



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

November 2013

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 3 – All Saints Day

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Shirley Kisor – Flute

Lay Reader: Kevin McVetta

Greeters: Clair and Diane Winebar

Acolytes: James Freidenbert and Wyatt Marshall

Sunday, November 10

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Darlene Hey

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolytes: Paige McVetta and Avery Talavinia

Sunday, November 17

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Carole Enneking

Greeters: Bob and Betsey Angus

Acolytes: Sarah Gillen and Megan Sycks

Sunday, November 24

Choir

Lay Reader: Dave Kisor

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Acolytes: Patrick Rhonemus and Jacob Szabo

Sunday, December 1 – 1st Day of Advent

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Helen Hawk

Greeters: Sycks Family



Mark Your Calendars!

- November 2 – Movies at Richland Manor – 1:00 PM
- November 2 – Trick or Treat – 6:00 – 7:30 PM – Church Steps
- November 3 – All Saints/Remembrance Day
- November 3 – Church AD – 5:00 – 7:00 PM
- November 3 – Youth Group – 5:00 – 8:00 PM
- November 10 – Alternative Thanksgiving Dinner – After Worship
- November 20 – Deacon Meeting – 7:30 PM
- November 24 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- November 25 – Prayer Luncheon – 11:00 AM
- November 30 – Pancake Breakfast/Hanging of the Greens – 8:00 AM
- December 6 – Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:40 AM – Church Parking Lot
- December 7 – Movies at Richland Manor – 12:45 PM
- December 8 – Congregational Meeting – Following Worship



Announcement Procedure

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

November Worship Leader – Beth Buist

Announcement: If you would like to volunteer to be a Christian Ed walker, please contact the office.

Pastor's Letter

It looked like a scene from a comedy. There Michelle is running down the moving sidewalk in the Milwaukee airport, and I'm there (a couple paces behind), trying to catch up. My bags are bumping against me and my wheeled carry-on falls over many, many times. We are going as fast as we can to go from gate C6 to A17 before our plane pushes off and leaves us stranded in a city.

Originally we were supposed to have over 90 minutes of layover at the airport. Plenty of time to make the change between "C" and "A" concourse, as well as leave some time for a quick dinner in the terminal. However, the last airplane developed some mechanical issues that delayed our flight over an hour. Some long taxiing and waiting for baggage left us with a mere 15 minutes to sprint (something I'm not good at) across three concourses. Needless to say, dinner did not happen that night.

All we knew is that we had to make that plane! Ariana was waiting for us at my parent's house! Michelle had to be in class the next morning! We were out of clean clothes! We had to make that plane! What would happen if we missed it?

Thankfully, we made it there in just the nick of time. We were, literally, the last two on the plane before they sealed the door. As we found our seats, I realized that there were some people seated around me who had been waiting to leave to get back to their homes, families, and lives. It's not fun feeling like the last one who has been holding everybody up.

This experience brought to mind the Parables of the Workers from Matthew 20. Let me share it:

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And

about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last." ~ Matthew 20:1-16, NRSV

In my case of a late night run across an airport, I'm glad that the last worker received the same reward as the first worker. In this case, that "reward" was the ability to take a much needed flight. But the reality was, in the pilots waiting for me, they delayed the flight. And that wasn't fair at all to the other passengers. But it isn't about being fair – it's about being gracious.

We hear in this passage that the Kingdom of God isn't about being fair, but rather about being gracious. If the Landowner wants to be gracious to everyone, who is the laborer to complain?

Those of us who come first (either in airplanes or in Church) can sometimes feel that we deserve more. We are there, ready, and willing to go. Why should we wait for late comers? That is because the Landowner, our God is gracious to all.

