



*Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love*

# What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

## November 2023

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### **Sunday, November 5 – Communion**

Pulpit Supply: Tenna Rhonemus  
Liturgist: Sarah Brauen  
Special Music: Bell Choir  
Don and Clara vocal duet  
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Betsey Angus  
Slides: Pastor Dave  
Acolyte: Bowen  
Greeters: Dan and Sarah Noland

#### **Sunday, November 12 – Cents-Ability Offering,**

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff  
Liturgist: Clair Winebar  
Special Music: Choir  
Daphne and Levin instrumental duet  
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar  
Slides: Diane Winebar  
Acolyte: Robbie  
Greeters: Betsey Angus and Lynda Best

#### **Sunday, November 19**

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good  
Liturgist: Tom Edwards  
Special Music: Marilyn and Dan – brass  
Mike, Sharon, and Sheila – ensemble  
(Sue's friends)  
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen  
Slides: Michele Talavinia  
Acolytes: Owen and Clara  
Greeters: Jeff and Cindy Gillen

#### **Sunday, November 26 – Reign of Christ**

Pulpit Supply: Rev. Dave Good  
Liturgist: Phill Talavinia  
Choir  
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Lynda Best  
Slides: Cathy Carroll  
Acolyte: Avery Talavinia  
Greeters: Helen Hawk and Darlene Hey

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### **Sundays:**

Sunday School 9:00 AM – Pre-K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Fellowship Hall  
Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary  
Children's Church – Fellowship Hall

**Tuesdays:** Claralice Circle 6:30 PM – Fellowship Hall

**Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM – Sanctuary

November 5 – Daylight Savings Time Begins  
November 5 – Stewardship Sunday  
November 5 – Congregational Meeting Following Worship  
November 5 – Community Bible Study – BPC Fellowship Hall 6:00-7:15 PM  
November 8 – Mission Committee Meeting 7:30 PM  
November 9 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM  
November 11 – Put up Reams Display 8:30-Noon  
November 11 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM  
November 12 – Hanging of the Greens Following Worship  
November 12 – Community Bible Study – BPC Fellowship Hall 6:00-7:15 PM  
November 14 – Maumee Valley Presbytery Meeting – First Presbyterian Church Findlay 10:30-1:30 PM  
November 16 – Community Thanksgiving Service – Senior Citizen Center Following Community Meal  
November 19 – Community Bible Study – BPC Fellowship Hall 6:00-7:15 PM  
November 19 – Faithline 6:30-8:00 PM at 116 Church Street  
November 25 – Blaze of Lights 4:00 PM  
November 26 – Community Bible Study – BPC Fellowship Hall 6:00-7:15 PM  
**November 26 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day**

Weekly livestream worship is available on our [Facebook page](#) and later posted to our [website](#).

## SESSION

### Highlights of October's Session Meeting

- Started winterizing around the church and manse - thermostats switched over to heat (except the sanctuary – has an option of AUTO for either heat or AC), mulching leaves at the manse, pulled summer flowers around the church, and sprayed for weeds once more.
- Bluffton Area Ministerial Information - BPC will be remitting dues for 2023 and 2024 (total of \$20). Diane Winebar has graciously agreed to represent our church and participate in the community Thanksgiving Service on Thursday, November 16 at the Senior Center following the community meal.
- Treasurer Julia Szabo has submitted her resignation effective October 31 – parents are moving to Bluffton and she will be assisting in the transition. Clair Winebar hired to cover Treasurer functions on an interim basis.
- Approved calling a Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, November 5 for the purpose of electing Deacons, Elders, and 2024 Nominating Committee.

## Congregational Meeting



On Sunday, November 5, following worship there will be a short Congregational Meeting called for the purpose of electing Elders, Deacons, and 2024 Nominating Committee.

### Community Thanksgiving Service

The Community Thanksgiving Service, sponsored by Bluffton Area Ministerial Association, will be held Thursday, November 16, at the Senior Center following the 6:00 p.m. Community Meal. Special thanks to Diane Winebar who is participating in this service on behalf of our church!



### Maumee Valley Presbytery Meeting

On Tuesday, November 14, Maumee Valley Presbytery will be meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Findlay. Our church has been invited to assist them in hosting. We are looking for volunteers to help with lunch (set-up/serve/clean up) from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please contact Lori Schmidt if you are able to help!



*Julia Szabo*, BPC's Treasurer, will be stepping down at the end of October to spend more time with her parents who recently moved to Bluffton. Julia has had a busy, incredibly productive term of service over the past four years, including guiding us through two rounds of federal COVID relief programs and establishing online giving capabilities. With much gratitude, thank you Julia for your dedicated stewardship of BPC's financial resources.

Following October 31, you may direct any financial questions you may have to Clair Winebar, Stewardship & Finance Elder, who will take care of Treasurer functions on an interim basis.

