



# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

November 2014

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Sunday, November 2 – Communion

#### 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Men's Ensemble

Lay Reader: George Stultz

Greeters: Sycks Family

Acolyte: Megan Sycks

### Sunday, November 9 – Stewardship Sunday

#### Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Carole Enneking

Greeters: Bev Begg and Hazel Rodabaugh

Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

### Sunday, November 16

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Tenna Rhonemus

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

### Sunday, November 23

Choir and Piano/Organ Duets

Lay Reader: Sue Mathewson

Greeters: McVetta Family

Acolyte: Libby McVetta

### Sunday, November 30 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Julia Szabo, Soloist

Lay Reader: Tammie Hursh

Greeters: Owen and Kay Ziessler

Acolytes: Paige and Morgan McVetta

### Sunday, December 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

#### Communion and 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Greeters: Enneking Family

## Mark Your Calendars!

- November 2 – New Beginnings – Following Worship – Lunch will be served
- November 2 – Youth Group Meeting – 5:00-7:00 PM at the Church
- November 9 – Stewardship Sunday – Please hand in your Pledges – Pledge Card Attached
- November 12 – Praise Team Rehearsal – 7:30 PM
- November 13 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- November 16 – New Beginnings – Following Worship – Lunch will be served
- November 19 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 PM
- November 27 – Thanksgiving
- November 30 – Hanging of the Greens – Immediately Following Worship
- November 30 – Newsletter Deadline – [CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com](mailto:CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com)
- December 4 – Daily Bread Soup Kitchen – 9:40 AM Church Parking Lot
- December 6 – Progressive Dinner – 5:30 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.

## Coffee Talk

Wednesday – McDonalds at 8:30 AM

## Small Groups

Tuesday – Church Library at 6:30 PM

## Changing seasons, changing seasons (and the end of the world.)

(Did he notice that “changing seasons” is repeated twice in the title? What’s up with that?)

I was driving home (to Bluffton) on Tuesday. The sun was setting on a gorgeous fall afternoon. I looked to the left side of the highway and saw it. Trees.

Bare trees. Trees without a leaf. (Winter barren trees.) I even hear that there may be a little snow on Friday (and 26 degrees on Saturday night).

I guess I can put away my shorts and short-sleeved shirts.

Last Monday I was careful to put a load of wood in the garage (we heat with a wood stove). I don’t expect to use it up in the next few weeks – but I do expect Jane will throw a log on in the morning to take the cool edge off the house.

The point is: the season of fall **has changed**. We have gone from fall leaves to barren trees. Time moves on. Life keeps moving.

Jane and I have also been going through a **changing season**. That discussion includes consideration of retirement benefits and whether a term life insurance was in order. (In order to discuss change, sometimes we even need to include a consideration of death, because it is a part of life.) But the larger part of our conversation is a discussion of what we are doing, what is important, and an assessment of things we have done for 10 years – that don’t work now. It is also a discussion of what expenses, what bills are worth continuing. What bills are unnecessary now? And what things require investment as we move forward?

We are all going through changing seasons. Time moves on. Life keeps moving.

So – as a church we are coming to the close of New Beginnings. But it has asked us to look at the church’s life. It has asked us to look at where we are. And it has invited us to consider the future, honestly, but also with all the dreams and imagination of God. We are invited to see God’s love for our neighbor. This is not the end of New Beginnings; the questions New Beginnings has raised will be with us as we move forward. Time moves on. Life keeps moving.

And our fall stewardship is also coming to its conclusion. Measuring our life together, our gathered resources, and asking what goes forward? And what is next? What does God want from us?

Oh yes, and don’t forget the end of the world! No, I don’t mean zombie apocalypse (on AMC). And I don’t mean the “left behind” rapture. I mean the gospel of Matthew stories which ask us to measure our lives (Chapter 25). The Christian Year always closes with a consideration of the end of time. So in the next 4 weeks we will hear stories which ask: How are we investing God given talents? Matthew 25:14-30 (yes, the parable was talking about a monetary denomination - but it is a powerful English analogy). And how are we doing – meeting our neighbor’s need – clothing the naked, feeding the hungry? Matthew 25:31-46. The end of the world, in Matthew’s view, is an invitation to self-assessment. What is really important???? (What is important to God, whose stewards we are??)

The next newsletter article I write will be in the second week of advent (time moves on). Before we enter preparations to welcome Jesus (the December newsletter and our Advent journey) it is time to wrap up this year’s faith journey – taking stock, measuring ourselves, and measuring God’s dreams for us.

May your November be blessed. Counting blessings. Taking stock, and looking to God’s future for us.

*Pastor Dave*

## Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

The next Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen serving day will be December 4. Please contact Beth Buist at [peppercatbeth@gmail.com](mailto:peppercatbeth@gmail.com) or (419) 969-5279 with any questions. Volunteers meet at the church parking lot at 9:40 AM and typically return by 12:30 PM.

