

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

OCTOBER 2022

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 2 – World Communion Sunday Communion, Peace and Global Witness Offering,

Liturgist: Clair Winebar Special Music: Laura Elwood

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Camera: Tenna Rhonemus

Slides: Julia Szabo Acolyte: Bowen

Sunday, October 9 - Cents-Ability Offering

Jim Boroff, Guest Speaker Liturgist: Tenna Rhonemus Special Music: Choir

Sound: Bob Hursh / Camera: Tammie Hursh

Slides: Diane Winebar Acolytes: Owen and Clara

Sunday, October 16

Liturgist: Jeremy Szabo

Special Music: Dave and Linda Sycks Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Julia Szabo

Slides: Talavinias Acolyte: Avery

Sunday, October 23

Rev. Christopher L. Schilling, Guest Speaker

Liturgist: Phill Talavinia Special Music: Choir

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Cathy Carroll

Acolytes: Paige and Morgan

Time for Young Christians: Laura Irwin

Sunday, October 30

Liturgist: Jana McVetta Special Music: Lori Schmidt

Sound: Ryan Brauen / Camera: Clair Winebar

Slides: Diane Winebar Acolyte: Bowen

Time for Young Christians: Carole Enneking

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

Oct 1 – Blessing of the Animals 10:30 AM

Oct 5 – 11 Pastor Karol off for Continuing Education

Oct 5 – Mission Committee Meeting 7:30 PM

Oct 8 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Oct.12 – Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM

Oct 13 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Oct 16 – Faithline 6:30 PM FUMC

Oct 23 - Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy

Oct 24 – Worship Committee Meeting 7:15 PM

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





Please feel free to sit in the gazebo!

To reserve for an event, call BPC.

Pastor's Letter: God of All Time

Over the past several weeks, we have been participating in lively conversations about our present worship services and how they might be refined and refreshed. Here is a reminder written by the Rev. Paul Detterman on www.pcusa.org that we worship the God of all time:

Remembering God in the past

A poster text from several years ago read, "All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all that I have not seen." Therein lies the truth of our initial response to God in worship. Every Christian knows that God has played an essential role in his or her life, shaping, forming, guiding, and directing them to the place they find themselves on the day of worship. The liturgy itself calls us to actively remember God's faithfulness, individually and collectively, as we offer ourselves in praise.

We *know* this Biblical God through the events outlined in Scripture, the stories we have read of the lives of Christians from other times and places, and the testimonies we have heard of God's activity in the lives of those around us. As we come to worship, we *trust* God with our today based on our knowledge of God throughout all those yesterdays.

Christian worship is where we remember God's salvation most vividly. "Do this, remembering me." Whether or not worship includes Christ's invitation to the Table, when we worship, we remember.

Trusting God in the present

Equally important in our worship is the act of trusting the living God with the complexities of our present. In response to God's faithfulness, and in response to the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, true Christian worship is punctuated with vivid reality. We earnestly confess our ever-present sin, an essential part of worship for Reformed Christians, and we hear God's assurance of forgiveness and peace. We actively listen for the contemporary relevance of God's Word by praying for the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit, also a hallmark of Reformed theology shaping worship. After the Word has been proclaimed, we gather the prayers of the church for the very present and very real needs of the world around us, seeking God's will, Christ's peace, and the Holy Spirit's power.

Following God into the future

Finally, we offer our most radical act of worship when we allow God to lead us out of the sanctuary and back into God's world. Like the disciples who followed Jesus off the transfiguration mountain into a village where a child lay dying, we Reformed Christians believe that our final act of worship is found, not in the pews or even in the vestibule, but in the streets, the malls, the offices, and the schools throughout God's world, where the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ is simultaneously scrutinized, confronted, maligned, and eagerly sought.

In the final portion of the Directory for Worship, in the section titled "Ministry of the Church in the World," we find these words, including Philippians 2:9-11: "In worship the church is transformed and renewed, equipped, and sent to serve God's reign in the world. The church looks for the day 'when every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.'"

As we plan, lead, and participate in the Reformed Christian worship, may this always be so.

In Christ,

Pastor Karol

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*.



What's Your Favorite Bible Verse or Inspirational Quote?

Each week near the top of the bulletin, we will include a Reflection to prepare ourselves for worship. You are invited to submit your favorite Bible verse or inspirational quote (with source) to be included! Your name will be included as well unless you request otherwise. Send yours to Pastor Karol today, then check to see which Sunday it is featured!

SESSION

September Meeting Highlights

• **Pastoral Care:** August – 4 visits/conversations, 12 phone calls.

Congregational Activities: Worship, session retreat, and committee meetings.

Community Engagement Activities: BAMA Meeting (presentation from Bluffton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jim Enneking – annual member dues would be \$145) and Chiles-Laman Clergy Appreciation Lunch.

