



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

February 2015

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 1 – Communion
3 Cents a Meal Offering

Men's Ensemble

Lay Reader: Dick McGarrity

Greeters: Szabo Family

Acolyte: Libby McVetta

Sunday, February 8

Food Pantry

Choir

Lay Reader: Sue Matthewson

Greeters: Rhonemus Family

Acolytes: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, February 15

Praise Team

Lay Reader: Carla Montgomery

Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Acolyte: Sarah Gillen

Wednesday, February 18 – Communion

Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 22

Choir

Lay Reader: Linda Sycks

Greeters: Talavinia Family

Acolyte: Jacob Szabo

Sunday, March 1 – Communion

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Lay Reader: Tanya Best



Mark Your Calendars!

- February 1 – Souper Bowl of Caring – Soup Luncheon – Following Worship
- February 5 – Stewardship Committee Meeting – 7:30 PM
- February 6-7 – Youth Group Retreat – 7:30 PM on Friday to 9:00 AM on Saturday
- February 11 – Praise Team Rehearsal – 7:30 PM
- February 12 – Session Meeting – 7:00 PM
- February 14 – Officer Training – 9:00 to Noon
- February 18 – Ash Wednesday Service – 7:00 PM
- February 22 – Newsletter Deadline – CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- February 25 – Deacon's Meeting – 7:30 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

Let a Deacon Bring You to Church

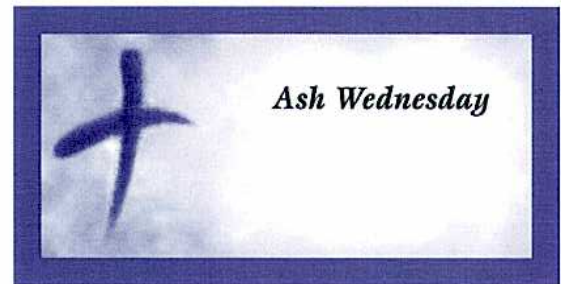
During inclement winter weather, deacons can provide or arrange rides for our seniors to Sunday worship. Please call a deacon the day before, if possible. Otherwise, please call a deacon by 9:00 AM Sunday morning.

Changing Seasons

As I look out at the snow on the lawn and the ice in the parking lot you might think I am just a bit early in talking about the Changing of Seasons, but I am not talking about seasons of the weather, I am talking about the seasons of faith in the church year. We are coming out of Christmas and are now in Epiphany. This is a transition from the arrival of God's love in Christ (Christmas), to a season of seeing God – and responding (Epiphany). But within two weeks we will enter the season of Lenten preparation. And this year Lent has a fairly constant theme: following God (discipleship) and its cost, that is, **costly discipleship**.

But let's follow this Changing of Seasons from its beginning. The arrival of God's love – is never an end in itself. God's love touches us, changes us, **and** demands our response. This is the basic form of the covenant of God's love: God loves us, we respond. We see it on Christmas Eve: the angel **appears** to shepherds with **announcement** – then **they respond** going to Bethlehem to see. This **gift and response** pattern is seen in Epiphany: the wise men **see** the star (God's action) and then **they follow**. It is developed in Epiphany as people **recognize God's gift** (or call) in Christ and drop what they were doing **to follow**. Now in Lent, we see **the implications or consequences of these choices** through the trajectory of Jesus' life, and in his announcement of what it will cost. Across the weeks of Lent we will see Jesus pick up his ministry upon the arrest of John, the prophet (Mark 1:9-15). Let me rephrase that: the context of the beginning of Jesus' ministry is John's arrest (and death); it is costly to follow God. Then (Mark 8:31-38) Jesus will say – "You say I am Messiah, I say **take up your cross and follow**." We will see Jesus cleanse the temple (John 2:13-22) taking on the "powers that be" and see his ministry summarized as the cross (1 Cor. 18-25) – which is foolishness to the world. And Jesus will say – "before there is fruit the seed must die and be buried (John 12:20-33)." Then we will arrive at Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem to the sound of "Hosanna," which becomes the chanting of the crowd "crucify him" within days. (Mark 11, Mark 14 -15)

My invitation to you is to **see your faith** through this journey of changing seasons. From the gift of God's love and our response, from the call to our discipleship, from discipleship to the full grasp of its meaning and cost. Faith is not some mono-dimensional thing that you have or don't. Faith is a progressive journey in which we are changed, from what we were to what God would have us be. We grow from God's love, through God's call, into the fullness of discipleship which is witness and love. We continue our journey through the church year, which is an invitation to growth and a maturing faith and faithfulness.



