

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

NOVEMBER 2022

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 6 – All Saints' Day,

Communion (Note Daylight Savings Time Begins)

Liturgist: Sarah Brauen Special Music: Julia Szabo

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Julia Szabo

Acolytes: Owen and Clara

Sunday, November 13 – Stewardship Sunday, Cents-Ability Offering, Congregational Meeting

Liturgist: Diane Winebar Special Music: Choir

Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh

Slides: Winebars Acolyte: Bowen

Sunday, November 20 – Reign of Christ Sunday, New Member Reception, Hanging of the Greens

Liturgist: Dave Van Eman Special Music: Lori Schmidt

Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Julia Szabo

Slides: Talavinias Acolyte: Avery

Sunday, November 27 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Liturgist: Dick McGarrity Special Music: Choir

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Cathy Carroll

Acolytes: Paige and Morgan

Sunday, December 4 – 2nd Sunday of Advent, Communion, Pastor Karol's last Sunday

Special Music: Don Brauen

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Julia Szabo

Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays:

Faith Formation 9:00 AM – Fellowship Hall

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary

Tuesdays: Claralice Circle 6:30 PM – Fellowship

Hall

Wednesdays: Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM – Sanctuary

Nov 3 – Mission Committee Meeting 7:30 PM

Nov 6 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

Nov 9 – Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM

Nov 10 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Nov 11-13 – MVP Rekindle Youth Retreat

Nov 12 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Nov 13 – Congregational Meeting following worship

Nov 13 – Faithline 6:30 PM FUMC

Nov 15 – Presbytery Meeting FPC Maumee

10:00 AM

Nov 17 – BAMA Thanksgiving Service following

Community Meal at Senior Center 6:00 PM

Nov 20 – New Member Reception following worship

Nov 20 – Hanging of the Greens following worship

Nov 24 – Thanksgiving Day

Nov 26 – Bluffton Blaze of Lights Festival

Nov 27 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy

Dec 4 – Farewell reception for Pastor Karol and

family following worship

Weekly livestream worship is available on our <u>Facebook page</u> and later posted to our <u>website</u>.





Pastor's Letter:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. - Ecclesiastes 3:1

This opening verse of the scripture passage that Chris shared in worship on October 23 is a good one to inspire us at important moments in our lives.

We are now in a stage of transition, as I have announced that I will be ending my time as your pastor in early December. The primary reasons for this decision, as I shared with you in my letter, are due to the desire for a better family balance.

It was a tough decision. There is more here that we could have accomplished together had I been able to stay longer. But while both pastors and members come and go, the body of Christ – the Church – carries on its mission – with Christ as its head.

My last day will be here before we know it. I will do my best to leave things in good order to hand off to others. I am preparing a sermon series for the coming weeks to remind us all what it means to be Christ's disciples. I'm even going to do my best to return any books you've loaned to me over the years!

I hope to connect with you again directly before December 5. If you have a particular request for a visit or conversation, call or text me sooner rather than later.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for our time together, and I hope you do too, even as you begin to turn toward the next season of ministry for Bluffton Presbyterian Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Karol

November Worship Series: What Disciples Do

11/6: All Saints' Day

Disciples Affirm Resurrection Hope

11/13: Stewardship Sunday: Count Me In!

Disciples Practice Generosity

11/20: Reign of Christ Sunday Disciples Give Ultimate Allegiance to Christ

11/27: First Sunday of Advent Disciples Take Their Faith Home

Invitation to Church Membership

If you are not currently a member of our congregation and would like to learn about joining, please speak with Pastor Karol. There are 3 paths into active church membership: profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, and certificate of transfer. Educational opportunities can be made available for prospective members to become more familiar with our theology, leadership structure, and more. Session will take official action on your request, then you will be welcomed during worship on an upcoming Sunday. The primary profession of faith is this: to proclaim Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. We are eager to welcome more people as active members of this family of faith, where our mission is Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love. Our next new member reception during worship is planned for November 20!

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, November 13 following worship for the purposes of Dissolving Pastoral Call and electing Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee for 2023.



The Bluffton Presbyterian Church
 family is invited to a special Fellowship
 Time following worship on December 4
 Pastor Karol's last Sunday.

Please join us to thank Pastor Karol for her five years of ministry with us and to share best wishes with both she and Chris as they leave us to embark on a new position.