May the peace of the Lord be with you,
Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke

Highlights of October Session Meeting

- Session met with Stephen Keizer (from Kalamazoo, Michigan) from the Presbyterian Foundation who shared information about running a capital campaign, as well as answer questions. Pastor Matthew met with Stephen prior to the session meeting.
- In an effort to control humidity in sanctuary, fans are to be kept running 24/7 with the vestibule doors being left open to help in air circulation. Motion made and approved to delay removing the curved, black top sidewalk in yard until next year. A plaque recognizing the tree given as a memorial for Ropp Triplett by Sunset Drive residents has been ordered – paid for by Sunset Drive residents.
- Approved spending \$201.05 (for parts) to replace the “crash bar” on the rear door in the library. Session was asked for approval because this line item is now over the budgeted amount.
- Approved hiring Kori Phipps and Lynzee Lawler for Sunday morning child care services (8:45-11:30 AM) at \$9 per hour effective October 6. Current employer (Bluffton Child Development Center) provided background checks. Changing table has been attached to wall in the nursery.

Approved granting permission to Terry Mullenhour and Fred Steiner for the Blaze of Lights to use church facilities/alley on November 2, November 9, January 4 (set up/tear down) and November 30 for actual lighting ceremony.

- Pastor Matthew continues to look for someone to serve as our Presbytery Commissioner. Our new COM representative is Harry Tolhurst.
- Pastor Matthew had to cancel his Continuing Education for October 14 to be able to meet with Stephen Keizer from the Presbyterian Foundation. Approved granting permission to baptize William Culbertson, son of Greg and Lisa Culbertson, on Sunday, November 3.

Working on creating a new photo directory – photography being done by Samantha Rhonemus on Sundays following morning worship service. Secretary’s computer was repaired/updated and online backup was added.

Approved granting vacation for October 23-30 (inclusive). Approved Continuing Education requests for – October 21 in Tiffin (Motivational Interviewing Course - \$185), October 22 – Non-medical assistance to those suffering from light/seasonal depression – telecast for \$50, and November 13 for Normal and Complicated Grief telecast for \$150.

- Elders discussed various proposals for the Building Restoration Project. Motion made and approved to recommend that the congregation proceed with project for approximately \$110,000 which would waterproof the church by removing chimney, replacing front doors, repairing/replacing exterior/interior water damaged areas, replace roof over office/library/nursery, tuck pointing where necessary, and sealing brick. Would like the work to be completed in 2014.

Decision made to run campaign by ourselves with information being shared via letter to congregation in November and offering tour of affected areas following worship services on November 24 and December 1. Approved calling a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, December 8, following the morning worship service for the purpose of reviewing the proposed Building Restoration project, presenting financial information, and voting on the Building Restoration Project.

Expect the proposed project to cost approximately \$110,000. Approved to run a two-year Capital Campaign from December 2013-December 2015 with up to \$30,000 to come from church resources (Savings, Memorial, Building Fund) and remaining amount \$80,000 to come from donations. Campaign would be handled by our Stewardship/Finance committee vs. hiring an outside consultant.

“More Than Enough”

Our Season of Stewardship:

Giving in Gratitude

“As I have listened to African American preaching, I have been impressed with how frequently I have heard the theme of gratitude that God has given this one day that we are alive,” says Ed Taylor, who is himself the pastor of a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregation.

“The heart of Christian faith is gratitude. The heart of Christian hope is gratitude. The heart of Christian love is gratitude. The heart of Christian life is gratitude. That gratitude is rooted in a sense that life is a gift, that life is good, that life is worth living.”

“God’s goodness is the reason to be generous. That conviction does not come from a Pollyanna view of life, from overlooking the difficulties or pretending they do not exist. That conviction comes from a sense that God gives us what is really important, what really matters, what we really need: the sense that life is worth living, that we are here for a purpose, that we are instruments of a loving God. What a difference that can make each day in how we live this life!”

“Some years ago a member of my family left the Christian faith for another great faith tradition, largely because she did not find, in her Christian experience, much joy in life. How unfaithful we are at times, causing some people to see us Christians as not appreciating and enjoying life.”

