



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

November 2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, November 3 – Communion

Pulpit Supply: Tenna Rhonemus
Liturgist: Dick McGarrity
Special Music: Don Brauen
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Betsey Angus
Slides: Linda Nelson
Acolyte: Morgan
Greeters: Don and Jodi Brauen

Sunday, November 10 – Cents-Ability Offering

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgist: Tenna Rhonemus
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolyte: Robbie
Greeters: Mike and Tenna Rhonemus

Sunday, November 17

Pulpit Supply: Jeanne Gay
Liturgist: Dave Van Eman
Special Music: Bell Choir directed by Kerry Fremont
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen
Slides: Michele Talavinia
Acolyte: Avery
Greeters: Phil Bowers and Betsey Angus

Sunday, November 24

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgist: Dave Sycks
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolyte: Bowen
Greeters: Phil and Pam Weisenbarger



Mark Your Calendars!

Sundays:

Worship 10:15 AM – Sanctuary
Sunday School – Pre-K-6th Grade – Following
“Time for Young Christians”

Tuesdays:

Claralice Circle 6:30 PM

Wednesdays:

Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Nov 3 – Daylight Savings Time Begins

Nov 3 – Deacon Meeting 9:15 AM

Nov 9 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Nov 9 – Start putting up Lights for Blaze

Nov 10 – Deadline Practicing Gratitude Cards

Nov 10 – Church Potluck following Worship

Nov 14 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Nov 15 – 2025 Commitment Cards Due

Nov 15 – Deadline Hartford Institute Survey

Nov 16 – Put up Reams Display 8:30-Noon

Nov 24 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy by end of day

Nov 30 – Blaze of Lights 4:00 PM

Dec 1 – Hanging of the Greens Following Worship

Dec 8 – Youth Sunday

Dec 14 – Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale

DEACONS

No meeting was held in October.

WORSHIP

Our church will be decorated for Christmas following worship service on December 1. Your help is appreciated.

Youth will lead worship on December 8 coordinated by Tenna Rhonemus.

SESSION

October Meeting Highlights

- Timer switch installed in the gazebo so light will automatically shut off after certain amount of time. Met with Brian Barry to discuss possible solutions to the projector (originally purchased in 2017) shutting off from overheating – projector taken to be checked. Area on wall in the choir loft damaged from roof leak has been repaired/repainted by Mike Rhonemus and Dave Sycks. Light switch in choir loft fixed. Sprayed church for ants. Carbon monoxide detector installed in church hallway.
- Tenna Rhonemus will be working with youth for December 8 - Youth Sunday. Approved request that in December, Communion be moved to the second Sunday with youth being allowed to serve Communion.
- Maumee Valley Presbytery met September 17 at Christ Presbyterian (Toledo). 2025 Per Capita \$40.29 (Presbytery - \$26.05, Synod - \$3.40, and General Assembly - \$10.84). Erie Presbyterian Church (Erie, MI) has voted to close. First Presbyterian and Eastside Presbyterian (Fremont) are exploring potential merger. Approved Maumee Valley Presbytery's Minimum Compensation Standards for pastors will be set based on the Total Cost to the Congregation: \$78,100 for full-time minimum terms of call in 2025, \$81,400 in 2026. Approved appointment of Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church – Montpelier. Approved request from West Eagle Creek Presbyterian Church – Montpelier to grant waiver on term limits of ruling elders/deacons. Rev. Mary Beth McCandless (West Bethesda and West Eagle Creek) has accepted new position in Indiana. Rev. Amy Remaklus is now part-time pastor at Ottawa Presbyterian in addition to being the Director of Toledo Campus Ministry. Recognized these retirements – Jim Miller (First Presbyterian – Pemberville) and Mike Roderick (Fairgreen Presbyterian – Toledo). Leadership Commission concurred with action of Bluffton Presbyterian to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (after congregation withdrew and revoked the call to Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke).