Contributions toward a Love Gift to be presented to Pastor Karol on her last Sunday may be placed in the offering plate, made online, dropped off at church, or mailed to the church (P.O. Box 149) by December 1.

SESSION

October Meeting Highlights

• **Pastoral Care:** 10 visits/conversations and 13 phone calls.

Congregational Activities: weekly worship, Sally Reeder Memorial Service, Blessing of the Animals, and committee meetings.

Community Engagement Activities: Sunset Drive Neighborhood Picnic, Bluffton University Church Fair with Dick McGarrity and Cindy Gillen, and BAMA Meeting.

Presbytery Activities: MVP Meeting, Discipleship Commission Meeting/Study, and Retreat – Reframing Time: Attending to God's First Gift.

Approved Continuing Education Request:
Approved vacation request: October 30-31
(including Sunday, October 30) and November
23. Pastor Karol's last Sunday will be
December 4, proposing last day in office
December 5. December's salary will be prorated
based on days of service. Approved request to
have access to manse through the end of Dec.
until a more specific move-out date is set.

- Matt Meinke, General Presbyter of Maumee Valley Presbytery, and Jim Cooper, presbytery liaison, were present to share information and answer questions now that Pastor Karol will be leaving. Session is responsible for securing temporary leadership. Matt suggested that a Transitional Task Force be formed, recommended 3 people to be trained by people from presbytery, for the purpose of securing temporary leadership. Approved that following serve as members of the Transitional Task Force – Carole Enneking, Dick McGarrity, and Marilyn Edwards.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery met September 20 at Norwalk Presbyterian Church. Elected Carole Burnworth Vice-Moderator of Presbytery for 2023. Examined candidate Amy Remaklus and approved for ordination. Per Capita for 2023 will be \$38.60 (General Assembly \$9.85, Synod of the Covenant \$3.25, and Maumee Valley Presbytery \$25.50). Welcomed Rev. Vanlal Hruaia at Van Wert and Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley at Bowling Green.
- Linda Nelson has agreed to represent our church and serve a term on the Et Cetera Shop, Inc Board.

- Approved to participate in "Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations" by Hartford Institute for Religion Research – church receives honorarium of \$2,500, with half paid in 2022 and half in 2026. Approved to not object to liquor license permit from Luke's Bar and Grill. Approved Chris Hochstetler's (Custodian) request to purchase a Shark Dyson sweeper which costs approximately \$150-200 (and then be reimbursed). Approved request from Bluffton Community Preschool to hold 2022 Christmas Program in the sanctuary on Monday, December 12 and Tuesday, December 13 between 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. with light refreshments afterwards in the preschool classrooms. Approved to receive Jeff and Kerry Fremont as members by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Replaced burnt out bulbs in the church restrooms and corresponding light switches. Readjusted the preschool door so it shut properly. Retrimmed the front and side shrubs at the church. Cleaned up around the gazebo. Replaced furnace filters. Made adjustments to the thermostats. Unable to find feasible electronic door lock for back door (by office) so will need to have individual lock door every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. Further investigation into sweating of AC/furnace vent pipes in basement showed several small cracks in the wall behind drywall in closet (over piano) as well as one very large hole that led straight to the outside. Have since insulated those holes and patched the drywall – will have to wait until next summer to know if problem has been fixed. Since we spent \$400 for three snow removals last year, plan is for Dave or another committee member remove snow at the church this year.
- Approved hiring Laura Irwin as Children's Church/Nursery, retroactive to September, at \$11 per hour.
- Approved to call Congregational meeting on Sunday, November 13 following worship for the purposes of Dissolving Pastoral Call and electing Elders, Deacons, and Nominating Committee for 2023.

DEACONS

November 2022 Deacon Highlights

- Agreed to purchase Poinsettias again this Christmas for older members.
- Both Rob and Mike agreed to stay on for another term as Deacons. GREAT NEWS!!!
- Shared and received pastoral care updates on members.
- Planning for December 15, 2022 Community Meal.