Presbytery/Greater Church Activities:

Preparation for Ministry phone calls, Discipleship Commission meetings/studies, MVP regional meeting and Preparation for Ministry annual consultations.

Approved Continuing Education Request: October 5-11 (includes MVP retreat October 10-11), including Sunday, October 9.

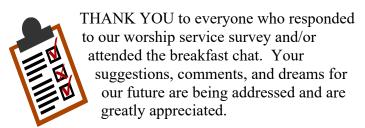
Approved Service to the Greater Church Request: November 9-10 (virtual LPTS Alum Board Meeting and Reunion).

- Now that Karol has been back to work full time for three months and reflected on these months, she feels that she is not able to provide as much pastoral care as she had previously. Accepted Chris Schilling's offer to volunteer to assist Karol with Pastoral Care and preach once a month through the end of 2022.
- With December 25 falling on a Sunday this year, Findlay area Presbyterian Churches are interested in collaborating on a pre-recorded Christmas Day worship service to take the place of in-person worship. Each participating church would be responsible for one or more parts of the service. Approved to participate in pre-recorded Christmas Day Service (created by area Presbyterian churches) instead of having in-person service.

- Approved to allow Dick McGarrity to investigate opportunities of produce distribution in community.
- Accepted invitation from FPC Findlay to assist in co-hosting Maumee Valley Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, by providing volunteer support.

Worship Committee

More Meaningful Worship Services



The opinions expressed were as varied as everyone's personalities! But a few common themes were noted:

- 1. Making the services more personal and uplifting.
- 2. Having more congregational participation.
- 3. Offering more relatable sermons and messages (by making more use of readers theater, on-screen graphics/photos, etc.).

You'll notice small changes to our worship services as a result of the survey and recent Session discussions. One example: Water was poured into the baptismal font at the start of the service. Now it's poured during the Assurance of Forgiveness – a reminder to us that water cleanses and sustains and that God's forgiveness is real.

Worship has the ability to both inform and transform us! As we continue enriching BPC's services, it's our prayer that they will continue to inspire us and draw us closer to God and to each other.

The worship conversation continues! Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas with Pastor Karol or worship committee members Tanya Best, Jayne McGarrity, Michelle Talavinia, or Diane Winebar.





FAITH FORMATION

Bluffton Presbyterians: It's Game Time!

Hello BPC! Please join us as we meet at 9:00 a.m. each week in the church basement for breakfast and games! No one is ever too old to laugh, play, and have fun!

- Starts out with light breakfast and fellowship followed up with a different game(s) and message each week. The games will avoid testing your knowledge of the Bible and instead be more focused on learning and walking in God's ways.
- Games: Truth or Dare Jenga, Pictionary, Apples to Apples, Family Feud, Scavenger Hunt, Blurt, and cards.
- Dates: 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, 10/23
- All ages are welcome!
- Reach out to Sarah Brauen with any questions.

New Leaders in Faith Formation

Laura Irwin, from Big Prairie, Ohio, joined the Faith Formation team in September as Faith Formation Intern, replacing Adam Shanaman, who graduated in the Spring. Laura is a senior at Bluffton University majoring in Music Education with a minor in Spanish. Her extracurricular activities include being a Ministry Assistant, a Chapel Band leader, and a member of Jazz Band, 2 choirs, and Pep Band. She plays French horn, trumpet, and piano; and she enjoys milking cows.

Brooklyn Phillips from Mansfield, Ohio, also joined the Faith Formation team in September as Children's Church/Nursery Leader. She is a sophomore at Bluffton University majoring in Social Work. Last year she volunteered to teach Sunday School at Faith Ministries in Lima, and she has extensive baby-sitting experience.

DVD Series Coming in November For Teens and Adults!

Beginning November 6, the adult faith formation class will sit back and enjoy the outstanding storytelling of Tex Sample author, teacher, and specialist in church and society. His down-to-earth stories show us how God comes in the ordinary moments of life. Watch for more information in the November newsletter!

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. If you wish to send Pastor Karol a card, please send to the church or to the manse.

Bluffton Presbyterian Church 112 N. Main St. P.O. Box 149 Bluffton, OH 45817

The church family thanks Pastor Karol for her faithful leadership with us!



Thank you!

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your gift to Bluffton Family Recreation's Summer Camp! Your gift helped to send 4 kids to camp!

Thank you,

Thank you to all those who participated in, or assisted with the September 18 worship skit!