## DEACONS

### Highlights of Deacon's October 11 Meeting

- Menu set for December 21 Community Meal.
- Discussion on moving monthly Deacon meeting to another day.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Faithline For Youth

Faithline is a monthly gathering of youth for dinner, a message, and Christian fellowship. It's for students (6th - college) from all churches who want an evening of sharing with their peers. Along with great food there will be individuals who share their hearts and their love of the Lord and worship leaders who share their music ministries.

The speaker for the November 19 meeting at 116 Church Street from 6:30-8:00 p.m., will be Dr. David Yoder with music by "The Fallout" worship band. If you are interested in attending, please call Brooklyn Phillips.

The Faith Formation team is looking at new options for the Youth Group. If you have any ideas, please contact Dick McGarrity.



Rev. Bob Butcher will lead a community bible study each Sunday in November from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall in the basement. The study will explore the mystery of the person of Jesus Christ as told by the Gospel according to St. John.

A light supper will be headed by the Fellowship Committee. They will be serving as follows:

Nov 5 – hot chicken sandwiches, sides, and dessert

Nov 12 – pizza, salad, and dessert

Nov 19 – potluck appetizers

Nov 26 – pizza, salad, and dessert

No reservations needed. Bring a friend!



## MISSION



Thanks to Don and Cathy Carroll, and Jeff and Cindy Gillen for covering October Pizza Night at LRM. We saw a big increase this month. The men sure do enjoy the Fat Jack's pizza! Thanks, as well, to everyone who continues to help with donations.

We need 2-3 servers for November 11. Anyone interested in helping or donating soda, water, variety pack chips, candy bars, 10" plates, or gallon ziplock bags, please call or text Bob Hursh. We are still looking for 2-3 volunteers for November 11.

If you donate money, please submit a check (memo: LRM) to the church office or give online ([www.blufftonpc.org/give](http://www.blufftonpc.org/give)). Thanks!



### Little Free Pantry

Oct 30-Nov 5 – Sue Van Eman

Nov 6-Nov 12 – Jayne McGarrity

Nov 13-Nov 19 – Carole Enneking

Nov 20-Nov 26 – Sarah Brauen

Nov 27-Dec 3 – Sarah Noland

A "Little Free Pantry" round plastic container has been placed in the front of the sanctuary for donations. Boxed cereal and canned fruit would be welcome donations this month! Thanks!

### Upcoming Projects

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 Adopt A Family recipients.



## CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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/gift-info/christmas-joy/>



### **Christmas Cookie/Candy Mix and Match Sale**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 9, from 9:00 a.m. to noon to stop by the church to pick up Christmas Cookies/ Candy in the Fellowship Hall! We are asking for donations of at least 3 dozen small homemade Christmas cookies and/or candy. Please bring in disposable containers (shirt boxes work well). More information and sign-up sheets will be on the back table in the sanctuary. Proceeds will go to Missions.

Share this event with friends and families! If you would like to donate home-baked cookies, contact Kerry Freemont, or sign up in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Worship**

Church will be decorated for Christmas following worship service on November 12. Your help is appreciated.

Youth will lead worship on December 10 coordinated by Tenna Rhonemus.

The online link to use to sign up for liturgists, greeters, acolytes, and to serve communion is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BACAF2FA1F9C61-45242430-church>.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those who prefer not to sign up online.



### **Chiles-Laman**

**"A family dedicated to service."**

To: Our Church Families and Friends

This holiday season is normally a time of joy, but when someone you love has died, it can be a time of loneliness and pain. If you are experiencing grief, your friends at Chiles-Laman Funeral & Cremation Services will host their 33rd Annual Tree of Remembrance Services and Open House on Saturday, December 2, 2023. The Open House will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at our Shawnee Chapel, located at 1170 Shawnee Road in Lima. The Tree of Remembrance service will begin at 3:00 PM.

Light refreshments will be served during the Open House. Your family may pick up your ornament anytime during the Open House event.

The 33rd Annual Tree of Remembrance Service is presented as a gift to our community from the Chiles-Laman families. Anyone is welcome to attend, regardless of which funeral home provided the services for their loved one.

There is no charge to attend, however, reservations are requested. To make a reservation, order your Ornament, or for additional information, please do not hesitate to call 419-228-5474.

If your loved one passed away this year, your family is welcome to receive one complimentary ornament. Additional ornaments and ornaments for loved ones who have passed away in any previous year will be available \$30 each. To place your order, please call 419-228-5474 prior to November 17.

The Chiles families wish you and yours a blessed holiday season.



## Et Cetera Inc. to Celebrate Yearlong 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in 2024

BLUFFTON, OH – Et Cetera Inc. is planning a yearlong 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for 2024. A series of events, open to the community, will celebrate 50 years of Et Cetera's operation in Bluffton.