“Our giving is a sign of our joy and gratitude. Our lack of giving is a sign of our lack of joy and gratitude. *‘God loves a cheerful giver’* (2 Cor. 9:7, NRSV). Eugene Peterson in *The Message* translates the sentence like this: *‘God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.’*”

Questions:

- *Do we start each day with thanksgiving?*
- *Would that be hard to do?*
- *Does your faith bring joy to you?*
- *Do you delight in giving?*

Prayer:

Generous God, whose giving is beyond our asking and imagining, give us such joy in our lives and in your creation that we may by our generosity bring joy to you and to others. Amen.



September Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$18,422.37
Receipts	7,089.16
Expenses	(10,736.09)
Balance	\$14,775.44

Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next opportunity to serve at Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen is Thursday, December 5.

Volunteers interested in carpooling, meet at the church parking lot at 9:40 AM. Please contact Shirley Kisor (419) 358-0085, if you are able to participate.

Church AD

Church AD evening services on November 3 begin at 5:00 PM. This will be in combination with the Youth Group. Church AD will begin with worship and communion and then we will join together for a common theme meal. Starting at 6:15 PM, there will be a youth group meeting, as well as a devotion group for the adults. The theme for our common meal will be an Adventure Potluck. Each person is asked to bring a healthy food she or he enjoys, but which may be new to others. Participants will have a chance to teach others to enjoy this food too!

New Directories!

Picture cut off for the new directories will be the end of the month. If you cannot have your picture taken by then, please contact the office to make other arrangements.

Spreading the Joy at Christmas

Once again the Mission Committee and the Youth Group have each chosen to sponsor a family through Bluffton's Community Assistance Program. Beginning December 1, we will be collecting items for "adopted families". If you would like to help brighten the Christmas for a local family, please choose items from the poster board wish lists in the back of the sanctuary to donate.

It is helpful if you attach the sticky note to the items when you bring the items back to church. If you are purchasing clothing items, please include a gift receipt in case the size is not correct. We are requesting that all items be brought to the church by **December 15**. The Youth Group will meet that day to sort and wrap any gifts.

Special Offerings

The Mission Committee would like to report on our congregation's generous donations to the Presbyterian Church USA's special offerings gathered this summer and fall, as follows:

Bluffton Presbyterian Church garnered \$98 as its portion of the Pentecost special offering, taken up on Pentecost Sunday in May. The Mission Committee added another \$2 to round the amount to an even \$100, which was then given to the Bluffton Child Care Center (as the offering was dedicated this year to children's missions) for them to use as they saw fit.

The Peacemaking Offering was gathered on October 6, World Communion Sunday. BPC has so far received a total of \$338, and our portion of \$82.50 will be donated locally to the Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center located on the Bluffton University campus. For those of you unfamiliar with the Center, it was founded in 1987 as a place for children to learn about "peace, justice, cultural understanding, and nonviolent responses to conflict" through literature and the arts, as an advocate for peace-learning and peace-living. If you are interested in learning about the Center, please visit www.bluffton.edu/lionlamb/about.

Please remember that the final special offering of this year, the Christmas Joy offering, will be taken during Advent on December 15. The Presbyterian Church USA dedicates most of this offering to help the Church's clergy during their retirement years. Our own members Claralice and Carl Wolf receive assistance from the Christmas Joy offering. Please consider giving generously, in the spirit of the season, to the Christmas Joy offering.

Richland Manor Visit

On Saturday December 7 we will be making our regular monthly outreach visit to the residents of Richland Manor. We will be showing a holiday-themed movie and serving Shirley's popcorn (what's a movie without popcorn?) and drinks. If you would like to help scoop popcorn, pour glasses of pop, and visit with the residents, we would love to have you! Please meet in front of the Manor at 12:45 PM on the 7th. If you need directions or more information, please see Beth Buist, Shirley Kisor, George Stultz, or Pastor Matthew. Thanks!

