such as the basic principles of hospice, understanding the needs of patients and their families, effective communication, patient care, pain and symptom management, spiritual care giving, and understanding grief and loss.

No previous hospice experience is necessary; however, volunteers must be at least 18 years old.

Following training, volunteers can choose a special area of involvement such as caregiver relief, bereavement, nursing home visitors, gift of dreams, hospice care center, or clerical work.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to request an application packet, contact Julie Tiell, Bridge Hospice volunteer coordinator, by phone at 419-423-5351 or by email at jtiell@bvhealthsystem.org.



ignite

Fellowship/Action/Service

Ignite - merging fellowship, families, and service

Mark your calendars for an afternoon of bites, strikes, and Ignite! Join us at Bluffton's Southgate Lanes for lunch and bowling on Sunday, March 26 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM. Bowling starts at 12:30 PM, but stop by any time to order food or watch the BPC bowling pros, or amateurs in action. RSVP to Cathy Carroll, Sarah Brauen, or on the sign-up sheet at the back of church if you are bowling so we can reserve enough lanes. Jeans are always welcome at church, and consider wearing your bowling jerseys that day as well!



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.

Weekday Christian Education Walkers

Weekday Christian Education Walker dates in March are Friday, March 10 and Tuesday March 21. April dates are Thursday, April 6 and Friday April, 21. Contact Carole Enneking (419-348-7691) for more details or sign-up on the bulletin board.



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)
- Spaghettios and similar canned foods
- Canned Meats
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna and Tuna Helper

Thank you for your interest in Bluffton Area Food Pantry.

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.

Graduates

We will be recognizing our high school and college graduates later this spring. If you have someone graduating, please notify Tenna Rhonemus or Carole Enneking.

New Adult Exploration to Begin *Living the Questions 2.0*

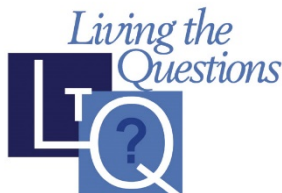
Join the adult Sunday School class for a presentation of *Living the Questions 2.0*.

This popular DVD video series – featuring 30 acclaimed scholars, theologians, sociologists, and other experts – raises historical and theological questions that will help us explore together how Christianity can be relevant in the 21st century. Each weekly session includes a 20-30-minute video that is crisp, to the point, and anything but boring. Discussion questions will keep you thinking about your faith throughout the week!

March 5 – Stories of Creation (Unit 4)
March 12 – Lives of Jesus (Unit 5)
March 19 – A Passion for Christ: Paul (Unit 6)
March 26 – Out into the World (Unit 7)

The adult Sunday school class meets in the library at 9:00 AM. Can't make a Sunday? Come when you can!

“Living the Questions seeks not to provide easy answers but to be a resource for people who are in the midst of a lifelong conversation about the mysteries of faith and life.” Intrigued? See you on Sundays!



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 per member in 2017. Thank You!

Chili Cook-Off

Hundreds gathered in the Middle School Cafetorium on Wednesday, February 22 to enjoy local chili recipes and entertainment provided by Dancers Elite and Krystie's Music School. The response from the community was so large (over 125) that many of the chili pots were empty by 6:15 PM. Over \$1300 was raised for the Bluffton Community Assistance Program from the tasting fees, sandwiches, and pies (124 chili tasters, plus over \$600 in food and raffle sales). Four tubs of food items were donated, as well. The People's Choice Award for Best Chili went to Tony Pinks.

The Chili Cook-off was sponsored by the mission committee of Bluffton Presbyterian Church with assistance from Bluffton Baptist Church, Emmanuel United Church of Christ, First Methodist Church, and St. John's United Church of Christ. Chili Entries were provided by Sarah Brauen, Tom Hursey, Marilyn Edwards, Jim Enneking, Kim Best, and Diane Winebar from Bluffton Presbyterian Church; Tony Pinks from Emmanuel United Church of Christ; and the McKinley and Feuneman families from Bluffton Baptist Church.



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 Rev. Gretchen Schneider, Family of Rollie Renner, Mary Barnett, Emerson Basinger, Missy Ritter, Darlene Hey, Family of Brad Schroeder, Michael Lee Bucher, Carl Wolf, Tyler and Laura From, Anessa Samsal, Autumn Sprunger, Charles, Ermil, and Jane, Bob and Jean Braden, Dorothy Hursey, Laura Huffman, and Judy Miracle.

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.

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.



Happy Birthday!!

March	1	Greg Culbertson
	2	Jane Benroth Emily Sycks
	3	Jacob Szabo
	6	Deejay Aquirre-Jones
	9	Tom Hursey
	13	Hazel Rodabaugh
	14	Erin Hotmire
	16	Jana McVetta
	23	Jeremy Scoles
	24	Darrell Hotmire
	26	Laura From
	28	Drew Gable
	31	Lindsey McCracken
	April	1
2		Danielle Rhonemus
3		Brian Edelbrock
4		Beth Buist
5		Helen Hawk



Thank you to everyone who came to support the Souper Bowl of Caring and the youth group. Through your generosity we were able to donate \$365 to the Bluffton Community Assistance Program!

Thank you to those who provided chili: Kim Best, Sarah Brauen, Marilyn Edwards, Jim Enneking, Tom Hursey, and Diane Winebar. Also thanks to others who donated their time to help with the Chili Cook-Off: Linda Best, Lisa Culbertson, Tom Edwards, Carole Enneking, Cindy and Sarah Gillen, and Lori Schmidt.

Decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

If you wish to help decorate the sanctuary for the Easter Season, the Worship Committee requests that you use the form below to make a monetary donation.

The money collected will be used to purchase Easter Lilies and other items needed during the Easter season. Please place your completed form in the collection plate or send to the church office (P.O. Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817).
Thank you.

I/We wish to donate: \$_____

I/We would like this gift to be given in Memory of:

I/We would like this gift to be given in Honor of:

Name: _____

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Name: _____

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

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.