Initially opened as a thrift and gift store in 1974, Et Cetera was created by the late Lois Sommer Kreider, then of Bluffton, and was sponsored by local Mennonite churches. Today, Et Cetera Inc. is operated by a non-profit board and is sponsored by six area churches, including First Mennonite, Bluffton; Bluffton Presbyterian Church, Bluffton; Grace Mennonite, Pandora; Salem Mennonite, Elida; Lima Mennonite, Lima; and St. John Bible, Pandora.

Et Cetera Inc. has grown from one store to three separate stores: Et Cetera Shop, a thrift store; Ten Thousand Villages Bluffton, a cultural gift store selling fair trade goods handcrafted by global artisans; and Book ReViews, selling gently used books. Each store employs a manager assisted by a team of volunteers.

Et Cetera is part of a network of not-for-profit stores that support local and global relief, development, and peace projects of Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

Events throughout 2024 will involve the community in celebrating 50 years of operation and include a summer garden tour, style show, several customer appreciation days at each store, comforter blitz for MCC, repurposing/crafts for kids at Bluffton Family Recreation, as well as other events.

The steering committee led by Joyce Schumacher includes Susie Gratz, Heidrun Awad, Cindy Luginbill, Shirley Sommer, and Mary Pannabecker Steiner.

Contact: Mary Pannabecker Steiner  
567-208-8849  
[steinermp1980@gmail.com](mailto:steinermp1980@gmail.com)



Book Reviews:

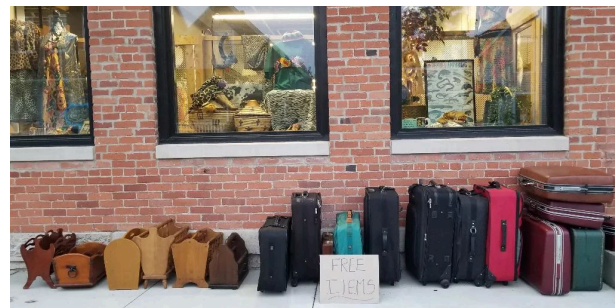
Photo of books: Display of childrens' books



Poster at Ten Thousand Villages: Fair trade relationships



Exterior of Et Cetera Thrift Shop.



Periodically, Et Cetera places free items in front of the store.



### 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, Ralph Middleton, Ben Miracle, Hazel Rodabaugh, and Owen Ziessler.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

Prayers for the people of Israel.

The Pastor Nominating Committee as they continue the search for a new pastor.

### Prayers of Celebration for:

Mariah Pneuman whose dental surgery went well.

Taylor Zsiro who is now first on the donor list.

### Prayers of Sympathy for:

The family and friends of Elaine Haton who recently passed. (Colletta Mullenhour's friend)

### We Pray for God's Healing for:

Jane Benroth  
Sue Mathewson  
Mariah Pneuman  
Alaina (friend of LeAnn Carr)  
Makayla, Skyler, and Rhett (friends of Tyler and Jade Hochstetler)  
Sylvia (Diane Winebar's sister)  
Dr. Sharon Cole (Darlene Hey's doctor)  
John Crouse (Darlene Hey's nephew)  
Linda Francies (Bev Begg's daughter)  
Nancy and Larry Frost (Cindy Gillen's cousins)  
Adrian Gnam (LeAnn Carr's friend)  
Kira Kogovsek (Mullenhour family friend)  
Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey's daughter)  
Larry and Eileen Rhonemus (Mike's parents)  
Taylor Zsiros (Jeff and Kerry Fremont's son's fiancé)



## BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, 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.

## Birthdays

Nov.	2	Julia Szabo
	7	Nathan Hursh
	8	Morgan McVetta
	10	Owen Brauen
	15	Jeff Gillen
	21	Pat Deal
	26	Madison Hursh
	28	Clara Brauen Mike Wagner
	30	Emery Culbertson
Dec.	4	Marilyn Edwards Jim Enneking

## Anniversaries

Nov.	15	Kim and Lynda Best Phill and Michelle Talavinia Bill and Chris Gable
Dec.	7	Jeff and Kerry Fremont



## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

### September 2023 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2023	\$
YTD offerings to the general fund and other receipts	
YTD general fund expenses	(
September 30, 2023 balance	\$

Thank you for your financial gifts to the general operating fund to support BPC's ministries!