Pastor Karol

Thank you to Betsey Angus, Cathy Carroll, and Helen Hawk for their help serving and cleaning up for Sally Reeder's memorial luncheon. Also, thanks to Sue Van Eman and Jeff Gillen for help setting up tables. Cindy Gillen, Deacon – Funeral Meal Coordinator

MISSION

Mission Update

3 Cents a Meal program changing to Cents-Ability

– For many years, our congregation has battled local hunger issues through the monthly 3 Cents A Meal collection. In 1976, Presbyterian Women started the Two Cents a Meal project to involve individuals and families in a corporate response to world hunger. Donations from our monthly collection have been split between support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry and Presbytery Hunger projects. Giving to this program has decreased significantly since the COVID shut down.

By changing to the Cents-Ability name, the Mission Committee feels it will allow us to create new energy toward our work against hunger. 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. Moving forward, the monthly gifts will be split 1/3 to Bluffton Community Assistance, 1/3 to Presbytery projects, and 1/3 for our congregation's Little Free Pantry. Please note, that specific gifts for the Little Free Pantry will still be welcomed. Learn more about this new program during worship on Sunday, October 9.

REMEMBER: Cents-Ability comes not from our regular tithes and offerings, but from spending less on ourselves. As St. Paul says, "I am not trying to relieve others by putting a burden on you, but since you have plenty at this time, it is only fair that you should help those who are in need. Then, when you are in need and they have plenty, they will help you. In this way both are treated equally."—II Corinthians 8:13-14 (GNB)

Little Free Pantry

Sept 26-Oct 2 – Jayne McGarrity Oct 3-9 – Carole Enneking Oct 10-16 – Sarah Noland Oct 17-23 – Jodi Brauen Oct 24-30 – Sarah Brauen Oct 31-Nov 6 – Sue Van Eman.

Items to donate this month are: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese and hamburger helper. Thanks for your continued support!

Items Welcomed for Donation to the Bluffton Community Assistance Food Pantry:

Cereal

Chunky soups

Fixings for chili including sauce

Macaroni and cheese

Peanut butter

Lotions

Personal hygiene items – hand soaps, creams,

deodorants, toothpaste

Canned meats – beef, pork, chicken, tuna

Canned mandarin oranges

Packaged noodles

Paper products – TP, tissue, paper towels

Spaghetti sauce

Spaghetti-O's

Baked beans

Hamburger helper

Little Free Pantry Now Has Produce





Thanks to Tom and Marilyn Edwards for helping Tammie and Bob Hursh cover September Pizza Night! October Pizza Night is covered. 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!



Donations toward the Peace & Global Witness Offering will be accepted through October 5. This year's 25% local share will support the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) – a PCUSA-supported project. The Council strives to encourage and strengthen, through ecumenical cooperation, ministry to communities that continue to experience the violence of ethnic hostility. Gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering can be made by check or online. Visit www.blufftonpc.org to make an online gift.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP



August 2022 - General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2022 \$
Release of Paycheck Protection Plan proceeds into the general fund
Offerings for 2022 received in 2021
YTD receipts into the general fund
YTD general fund expenses ()
August 31, 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 ②) 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!

BPC Rebate Programs

Thank you for participating in BPC's rebate programs! We encourage you to continue participating in these easy and free ways of benefiting our BPC's ministries!



Our most popular program is Community Markets rebates, which 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, which has resulted in a whopping \$927 of receipts to our general fund thus far this year! Even small receipts are worth turning in; the combined total adds up.

Many thanks and appreciation to Darlene Hey who handles this ministry for us! Darlene reminds us to please hand in whole receipts. Please do not cut off the bottoms of your receipts because only whole receipts qualify.

amazonsmile

Earlier this year, BPC registered to participate in Amazon's Smile program. To participate, simply designate BPC as your charitable organization when you shop on Amazon. There is no cost to you as a customer; Amazon simply donates 0.5% of the value of your purchases to BPC. Thus far, BPC has received a rebate payment of \$10 from Amazon.

If you would like to participate, simply use the following link, then make sure the smile.amazon site indicates "supporting: Bluffton Presbyterian Church" at the top left side of your screen. https://smile.amazon.com/ch/34-1444206

CHASE 🗘

Finally, a program you may not have heard about is Chase Bank's loyalty program. It provides BPC with a rebate when church personnel and volunteers use BPC's credit card when paying certain bills – office and Little Free Pantry supplies, utilities, etc. The church earns loyalty points which are periodically cashed in as a credit card payment. The loyalty points have resulted in a §92 benefit so far this year!

Prayers of Sympathy for:

Family and friends of Ken Hitchcock (Jerry Szabo's friend) who died from a heart attack.

Family and friends of Pamela (Triplett) Hansell (former member) who passed away August 30 of pancreatic cancer.

Family and friends of Isaac Stechschulte (Rob McGarrity's friend) who died recently

Family of Jim Thompson (Pastor Karol's mother's cousin) who died September 10.