Join us **Wednesday, February 18, at 7:00 PM** for the Ash Wednesday service. It is a devotional service which reflects our entry into the Lenten season of preparation. We will receive the ashes as we enter, and focus on a variation of the renewal of baptismal vows which will lead to "disposition" of ashes as we move to the communion table. The tone of the service is reflective.

Let us gather in reflection as we begin our Lenten focus, renew our faith promises and share the Lord's Supper.

Oh, by the way

Happy Anniversary

We have been together for a year. And a good year it has been. God has brought us together for a purpose. Thank God. And may our future be blessed. AMEN

Pastor Dave

Highlights of January Session Meeting

- Elders/Deacons were ordained/installed on January 11. Necrology report and Local church information form have been submitted to MVP. Received 2015 Per Capita statement from MVP - \$28.57 per member (128 members) \$3,656.96 – members being asked to pay as in years past. Approved our 2015 Mission Pledge – Maumee Valley Presbytery \$4,044, Synod \$249, and General Assembly \$1,928 for a total of \$6,221. Approved the General Assembly Statistical Report concerning membership/financial data.
 - M + R determined a faulty sensor and dirty burner were cause for sanctuary furnace not operating – problem fixed and heat restarted during worship service. Filters were replaced in all furnaces. Remaining fill dirt needed along foundation was provided by Schnipke. Hired “Fyrwomyn’s Service” to remove snow on ALL sidewalks, ramps, steps at the church - \$70 per removal. If timing of storm requires additional removal on same day there is no additional charge. Calcium chloride will be used as needed. Railings on handicap ramp still need to be installed – using previous ones, but additional ones will also be needed. There are three cracks in the room behind the choir loft – possibly happened when work was done on the chimney – will share this with Schnipke.
 - Our church will be hosting Community Vacation Bible School in July – planning will start in February. Youth are planning to have a retreat at the church on February 6-7. Youth will also participate in “30-hour famine” in early May. Sunday School classes (young group/HS) have teachers through March. Adult Sunday School class is providing own leadership.
 - For 2015 there are 37 pledges for a total of \$89,140. Approved having ONU students review the 2014 financial books under supervision of Clair Winebar, Cindy Gillen, and Darin Leugers.
- Approved serving Communion on the first Sunday of each month along with Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday.
 - Following reorganizational items were addressed – Elected Lori Schmidt as Clerk. Elected Darin Leugers as Treasurer. Agreed to continue meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. Nominate the following to serve as Officers of the Corporation – President – Tenna Rhonemus, Treasurer – Cindy Gillen, and Secretary – Beth Buist.
 - Approved request by Dusty Freed (Jeannette Warren’s grandson) to use church on August 21, 2015, for rehearsal dinner and August 22, 2015, for his marriage to Leslie Stiffler. Wedding will be officiated by Pastor Dave.



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!



December Financial Report

Beginning Balance	\$ 53,503.32
Receipts	28,154.69
Expenses	(\$15,397.44)
Balance*	\$ 66,260.57

*Includes Special Funds \$ 57,322.00

Expressions of Appreciation

Expressions of Appreciation shared at the Annual Congregational Meeting thanked the following:

- Tom Hursey for the amount of time he has given to the Building Restoration Project to be able to meet with various people involved and follow up with them as needed.
- Deacons for the excellent pastoral care they provide to members in our church family, coordinating several funeral dinners this year, and their continued work “behind the scenes”.
- Elders and Deacons who have completed their terms – thank you for your faithfulness and dedication.
- All involved with our music program – our congregation has been richly blessed with musical gifts – organists Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman, choir director Linda Sycks, as well as others who are willing to share their musical talents.
- Congregation for supporting our Youth and allowing them to lead Worship services throughout the year.
- Tenna Rhonemus for her continued willingness and faithfulness to provide excellent leadership to our youth.
- New Beginnings Team and Pastor Dave for the many hours they have donated to be trained, plan for house meetings/ congregational gatherings, and their work that continues into the next year.
- Cathy Carroll for stepping in as “Temporary Treasurer” at the beginning of the year, Darin Leugers for accepting the Treasurer position, and Clair Winebar for continuing to provide support, information, and guidance in financial areas.
- Pastor Dave – and for God sending him to our congregation.