## Bluffton Community Meal

The next Community Meal we are responsible for will be Thursday, December 18, at the Senior Center. Our church hosts twice a year, serving a delicious meal to approximately 80 people from the community. Any monetary donations given by diners at the meal are given to the Bluffton Food Pantry. Leftover food is sent home with those in need.

The Deacons are coordinating the purchasing, preparing, and serving of the meal, but because this is an *all-church effort*, there are plenty of ways you can be involved! Pies will be needed, monetary donations to help with food purchases are appreciated, and we'll need volunteers to help prepare dinner, serve, and clean up.

A sign-up sheet and a basket for donations will be in the back of the sanctuary beginning late November. Or please call a Deacon if you can help. *Thank you for your support of this important Bluffton area ministry!*

## Journey to Jerusalem

Bluffton University's religion professor, Rev. Randy Keeler, is leading a "Journey to Jerusalem" from December 26 and returning January 7. Cost is \$4,486 all-inclusive. You don't have to be a Bluffton alumnus to sign up! Contact Julia Szabo for more details.

## Knitting Donations

Min Lindsey is accepting donations of yarn so that she can knit winter hats and such for those in need. She has had a lot of requests for Bluffton School colors and would like some red and black yarn.



## Youth Group

The youth group will meet November 2 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM for our monthly meeting. We will make plans for the adopt-a-family program and events in December, so please bring your calendars.

## Attention All Children and Youth!

We will be participating in the worship service on December 14 and we need everyone's help. If you are willing to help with a play that day, please let Tenna know as soon as possible. We will have parts of all sizes, so be sure to tell her what you are comfortable doing as well. More details will follow as soon as they are available. We really want to have everyone involved, so please join us for the fun as we deliver a special Christmas message!

## Christmas Progressive Dinner

The Christmas Progressive Dinner will be Saturday, December 6 beginning at 5:30 PM. Depending on how many people we have, we will begin with appetizers at one home, then divide up and have dinner at another, and then back together for dessert. If you haven't joined in the fun in the past, please do so this year. Everyone has a great time and there is always plenty of food!



## Deacons' Report

- The Deacons hosted a reception following Mary Emma Triplett's memorial service October 4. Approximately 90 attended. Thank you to all who provided food and helped in other ways.
- Our church hosts the Community Meal on Thursday, December 18. Please read about this event elsewhere in this newsletter!
- Deacons can provide or arrange rides for our *independent-living* seniors to routine doctor visits and check-ups. Another option is using the transportation service offered by the Allen County Council on Aging. Before using this service, seniors need to sign up. **Call 419-228-5135 to set up an in-home appointment with a Senior Services Resource Specialist who will meet with you in your home and give you more information on this service.**



## Highlights of October Session Meeting

- Approved request from Terry Mullenhour for Blaze of Lights Committee to use church facilities on November 1, November 8, and January 3 to set up/tear down display. Village will provide proof of insurance.
- Bluffton Presbyterian hosts the Community Meal on Thursday, December 18, at the Senior Citizens Center.
- On behalf of the congregation, a gift card/note was given to Pastor Dave in recognition of Clergy Appreciation Month.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery met on September 16 in Toledo. COM approved for Darlene Hey to serve communion, approved 1% raise in minimum package. Pastor Dave has agreed to participate on the Spiritual Transformation Team for MVP and continues to work on conflict resolution with a church in MVP.

- Thompson Carpet Care removed water from church basement, set up blowers to dry, and carpet was sanitized. The bill was approximately \$971. Will look into our deductible to see if we should be making insurance claim.

Since the two large holes by the basement door contributed to the basement flooding, the general contractor will be asked about who was responsible for securing the fill dirt when that area had been excavated for the new steps. Randy Matter, All Service Aeration, has determined that the drain at the basement door was not clogged, but expressed concern about the drain size. Bluffton water department employees also felt the drain was too small. General contractor advised that when the concrete work on the handicap ramp is completed, that company also needs to address the size of the drain since they installed it.

Leak has been detected in the basement at the manse. Randy Matter evaluated the situation and suggested rerouting two downspouts presently going into tile near the basement foundation to top of lawn in rear. Gutter was also cleaned out.

Drew Montgomery expressed interest in the church lawn project – completed project for under \$1500 – some additional dirt is needed near basement steps. Knowing we would need to keep watering the new grass, the village water department was contacted. In October we will take the water bill in and have the additional sewer expense of the bill subtracted.

Wellmann contacted the church and said they would be unable to complete the church project this fall, but do expect to complete chimney and basement entry area. They will be contacted about Blaze of Lights timeframe. We're hoping to be first on Wellmann's list in the spring. Ron Schnipke was also going to contact Wellmann. The inside of the new exterior doors are being stained. Sidewalk on Cherry Street is yet to be evaluated and therefore no recommendation at this time.