- Approved request from Linda Nelson, member of The EtCetera Board, for the The EtCetera Board to have their December board meeting at our church on Monday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

September 2024 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2024	\$
Year-to-date offerings and receipts	
Year-to-date expenses	
Balance September 30, 2024 balance	\$

A couple special non-budgeted fund balances on September 30 included \$241 for Little Free Pantry supplies and \$2,333 for monthly Lima Rescue Mission pizza dinners. Thank you for supporting BPC's ministries!

Fill out a Hartford Institute Survey by Nov. 15

The past couple years, Session has completed an annual online **Hartford Institute Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations (EPIC) Survey**. For participating, BPC received \$1,250 in 2022, and we will receive an additional \$1,250 when the annual surveys end in 2026. The annual surveys are completed by a church's pastor or an elder.

For 2024 only, the survey includes an attender survey open to all regular or semi-regular participants of a congregation (members and friends aged 18 or older). Session encourages members and friends to complete the Survey. The survey takes approximately ten minutes to complete. If at least ten participants fill out BPC's survey, the Hartford Institute will send us a \$200 Amazon gift card. Not all of us will be answering the same survey questions; 50% of the survey is shared, and 50% of the questions are randomly assigned. If you have any questions, or if you prefer to fill out a paper copy of the survey or lack internet access, please contact Clair Winebar.

BPC's attender survey link:

https://covidreligionstudy.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9GYI89a3NMOwuFw?congregation=99006

Please complete the survey by Nov. 15, and thank you for participating!

Practicing Gratitude!
2025 Stewardship Campaign

Friends of Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for *Practicing Gratitude* by supporting BPC's many ministries – worship, missions, care, faith formation, fellowship, and more! With God as Provider and Replenisher, we celebrate 175 years of serving and joyfully look forward to the opportunities of many more!

Thank you for generously sharing your time and work, talents, prayers, creativity, loving care, and monetary resources. ***Practicing Gratitude*** is giving thanks in action and is a double blessing, bringing both givers and givers' neighbors closer to God.

Practicing Gratitude Exercise!

The Stewardship & Finance Committee would like everyone to please join in a little Practicing Gratitude exercise! All ages welcome!

What are you grateful for? Please anonymously fill out the attached card and drop it in the ***Practicing Gratitude*** jar which will be located at the back of the sanctuary until November 10. Maybe you're grateful for something having to do with BPC's worship services, a mission program, or maybe something not directly part of BPC. Share your appreciations! Ballot stuffing is welcome, the more cards, the better! We'll share some of the cards during future worship services or in a newsletter.

Commitment Cards for 2025

As a continued way of ***Practicing Gratitude***, the Stewardship & Finance Committee also invites you to prayerfully consider making an intention to share time, talent, and financial resources for next year's operating fund. Please provide your commitment card (form attached) when you attend Nov. 10 worship service. Any time before or after November 10 is fine as well.

Thank you for ***Practicing Gratitude***,

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

***Yours are the feet with which he (Christ) walks to do good, yours are the hands,
with which he blesses all the world. St. Teresa of Avila (A.D. 1500s)***

Practicing Gratitude Card

I am grateful for:

No need to include your name.

Please drop completed form in Practicing Gratitude jar at back of sanctuary by November 10, 2024. You may also mail your form to the Bluffton Presbyterian Church office (PO Box 149, Bluffton OH 45817), or email a message (no form required). *Thank you!*

BLUFFTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	PRACTICING GRATITUDE
<i>Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love</i>	I/we prayerfully choose to give of time and talent by serving in the following ways:
Thanks to your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we are able to worship, connect through fellowship, and serve God through outreach and mission.	<hr/>
	<hr/>
Name: _____	I/we anticipate being able to give financially to the church operating fund as follows in 2025:
Address: _____	\$ _____ weekly \$ _____ monthly
Quarterly financial giving summaries will be sent to you to ensure our records agree with yours.	\$ _____ quarterly \$ _____ yearly
	<input type="checkbox"/> I/we are currently unable to make a specific commitment.

DEACONS

No meeting was held in October.

FELLOWSHIP



To honor our Veterans for Veterans Day, please join us after church on November 10 for a potluck (ham will be served). We would like to acknowledge all our family and friends who have faithfully served our country, so we are inviting our congregation to bring in photos of loved ones in the service, past or present.