The Can Crusher Needs Work!

This is a reminder to bring your empty pop/tea/beer, etc. aluminum cans to the church for recycling. One trip to the recycling center yields enough money for a set of discounted bus tickets for the residents of Samaritan House! So when you have a tailgate party, football watching party, holiday party, or just chug down a brew or a can of Dr. Pepper, please collect the empty cans and bring them to the church basement. The can crusher gets lonely!

Youth Group

The youth group will have our monthly meeting on Sunday, November 3. Come at 5:00 PM to participate in the Church AD worship. The meal will begin around 5:45 PM and will be an Adventure Potluck! Bring a healthy food to share that may be new to others. Our meeting time will begin around 6:15 PM and will end at 8:00 PM. Please note the ending time change. We are changing it to allow us more time to spend together.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Appeals

The PDA has been responding to several recent natural disasters, both nationally and internationally:

1. A disaster declaration was made as massive rainfall and flooding recently affected most of the state of Colorado, which had also been suffering from wildfires over the past few years. PDA has been in contact with presbyteries in the area, and has offered assistance from One Great Hours of Sharing funds and the National Response Team. If you would like to help, you may designate funds to DR000015, specifying Colorado, either by check to Presbyterian Church USA, P.O. Box 642700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700; by online giving at pcusa.org; or by texting to 20222 to donate \$10.
2. On October 13 Cyclone Phailin left a trail of destruction along parts of coastal India, the strongest to strike in nearly 15 years. At least 28 people were killed and nearly a million were left stranded due to the flooding. Fortunately, there was not a greater loss of life due to well-coordinated evacuations. PDA has made OGHS funds available for the distribution of food and other essentials to the cyclone centers. Again, if you would like to help, please designate funds to DR000091-India by check or online.

“And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” (Matthew 25:40)

Nursery Care

The church has hired Lynsee Lawler and Kori Phipps to provide child care during Sunday School and Worship. This will create a more consistent environment for the toddlers and allow all families to participate in worship. We will no longer be asking for volunteers for the nursery.

“Alternative Thanksgiving”

Have you ever idly wondered, as you spent the day (or even days) preparing your Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts for family and friends, what kind of food other people around the world used to celebrate their holidays?

If you're curious, the Mission Committee would like to invite you to an “Alternative Thanksgiving” dinner on Sunday, November 10, after worship. We will be preparing and serving a typical Christmas menu enjoyed by Haitian peasants, as well as offering a few other dishes typical of their ordinary daily meals. We think you may be surprised by the contrast of their and other people around the world's food situations compared to the richness and abundance of even the poorest of ours. Please come for a new food experience, interesting conversation, a brief slide show presenting what people across the world buy for a typical week's groceries, and other novel information about global food and economics, how we might be able to help, and to thank God for the blessings we have and will be receiving during this holiday season.

If you have any questions, please see Beth Buist, Shirley Kisor, George Stultz, or Pastor Matthew. Hope to see you there.





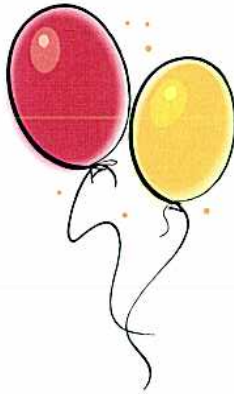
The Hanging of the Greens

Mark your calendars! Saturday, November 30, at 8:00 AM will be the annual decorating of the church for Christmas. There will be a pancake breakfast provided by the Worship Committee. Plan to join in for work, fun, and fellowship.

Coffee Talk with Pastor Matthew

Coffee talk with Pastor Matthew at McDonalds on Monday at 8:00 AM.

Happy Birthday!!



