



Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

September 2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 1 – Communion

Pulpit Supply: Tenna Rhonemus
Liturgist: Diane Winebar
Special Music: Linda and Dave Sycks
Sound: Jeff Gillen/Camera: Betsey Angus
Slides: Linda Nelson
Acolyte: Robbie
Greeters: Dave and Linda Sycks

Sunday, September 8 – Cents-Ability Offering

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgist: Lori Schmidt
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Rob McGarrity/Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolyte: Bowen
Greeters: Jade Hochstetler and Bowen

Sunday, September 15

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgist: Marilyn Edwards
Special Music: Lori Schmidt
Sound: Ryan Brauen/Camera: Owen
Slides: Michele Talavinia
Acolyte: Avery
Greeters: Lori Schmidt and Jerry Szabo

Sunday, September 22

Pulpit Supply: Jim Boroff
Liturgist: Dick McGarrity
Special Music: Choir
Sound: Mike Rhonemus/Camera: Tenna Rhonemus
Slides: Cathy Carroll
Acolyte: Morgan
Greeters: Kevin and Jana McVetta

Sunday, September 29

Pulpit Supply: Sarah Brauen
Liturgist: Carole Enneking
Special Music: Kerry Fremont and Don Brauen
Sound: Mike Rhonemus /Camera: Clair Winebar
Slides: Diane Winebar
Acolytes: Owen and Clara
Greeters: Owen and Clara

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 (Sept. 10, 17, 24)
Small Groups 6:30 to 8:00 PM (Every Tuesday)

Wednesdays:

Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM – Starting September 4.

Sept 1 – Deacon Meeting 9:15 AM

Sept 4 – First Choir Practice 6:30 PM

Sept 4 – Mission Meeting 7:30 PM

Sept 8 – Youth Sunday School Resumes

Sept 8 – Church Potluck Following Worship

Sept 10 – Small Groups Resumes 6:30 to 8:00 PM

Sept 12 – Session Meeting 7:00 PM

Sept 14 – Lima Rescue Mission 4:30 PM

Sept 21 – Church Picnic hosted by Betsey Angus
and Phil Bowers 5:00 PM

Sept 22 – Newsletter Items Deadline to Cindy

PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee is seeking names of individuals (from either inside or outside the church) who may have an interest in serving in this part time custodian position. Feel free to contact Lori Schmidt, Phill Talavinia, or Sue Van Eman

Faith Formation is looking for a Youth Intern to lead our Sunday School, Children's Church, and Youth Group. If you think you might be interested, or if you know of someone who might be, please contact Linda Nelson or Dick McGarrity.



SESSION

August Meeting Highlights

- Received Thank You Letter from “The 60’s Survivor Band” thanking the church for use of the gazebo and lawn for their July concert.
- Refrigerator at manse is no longer working – will replace when manse is occupied.
- Community Vacation Bible School was a success – 120 children registered – more than VBS has had in years. VBS was held at the Bluffton YMCA. Carole Enneking led the games for our church – fantastic job of matching games with each night’s theme. Thankful for good support from the congregation to help with props and games.
- Concert (by Findlay area musicians) held on August 4 in our sanctuary was very well attended – estimated 175 people in attendance. Cookies and punch were served following the concert. Church sold lunch items on Bluffton’s History Day – Saturday, August 10. Thanks to all who donated desserts and/or helped in set-up, serving, and tear down. Proceeds from lunch will go to church’s general fund.
- Custodian Chris Hochstetler resigned effective end of July. Kerry Fremont has agreed to serve as temporary custodian while we are searching for a permanent person.
- Approved request from Fellowship Committee to display 175th Anniversary church banner in the front yard.

Congregational Meeting

A Congregational Meeting was held immediately following the morning worship service on August 25, 2004. Congregational Meeting was called for the purpose of reviewing the call between Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke and Bluffton Presbyterian Church and if necessary, to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. Session called the Congregational Meeting at the request of the Leadership Commission of Maumee Valley Presbytery and the Stated Clerk after the Leadership Commission found the call between Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke and Bluffton Presbyterian Church to no longer be in order.

Moderator Bob Butcher shared a timeline of communication between Pastor Matthew and Bluffton Presbyterian Church. After receiving Pastor Matthew’s email in late April about delaying his expected May 19 arrival in Bluffton due to medical reasons, Session made numerous attempts to connect with Pastor Matthew via phone, text, email, and certified mail.