Prayers of Joy for:

Miranda Samsal (Mariah Pneuman's granddaughter) is doing very well and recovering. She can see again! It's a miracle and an answer to many prayers!

Greg, Laura, and Yuji who will be moving to Jacksonville FL in early November for Greg's military orders.

We Pray for God's Healing for:

Bev Begg

Jane Benroth

Connie Claybaugh

Darlene Hey

Sheila Hurlburt

Gayle Marshall

Ben Miracle

Dwight Nichols

Dortha Radabaugh

George Stultz

David Abell (Mariah Pneuman's former son-in-law)

Pete Amstutz (Gayle Marshall's friend)

Joel & Kelly Barnett (McGarrity's nephew)

Emerson Basinger (Ryan's grandfather/Jodi's

father/Elaine's brother)

Jim Basinger (Jodi Brauen's brother)

Marty Benroth (Szabo's friend)

Alva Hunt (Jerry Szabo's friend)

Brenda McCoy (Betsey Angus's friend)

Julie Rhodes (Jodi Brauen's friend)

Michael Roberts (Jeremy Szabo's friend)

Miranda Samsal (Mariah Pneuman's granddaughter)

Kelly Winger (Cindy Gillen's cousin)

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, Hazel Rodabaugh, Dortha Radabaugh, and Owen and Kay Ziessler.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

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

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 at (419) 358-5806 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						
Oct.	5	Robert McGarrity				
	8	Phil Weisenbarger				
	10	Mariah Pneuman				
	15	Terry Mullenhour				
	17	Lauren Massey				
	18	Sarah Noland				
		Melodye Massey				
	20	Don Carroll				
	21	Bowen Hochstetler				
		Roland Stone				
	30	Tanya Best				
		Tayler Nowak-Valentine				
		Phill Talavinia				
Nov.	2	Julia Szabo				

Anniversaries

20 Kevin and Jana McVetta

Bluffton Fall Festival September 24 BPC members and friends served cider, donuts, and popcorn.







The Usual Suspects



Connor Raines singer



5 Star Baton (Findlay)

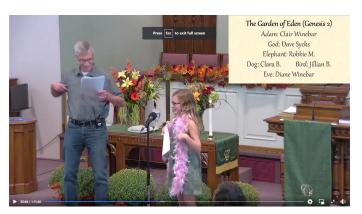


Faith Formation Intern Laura Irwin (top right) who will participate in Vocal, Chamber, and Jazz Ensemble concert at Yoder Recital Hall on November 20 at 2:30 PM.

BPC Worship Skit – September 18













Bluffton University Church Fair

BPC was represented at this year's Bluffton University Church Fair by Cindy Gillen, Pastor Karol, and Dick McGarrity. We talked with several students who could easily recognize our location as the church with the gazebo in the yard!



COUNT ME IN!

2023 Stewardship Campaign



Growing in Faith, Sharing God's Love



<u>Thank you</u> for being a member or friend of Bluffton Presbyterian Church! Your choice to be counted by your presence, prayers, and offerings of time, effort, and money makes so many good works possible: meaningful Christian worship with wonderful music, active and joyful faith formation, fun and caring fellowship, and the sharing of food and supplies, hope, and love through outreach and mission. As our Mission Committee reminds us, "When we <u>all</u> do a little, it adds up to a lot."

The teachings of Jesus remind us that worldly measures of our talents and money are not what matters; what matters is the measure of love shared from our hearts. At BPC, we are moved by God's call and rely on your collective offerings of time, creativity, and financial gifts that make our ministries possible. Our gifts are continuous offerings in gratitude of God's abundant love; a way of life, rather than collections to raise funds.

We ask that you prayerfully consider sharing your intentions to provide time, talents, and/or financial resources to our church's general operating fund in 2023 by completing the enclosed card and turning it in to the church office or during weekly offerings anytime between now and **November 13**. Also please mark your calendars for a short, fun fellowship of appreciation and sharing of reasons why we give to BPC following the November 13 worship service.

Lord, let us pray: May our faith journeys be blessed with love, hope, and gratitude as we follow the path set by Jesus and upheld by his disciples and many generations thereafter who generously answered, "Yes, Count Me In!" Amen.

Sincerely, the Stewardship and Finance Committee: Craig Bowman, Barbara Fett, Dick McGarrity, Julia Szabo, Clair Winebar, Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Thanks to your gifts of time, talent, and treasure, we can worship God through word, sacrament, and song; grow through faith formation; connect through fellowship; and serve through community outreach and mission.





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:			
Address:		weekly	\$	monthly
Phone:		quarterly	\$	yearly
Email:	Quarterly financial giving summaries will be sent to you t ensure our records align with yours.			

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: treasurer@blufftonpc.org.

Giving online at www.blufftonpc.org/give 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 (419) 358-5806

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 Leader: 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