Worship Committee

- Our audio-visual team is looking for volunteers! Bob and Tammie Hursh have been on the team for some time and are ready to hand off to two new people. They will provide training, and other AV team members are here to lend support. Please prayerfully consider being part of this one-Sunday-a-month ministry. Contact Diane Winebar or Mike Rhonemus with questions or to say, "Yes! I want to help!" Thank you!
- Looking ahead to Advent and Christmas. It seems early, but Advent begins Nov. 27. We are happy to announce that Dave Good will serve as pulpit supply Dec. 11, Dec. 18, and Christmas Eve. You'll find the Help Decorate the Sanctuary form in this newsletter. And don't forget to stay after church on Nov. 20 for the Hanging of the Greens!



- Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year.
 Instead of worshipping in church, BPC will participate in a pre-recorded online worship service with other Findlay area congregations.

 Watch for more details in December's newsletter.
- We had a nice gathering of 2-leggers and 4-leggers for our October 1 Blessing of the Animals service! Some photos are shown below in this newsletter. Thanks again to Pet Supplies Plus and Chow Hound for donating free samples of pet products and to A Lotta Love Pet Rescue for bringing pets that needed homes.



THIS RAINBOW APPEARED WHEN PASTOR KAROL WAS READING ABOUT NOAH!





A LOTTA LOVE PET RESCUE IN LIMA HAS ADORABLE ANIMALS LIKE THESE READY TO ADOPT!









FAITH FORMATION

New DVD Discussion Series for Teens and Adults Begins November 13!

There are stories, and then there are Tex Sample stories! Tex, an author, teacher, and specialist in church and society, presents 20 short, but profound,

stories in his own down- to-earth style. You'll see how God and spirituality can be found in the most unlikely people and places. Prepare for your heart to be moved! Lively discussion will follow each tale for



sure. **Join us from Nov. 13 - Dec. 18 in the Preschool room.** Have to miss a Sunday?

No problem – come when you can. Led by Clair and Diane Winebar.

Released Time Walkers Save the Date

Remaining dates for "Released Time" Christian Education walkers this academic year are Dec. 2, Jan. 17, Feb 17, March 28, and May 2. Please contact Dick McGarrity if available to fill a shift.

New 5-Week Series – Get in the Spirit!

Hello Bluffton Presbyterians! Sunday, October 29, we are starting a new 5-week Series, Get in the Spirit! We will use pictures to initiate conversation based around scripture and follow up with fun activities to get us in the holiday spirit. Please join us as we meet at 9 a.m. each week in the church basement.

Details:

- Starts out with light breakfast and fellowship leading into the lesson and activity.
- Activities include card making, visiting homebound, blanket tying, and more. 11/13 we will be meeting at Don and Jodi Brauen's home for some gourding!
- Dates: 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, and 12/4
- All ages are welcome!
 Reach out to Sarah Brauen with any questions.

Thank you to everyone who joined the Game Times series this fall! We had a wonderful participation!

Game Time Series Scavenger Hunt













BPC Transition Task Force update

The Task Force consisting of Marilyn Edwards, Carole Enneking, and Dick McGarrity met on Sunday, October 23 to begin the work of planning for the congregation's next pastoral leader. The team invites the congregation to join them in this guiding prayer:

O Faithful God, we ask you to guide us in our time of transition. We need your wisdom, that we might be receptive to change, conversion and growth. We need your grace to redirect our hearts so we may be willing to offer ourselves in joyful service. Do not allow fear, ignorance, or pride to limit the work of your Spirit. Amen. (www.beliefnet.com; 7 Prayers for those in transition).

Contact any Task Force member to ask questions or provide input on this process.

MISSION

Our Congregation in Action with on-going **Mission Projects**

Cents-Ability – The 2nd Sunday of each month is designated as Cents-Ability Sunday and will include time for reflection, education, and public witness of our support for hunger projects. Each individual/family is encouraged to setting aside a few pennies each day and bring them to join with other gifts. Monthly gifts will support Bluffton Community Assistance, Presbytery Hunger projects, and our congregation's Little Free Pantry. Cents-Ability support can be made online, and gifts specifically for the Little Free Pantry will still be welcomed.

Upcoming Projects:

- o Christmas Adopt A Family (Bluffton Community Assistance) - wish lists will be posted as soon as we receive them.
- Blanket Tying the congregation is invited to use provided Blanket kits, or create their own blankets to donate to Family Promise and Adopt A Family recipients.
- Join in on Mission Work Wednesdays, November 2 and December 7 at 7:30 PM are upcoming committee meetings. If you have an interest in a Mission project or committee work, contact Carole Enneking.