**2024 Stewardship Campaign**  
*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

Missions	Music	Prayer	Faith	Hospitality
Service	Sharing	Special Music	Mercy	Guidance
Intercession	Leadership	Counsel	Wisdom	Deaconing
<b>Spiritual Gifts!</b>				
Encouragement	Love	Generosity	Art	Discernment
Patience	Cheer	Administration	Fortitude	Creativity
Caring	Piety	Grace	Kindness	Teaching

**THANK YOU!**

Please prayerfully consider providing a commitment card of time, talents, and sharing of financial gifts on Stewardship Sunday, November 5. We celebrate the Spiritual Gifts that God has generously provided to us to do his good work! If you may not be attending the November 5 service, please feel free to drop your commitment card in an offering plate any Sunday through the end of November, by mailing to the church office, dropping in the Treasurer's lockbox, or emailing to [Treasurer@blufftonpc.org](mailto:Treasurer@blufftonpc.org). Thank you for supporting the ministries of BPC!



### Fighting Hunger with Cents-Ability

The second Sunday of the month is the Cents-ability collection. The youth will be participating in the collection and making it a "noisy Sunday". Youth of the church will be walking around the sanctuary with cans, shaking them and collecting from the congregation! Make sure to bring your spare change to help make this as noisy as possible!!



Community Markets is a super easy way of supporting both BPC and our local grocery store! Simply drop your Community Markets receipts in the basket attached to the bulletin board by the church office or mail them to the church – no user account, loyalty card, or app required! We receive a 1% rebate. Even small receipts are worth turning in; the combined total adds up. Darlene Hey handles this ministry for us, and reminds us to please hand in whole receipts. Please do not cut off the bottoms of your receipts because only whole receipts qualify.



### The 37th annual Blaze of Lights A Journey Through Time

The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Blaze of Lights, A Journey Through Time is scheduled for Saturday, November 25, in downtown Bluffton!

Vocal groups (3-8 members) are being sought to provide all types of Christmas music before and after the traditional parade. These groups can be acappella or accompanied by acoustic guitar and should be prepared to sing 3-4 songs.

Beginning at 4:00 p.m., until the start of the parade at 5:00 p.m., these vocal groups will, independently, roam Bluffton's Main Street sidewalks, alleys, and businesses, serenading guests awaiting the beginning of the parade.

When the parade finishes, the BHS show Choir will perform on the street in front of the main stage. The vocal groups are encouraged to come to the stage and provide entertainment leading up to the lighting ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

When the lighting ceremony begins on the Presbyterian lawn on Main Street, the vocal groups will gather just outside the ropes on the sidewalk and face Main Street. When this year's dignitary "Hits the Switch" and the lawn is a Blaze of Lights, the combined vocal groups will help lead the audience in singing Christmas carols.

To sign up, or for more information, please email Kevin Gratz at [kmgratz@gmail.com](mailto:kmgratz@gmail.com).



# AWE of Spiritual Gifts!

## 2024 Stewardship Campaign

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

1 Peter 4:10

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<i>Missions</i>	<i>Music</i>	<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Faith</i>	<i>Hospitality</i>
<i>Service</i>	<i>Sharing</i>	<i>Special Music</i>	<i>Mercy</i>	<i>Guidance</i>
<i>Intercession</i>	<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Counsel</i>	<i>Wisdom</i>	<i>Deaconing</i>
<i>Spiritual Gifts!</i>				
<i>Encouragement</i>	<i>Love</i>	<i>Generosity</i>	<i>Art</i>	<i>Discernment</i>
<i>Patience</i>	<i>Cheer</i>	<i>Administration</i>	<i>Fortitude</i>	<i>Creativity</i>
<i>Caring</i>	<i>Piety</i>	<i>Grace</i>	<i>Kindness</i>	<i>Teaching</i>

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Friends of Bluffton Presbyterian Church, **THANK YOU!**

Thank you for:

- Recharging our souls through Christian messages, music, fellowship, and kind words
- Supporting our community and providing positive moments to more lives than we know - **Little Free Pantry**, **Lima Rescue Mission**, **special offerings**, **Cents-Ability**, **Adopt-a-Family**, etc.!
- Keeping our congregation and community informed with creative communications and technology know-how.
- Seeing us through concerns with your support, prayers, and caring
- Maintaining our building and keeping our grounds looking wonderful and inviting
- Teaching and guiding young members of our church and community
- Financially supporting BPC's ministries, operations, and missions
- And so many other gifts and ministries

God has provided amazing spiritual gifts; the strength gained by each of us sharing is awe-inspiring! Enclosed are commitment cards for 2024. Please prayerfully consider your commitment of time, talents, and sharing of financial gifts so that BPC can continue to make positive differences.

The Stewardship & Finance Committee - *Craig Bowman, Barb Fett, Dick McGarrity, and Clair Winebar*

*Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.* Leo Buscaglia



## *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 17** 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](http://blufftonpc.org) and click on GIVE. Follow the links to Advent Decorations.

The Worship Committee thanks you!

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I/We wish to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I/We would like this gift to be given in **MEMORY OF:**

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I/We would like this gift to be given in **HONOR OF:**

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**Your Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email:

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

Treasurer: Julia Szabo

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

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 – Jade Hochstetler

Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Lynda Best

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