A display will be set up in the fellowship hall during the potluck. Please include the person's name and family association. Contact Kerry Fremont if you would like to contribute the photos before November 10.

MISSION

Mission has clean-up buckets we are working on now. We will be having a cookie walk and Adopt a Family in December.



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/>



Clean up Buckets Needed

We would like to do 4 clean up buckets to send to those impacted by Hurricane Helene. We will be collecting the following items: work gloves (1 per bucket), cleaning towels ~ 18 reusable Easy Wipes (1 per bucket), insect repellent 6-14oz. lotion or drops, no aerosol (1 per bucket), 5-gallon bucket with resealable lid (4).

Theses supplies offer help for families as they begin the overwhelming task of storm and flood clean-up.

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board or call or text Carole Enneking to sign up to give. Please drop items off in back of church. Thank you!!



Thanks to Barb and Dave McClurg for helping Tammie and Bob Hursh to cover October Pizza Night, and thanks to everyone who helped with donations. We again were able to provide a pizza night for ~30+ men.

November 9 Pizza Night is covered. If you are interested in serving, we are looking for 1 to 2 people to help on December 14. Anyone interested in helping or donating drinks, snacks, and supplies, please call or text Bob Hursh.

Thanks, Bob Hursh

Little Free Pantry

Oct 28-Nov 3 – Sarah Noland
 Nov 4-10 – Diane Winebar
 Nov 11-17 – Jodi Brauen
 Nov 18-24 – Jayne Mc Garrity
 Nov 25-Dec 1 – Sue Van Eman

Items to donate this month are peanut butter, chicken or beef ramen noodles, and taco kits. Thank You!



Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale

The Annual Christmas Cookie and Candy Sale is coming up again soon and will be held Saturday, December 14 from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

We are asking for contributions of at least 4 dozen cookies and/or candy, but feel free to bring as much as you would like! The sale has been very successful and we sell out quickly. We are already hearing from the public "are you having your cookie sale again this year?" Forms will be available on the back table in November. See Kerry Fremont for more information.



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.

Prayers for:

Those who live alone or in care facilities, including Hazel Rodabaugh and Owen Ziessler.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

We Pray for God's Healing for:

Jodi Diller

Darlene Hey
 Gene and Sue Mathewson
 Colletta Mullenhour
 Jeannie Nichols
 Mariah Pneuman
 Sunny Zank
 Rev. Matthew Zuehlke
 LeAnn Carr's mother
 Sylvia (Diane Winebar's sister)
 Jim and Deb Augsburg (Jodi's friends)
 Linda Francies (Bev Begg's daughter)
 Mary Fremont (Jeff and Kerry Fremont's sister-in-law)
 Dave Hall (Jeremy Szabo's friend)
 Brad Lovell (Jade's father)
 Wanda McCullough (Jade Hochstetler's grandmother)
 Bobbi Mueller (Darlene Hey's daughter)
 Bridget Niese (Tanya Best's friend)
 Eileen Rhonemus (Mike Rhonemus's mother)
 Joseph Robinson (Jeremy Szabo's friend)
 Andrew Sycks (Dave Sycks' great nephew)
 Sandi Waibel (Donnas Stone's sister)



Birthdays

Oct	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
	18	Phill and Michelle Talavinia
	26	Bill and Chris Gable

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 15** 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!

I/We wish to donate \$_____.

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

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

Your Name(s): _____

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

Sundays: Worship: 10:15 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Administrative Assistant: Cathy Carroll

Email:

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

Treasurer: Clair Winebar

Email:

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Jeremy Zank

Custodian: Debi Schmidt

2024 Church Officers

Elders on Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Sycks

Faith Formation – Linda Nelson

Fellowship – Kerry Fremont

Mission – Carole Enneking

Nominating – LeAnn Carr and Tom Edwards

Personnel – Lori Schmidt

Stewardship & Finance – Clair Winebar

Worship – Lynda Best

Elders at Large – Sarah Brauen, LeAnne Carr, Tom Edwards

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Chris Hochstetler

Members: Jodi Brauen, Cindy Gillen, Rob McGarrity,
Tenna Rhonemus, Mike Rhonemus