Thank you for your support of PCUSA peacemaking projects, plus direct support of the South Sudan Education and Peace Building program. If you wish to add support for the South Sudan efforts, visit https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E05217 2-1/.

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE The

Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian Advent tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. To give now, visit https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/giftinfo/christmas-joy/

Little Free Pantry

Oct 31-Nov 6 – Sue Van Eman Nov 7-13 – Diane Winebar Nov 14-20 – Jayne McGarrity Nov 21-27 – Carole Enneking Nov 28-Dec 4 - Sarah Noland

Items needed in the pantry at this time are boxed cereal, hot chocolate packets, and cake mixes. Thanks for your continued support!

BPC Member Kay Ziessler pictured in recent MHCO Article: https://mhcoliving.org/willow-ridgecelebrates-10th-anniversary/





Thanks to Don and Cathy Carroll and Jeff and Cindy Gillen for covering October Pizza Night! Anyone interested in helping **November 12** and **December 10** or donating drinks, chips, candy bars, plates, napkins, or gallon resealable bags, please call or text Bob Hursh. If you donate money, please submit a check (memo: LRM) to the church office or give online (www.blufftonpc.org/give). Thanks!

Dear BPC Family,

Thank you very much for the gift for Pastor Appreciation Month. It has been wonderful to be in relationship with you these past 5 years. May your generosity carry over to your future leaders, your fellow members, and all our neighbors, who we are called to love as ourselves. Thank you for being a supportive congregation for my first pastoral call.

In Christ, Pastor Karol

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Bath Elementary School would like to thank you for your generous donation of school supplies. The school is off to a busy start and many of those supplies have been utilized to help those students who didn't have them.

Birthdays

Nov 2

- Julia Szabo
- 7 Nathan Hursh Gayle Marshall
- 8 Morgan McVetta
- 10 Owen Brauen
- 15 Jeff Gillen
- 21 Pat Deal
- 26 Madison Hursh
- 28 Clara Brauen
 - Mike Wagner (Brandie Carroll)
- 30 Emery Culbertson

Anniversaries

Nov 15 Kim and Lynda Best

18 Phill and Michelle Talavinia

26 Bill and Chris Gable

Dec 7 Jeff and Kerry Fremont

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP



September 2022 - General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2022

\$

Release of Paycheck Protection Plan Proceeds into the general fund Receipt of employee retention credit

Covid relief funds

Offerings for 2022 received in 2021

YTD offerings to the general fund

YTD general fund expenses September 30, 2022 balance

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget!



Volunteers needed to help pass the offering plates.

We need three volunteers for each Sunday worship service to serve as offering plate ushers during the introduction to the Closing Hymn: one usher on each outer aisle and one in the middle aisle. If you can help, please sign up for a Sunday (or two ③) on the usher volunteer calendar on the back table. Or email or call or text Clair Winebar. Thank you very much for your willingness to serve!

Thank you PromoHits!

Thank you to PromoHits for their recent \$947 gift to BPC! PromoHits is a local Main Street business and made the gift under their practice to donate a portion of sales to local non-profit organizations.

COVID-Related Funds Update

During September and October, BPC received money from the IRS for Employee Retention Credits. This credit is for employers who had lower receipts during parts of 2021 but did not reduce payroll.

During November, BPC expects to receive from Hartford International University for filling out a COVID impact survey. Session approved participation in the survey, under which we will continue to file annual surveys through 2026, at which time we will receive an additional.

Total funds provided to BPC from COVID-related programs are approximately, including approximately received in 2020-2021 under the Paycheck Protection Plan, received this year for Employee Retention Credits, and to be received in November from the Hartford Institute for Religion Research (and another in 2026). The funds have been used to cover gaps between current general fund offerings and expenses.



Prayers of Sympathy for:

The family and friends of Sonia Cupples who passed away recently.

Joshua and Gabriel Ellis (Tanya Best's students) whose father was killed in an automobile accident.

The family and friends of Jim Harmon who died from Covid-19.

Continued Prayers for:

Those who live alone or in care facilities and are less able to engage in meaningful connections with others, including Jane Benroth, Sheila Hurlburt, Peggy Hursey, Ralph and Donnie Middleton, Ben Miracle, Dortha Radabaugh, Hazel Rodabaugh, and Owen and Kay Ziessler.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

Ukraine for peace and hope amid the ongoing war with Russia.