## Stewardship Sunday

We will celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 9. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship choices and planned 2015 financial commitment. Last year we had 38 units who submitted pledge commitments. Our church is changing, and it is important that we increase our number of pledging units. It is also important that we increase the amount of our pledge commitments where we can. Please remember that if your financial circumstances change for the better or worse during the year, you can and should adjust your commitment.

We are blessed with a church staff and Session that diligently keep the church running without wasted or unneeded expenditures. Please feel free to ask any Stewardship committee member or Session member any questions you have on the church's finances and budget, and please remember that your commitments provide Session with the information they need to establish a budget and make plans.

In the October newsletter, Pastor Dave asked, "to what choices does God guide us?" Our stewardship choice includes accountability, reflection on priorities, trust, hope, and joy.

Our congregation has many important responsibilities and an exciting future. As we pray for guidance on our commitments, please remember how blessed we are with caring members and Deacons, faithful and dedicated pastoral leadership, outstanding musical talents, and so many more gifts.

If you won't be at church on November 9, please feel free to put your card in the collection plate or send to the church office any time prior to November 9.

## 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 \$ 28.57 per member in 2015. Thank You!



## September Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 64,366.73
Receipts	9,195.05
Expenses	(\$30,714.44)
Balance*	\$ 42,847.34

\*Includes:  
Restoration Fund Balance \$ 34,143.90



## The Hanging of the Greens

Mark your calendars! Sunday, November 30, immediately following worship will be the annual decorating of the church for Christmas.



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 A special thank you to everyone involved in Mom's Memorial Services. Diane, you and the Elders did an amazing job providing refreshments.

Truly Bluffton Presbyterian is a special place.

The family of Mary Emma

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 Thank you to Dick and Jayne McGarrity, Helen Hawk, and Terry Mullenhour for volunteering to take groceries to the food pantry.

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**Prayers of Sympathy** with the family of Mary Emma Triplett

**Prayers of Sympathy** with the family of Bennett Gooding

**Prayers** with those around the world fighting Ebola.

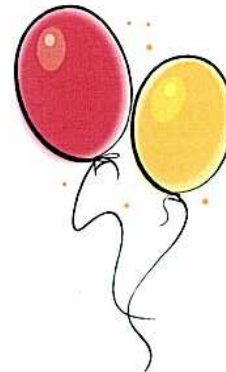
**Prayers** for Peace in our lives and in our World.

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

**Prayers of Healing** for Karen Long; Dusty Klingler; Michael Lee Bucher; Brenda Anderson; Sammie, Ava, and Lauren; Helen Conode; Libby Cupp; Phylis Hohenbrink; The Fisher Family; Andrea Best Zechman; Helen Kirscher; and Roy Sargent.

**BPC Prayer Chain**

If you have a prayer request, please contact Diane Winebar (419-957-4046 or [dwinebar711@gmail.com](mailto: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 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 Diane or another deacon.



*Happy Birthday!!*

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|----------|----|-----------------------------------|
| November | 2  | Molly McCracken<br>Julia Szabo    |
|          | 7  | Gayle Marshall<br>Nathan Hursh    |
|          | 8  | Morgan McVetta                    |
|          | 10 | Owen Brauen                       |
|          | 13 | Skyler Scoles                     |
|          | 14 | John Rhodes                       |
|          | 15 | Jeff Gillen                       |
|          | 26 | Madison Hursh                     |
|          | 28 | Clara Brauen                      |
|          | 29 | Olivia Parker                     |
| December | 4  | Marilyn Edwards<br>Jim Enneking   |
|          | 9  | Tenna Rhonemus<br>Jack Henry Neff |

Bluffton Presbyterian Church  
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419-358-5806

Pastor: Rev. David Good  
Phone: 765-993-7791  
Email: [mangendave@frontier.com](mailto:mangendave@frontier.com)  
Office Hours: Wed. 11:00-1:00 and  
Thurs.-Sat. 9:00-1:00

Secretary: Cathy Carroll  
Email: [bpcbluff@wcoil.com](mailto:bpcbluff@wcoil.com)  
Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9:00-12:30  
Website: [blufftonpc.org](http://blufftonpc.org)

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

## **2014 Church Officers**

### *Session*

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt  
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey  
Christian Education – Jay McCracken  
Finance & Stewardship – Cindy Gillen  
Mission – Beth Buist  
Nominating – Dave Kisor and Cindy Gillen  
Personnel – Lori Schmidt  
Presbytery Commissioner  
Worship – Jeanette Warren  
Members at Large – Dave Kisor, Rhonda Moor, and Donnas Stone

### *Board of Deacons*

Moderator: Diane Winebar  
Members: Don Carroll, Tom Edwards, Laura From, Lin Rumer, and Kay Ziessler.