Christian Ed Walkers

We have just two dates to fill for Christian Education Walkers, Tuesday, March 24 and Thursday, April 9. If you are able to assist on either of these days please sign-up on the sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or see Carole Enneking or Tenna Rhonemus. Thank you!

Youth Group

The youth group will be having an overnight retreat February 6 to February 7. We will meet at 7:30 PM and have a stylishly late dinner, then fill our night with Bible Studies, games, a movie, and lots of fun! We will end our event at 9:00 AM Saturday morning after we have breakfast. Friends are invited to this event and please let Tenna know if they will be attending, so proper plans can be made. Remember the church floor can be quite cold, so bring plenty of blankets to keep warm. Please bring a snack to share during the event.

Happy Birthday!!

February	2	Jodie Parker
	5	John Marshall
	7	Jessica Hough Devin Leugers
	8	Michelle Talavinia
	9	Owen Ziessler Lylah Aquirre
	11	Katie McCracken
	12	Samantha Rhonemus
	14	Geraldine Sullivan Clark
	16	Carl Wolf
	18	Jane Sycks Jeannette Warren
	22	Lin Rumer
	23	Tony Aquirre
	24	Louis Best Clair Winebar
	25	Libby McVetta
	28	Jodi Brauen
March	1	Greg Culbertson
	2	Emily Sycks Jane Benroth
	3	Jacob Szabo
	4	Claralice Wolf

Mission Committee

Twenty-five years ago, when I lay in a hospital after cancer surgery, 1100 miles away from my home and family and wondering if I'd "bit the big one", I would have been thrilled to receive a note of encouragement letting me know someone cared. That's why when, a little over a year ago, I received an email from Giving Comfort, a program focused on providing cancer patients with "comfort kits" and words of encouragement, asking me to write a short note to cancer patients I had never met, I was happy to do so. And the Mission Committee would like to ask our congregation to join us in this giving endeavor.

Giving Comfort is a program of the McKesson Foundation "focused on providing patients undergoing cancer treatment with the comfort items they need at a time when they need them most". They do this by providing what they call "comfort kits" – a cancer care package – to people who are battling the disease. Almost all of us know a cancer survivor, have had someone close to us die of this awful disease, or know someone who is fighting right now. Treatment is extremely expensive, and often people cannot afford the simple things that will afford them the comfort to make it bearable.

Comfort kits contain items most needed and requested by cancer patients – a soft blanket, warm socks, soothing teas, lip balm, stuffed toys for children, and so on.

The Mission Committee will be asking for donations during the month of February in order to purchase several "comfort kits" to be given to low-income cancer patients. One hundred percent of donor dollars are used by Giving Comfort to purchase, package and ship comfort kits. The kits range in price from \$50 to \$100 dollars. We would like to set a goal of \$500 dollars, but we will be grateful for whatever is received. We will be collecting donations until March 1.

On the bulletin board in the back of the church information about this program, what it entails, and how we can help will be displayed. If you wish to donate, please place your check in the

collection plate with "Giving Comfort" on the memo line, or go to www.givingcomfort.org to learn more about the program and for ways to help.

As we are told in Matthew 25, Jesus said: "Whatever you did for the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did for me." Please help us help others in need. And may God bless all that you do.



Prayers of Sympathy with the families of Tom Ehrman and Tom Dukes.

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 Souders, Andrew Warner, and Lucas Woodward.

Prayers of Healing for Karen Long; Dusty Klingler; Michael Lee Bucher; Brenda Anderson; Sammie, Ava, and Lauren; The Fisher Family; Terry Huber, Cindy Setty, Obia Shurelds, Wendy Fleming, Robin Todd, and Leland Garmatter.



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 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.

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
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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

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

2015 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt
Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey
Christian Education – Tenna Rhonemus and
Carole Enneking
Finance & Stewardship – Cindy Gillen
Mission – Beth Buist
Nominating – TBD
Personnel – Bob Angus
Presbytery Commissioner
Worship – Jeanette Warren
Members at Large – Dave Kisor, Lori Schmidt,
and Donnas Stone

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Diane Winebar
Members: Tom Edwards, Barb Fett, Laura
From, Gayle Marshall, and Mike Rhonemus.