We Pray for God's Healing for:

Tom Edwards

Gayle Marshall

Dwight Nichols

David Abel (Mariah Pneuman's former son-in-law

Pete Amstutz (Gayle Marshall's friend)

Joel & Kelly Barnett (McGarrity's nephew)

Brecken (Shawna Anderson's son)

Jim and Judy Dowling (Tanya Best's brother and sister-in-law

Alva Hunt (Jerry Szabo's friend)

Brenda McCoy (Betsey Angus's friend)

Michael Roberts (Jeremy Szabo's friend)

Anessa Samsal (Mariah Pneuman's granddaughter-in-law)

Miranda Samsal (Mariah Pneuman's granddaughter) Kelly Winger (Cindy Gillen's cousin)

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Mike Rhonemus. PLEASE leave a message if no answer. Or call the church office with your prayer request, and we will pass along the information. If you would like to add someone else to the prayer chain, 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.



Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent & Christmas!

If you wish to help beautify the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons, use the form below to make a monetary donation. Your gift will be used to buy poinsettias and other items. Please return your completed form and gift by December 18 to have your dedication included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias may be picked up following the Christmas Eve service.

Please make checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, with "poinsettias" on the memo line. Place forms and gifts in a collection plate, drop in the Treasurer's box in the office, or mail to the church (PO Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817).

To donate online: Go to blufftonpc.org and click on GIVE. Follow the links to Advent Decorations.

The Worship Committee thanks you!

//We wish to donate \$
/We would like this gift to be given in MEMORY OF:
/We would like this gift to be given in HONOR OF:
our Name(s):

COUNT ME IN! 2023 Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to everyone who has shared their intentions to provide time, talents, and/or financial offerings to BPC during 2023! Please prayerfully consider the sharing of your time and financial resources by completing a Count Me In card and turning it in to the church office or during weekly offerings anytime between now and November 13. Also please consider sharing why you support BPC with your gifts of time and/or financial offerings by having your picture taken by the Count Me In easel board!

As we enter a season of change, our intentions of sharing time, talents, and offerings are important when it becomes time for prospective pastors to discern whether they are being led to us.

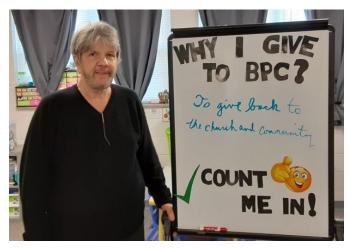
	COUNT ME IN! I/we prayerfully choose to give of our time and talent by serving in the following ways:
Name:	I/we anticipate being able to give financially to the church operating fund as follows in 2023: \$ weekly \$ monthly
Phone:	\$quarterly \$yearly Quarterly financial giving summaries will be sent to you to ensure our records align with yours.



To strengthen my faith!



To give back a portion of what God gave to us.



To give back to the church and community



We believe in BPC and its ministries



Flower growing though a crack in the BPC sidewalk, determined to say, "COUNT Me In!"

COUNT ME IN!

- Checks or cash can be placed in the offering plates during worship or in the lockbox just inside the church office door. You may also mail your check to BPC, PO Box 149, Bluffton, OH 45817. Contact church treasurer Julia Szabo for a free supply of giving envelopes.
- ✓ Giving online at <u>www.blufftonpc.org/give</u> is safe and secure. One-time or recurring gifts to the General Fund or special offerings are accepted.
- ✓ Use your online banking account to instruct your bank to mail a one-time or recurring check directly to the church.

BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 112 N. MAIN ST., P.O. BOX 149 BLUFFTON, OH 45817

Sundays: Faith Formation: 9:00 AM

Worship: 10:15 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Phone: Email:

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email:

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email:

Communications Coordinator: Abigail Gwin

Email:

Faith Formation Intern: Laura Irwin

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Children's Church Leaders: Laura Irwin and

Brooklyn Phillips

Email:

Custodians: Chris and John Hochstetler

2022 Church Officers

Elders on Session

Clerk of Session - Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Sycks

Faith Formation – Dick McGarrity

Fellowship – Tom Edwards

Mission – Carole Enneking

Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Diane Winebar

Elders at Large – Sarah Brauen and Phill Talavinia

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

Members: Cindy Gillen, Rob McGarrity,

Jana McVetta, Tenna Rhonemus, Mike Rhonemus