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|----------|----|---------------------------------|
| November | 2 | Molly McCracken
Julia Szabo |
| | 7 | Gayle Marshall
Nathan Hursh |
| | 8 | Morgan McVetta |
| | 13 | Skyler Scoles |
| | 14 | John Rhoads |
| | 15 | Jeff Gillen |
| | 26 | Madison Hursh |
| | 29 | Olivia Parker |
| December | 4 | Marilyn Edwards
Jim Enneking |
| | 5 | Arian Zuehlke |



Dear Congregation of Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

With thanks for your generosity to the Iraqi Student Project!

You gift of \$524 will aid us in the support of Tamara Al-Sammaraie, an Iraqi student who is unable to continue her education in her present circumstances as a refugee.

Bluffton University has been generous in their support of two students by providing tuition waivers for their 4-years of undergraduate studies. These young women would otherwise not be able to continue in any way with their schooling. Each of our Iraqi Student Project students has committed to returning to Iraq upon graduation and to use their education in the rebuilding of their country. In the meantime, their temporary residence in this country, among Americans, is witness to the important task of building bridges of peace. We are proud of them and we hope you can be as well.

This is a small effort on our part to help heal wounds inflicted by war and chaos. This earth needs such healing!

Again, thank you for your generosity and your part in this.

In peace and all gratitude,
Mary K. Fleck

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for your recent donation to our shelter. Your support is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Samaritan House



Prayers of Sympathy with the Marshall family on the loss of Wyatt's grandmother, Toni Gossard.

Prayers of Safety with all student athletes.

Prayers with those affected by the flooding in Colorado.

Prayers for Peace in Syria.

Prayers for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

Prayers of Healing for Bob and Jean Braden, Karen Long, Dusty Klingler, Gordan Diller, Min Lindsey, Brenda Anderson, Michelle Goslin, Brandon, Erika and Evie Distel, Drew Begg, Stella Tomlin, and Michael Lee Bucher.

Min Lindsey is in Room #21 at Richland Manor if anyone would like to visit.



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.

Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

Journeying through Grief

If you have experienced the loss of a loved one in the past year, a series of short books, *Journeying through Grief*, is now available. Each book describes the issues and feelings that people tend to encounter at various points during their grief and offers suggestions on how to handle them. The Deacons have a number of copies available, so please contact your Care Deacon or Pastor Matthew at any time if this series may be of help to you.



Praise Team participates in worship one Sunday per month, with a short rehearsal the Wednesday before (7:30 to 8:00 PM) and another (9:50 to 10:05 PM) on that Sunday. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument, please see Jayne McGarrity.

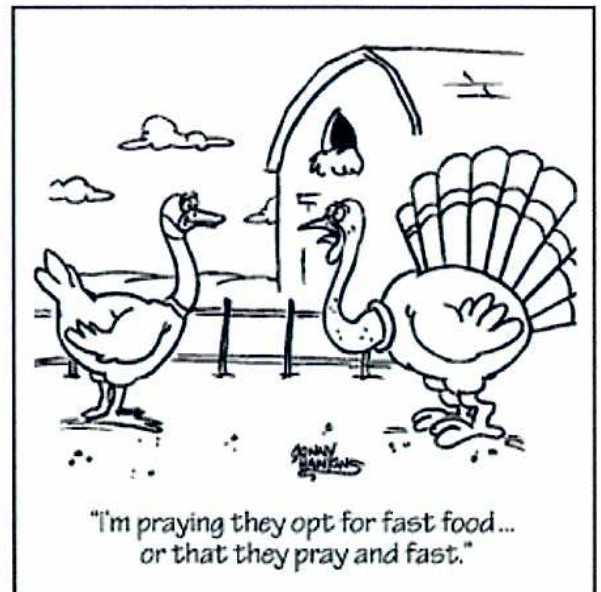
Fall Schedule:

November 17 (rehearse 13)

December 15 (rehearse 11)

Community Meal/Thanksgiving Service

The next Community Meal at the Senior Citizens Center will take place on November 21 at 6:00 PM. Join in for supper followed by the Community Thanksgiving Service.



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.