Having received no response from him to our communication attempts since mid-May, Session reached out to Matt Meinke (General Presbyter of Maumee Valley Presbytery) in June and the Presbytery's Leadership Commission in July. The Leadership Commission met in July, discussed the information presented, and found the "call between Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke and Bluffton Presbyterian Church is no longer in order" and asked the Bluffton Session to call a Congregational Meeting to review the call.

The congregation approved following motion unanimously – Bluffton Presbyterian Church revokes the offer to Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke and withdraws the pastoral call.

The following people were elected to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee – Craig Bowman, Ryan Brauen, Steve Carr, Marilyn Edwards, Dick McGarrity, and Linda Nelson. The Pastor Nominating Committee is committed to continuing the search to find pastoral leadership for our church.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk with an Elder or a member of the Pastor Nominating Committee. Elders – Lynda Best, Sarah Brauen, LeAnn Carr, Tom Edwards, Jade Hochstetler, Linda Nelson, Lori Schmidt, Dave Sycks, and Clair Winebar. The Pastor Nominating Committee – Craig Bowman, Ryan Brauen, Steve Carr, Marilyn Edwards, Dick McGarrity, and Linda Nelson.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Offering

Worship and Finance committees decided to stop passing collection plates. We will have an offering plate by the sound board in the back of church or in the lockbox in the church office for people to drop envelopes in.

BPC Choir Resuming September 4

If you love music and like to sing, the choir will resume its Wednesday night practices on September 4 at 6:30 p.m. Choir sings every second and fourth Sunday. All previous members and new interested persons are welcome!! Welcome to Jeremy Zank as our choir director!

DEACONS

August Meeting

- Discussion on recent funeral meal.
- Discussion on how family members can get in touch with church in case of emergency.

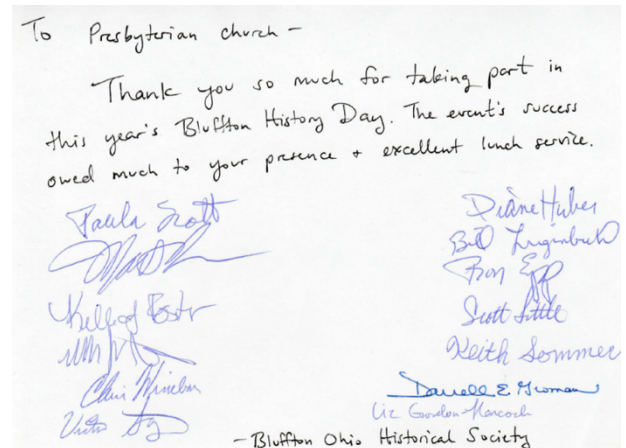
Celebrating 175 Years!

Check out the sparkling new sign in the front yard celebrating our blessed history of service to God! BPC is 175 years young and building on the past to serve with joy in the future! Looking forward to our bright future, the sign sports a fiber frame and sturdy ground mount that can be used for other messages anywhere in the yard. A very special appreciation to Tom and Marilyn Edwards for making the arrangements and sponsoring the cost of the sign – thank you!



History Day Thank You

BPC's church lawn was the perfect spot for the community to enjoy the August 10 History Day sponsored by the Bluffton Ohio Historical Society. The Fire Department water pressure reenactment test was fun, exciting, and even a little wet for some! Thank you to the Fellowship Committee and helpers for serving delicious and affordable lunches to the crowd. And thank you to everyone who contributed desserts. BPC received many compliments, including the thank you card below from the Historical Society.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Church Potluck

There will be a potluck following worship on Sunday, September 8. Chili dogs will be provided, please bring a dish to share. Plan on coming for food, fun and fellowship!

Church Picnic



Betsey Angus and Phil Bowers will be hosting a church picnic on Saturday, September 21 at 5:00 p.m. at 5699 Swaney Rd., Lima. (Just south of Lincoln Hwy.) Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. RSVP to Betsey.

FAITH FORMATION

Sunday School

Sunday School will start on September 8. This year the Sunday School format will be different. Sunday School will start after “Time for young Christians”. At that time, any child attending Sunday School will leave with the “teacher” and go to the basement where Sunday School is held.

We are looking for adult volunteers to commit for 1 month to lead the Sunday School Lesson as the teacher. We will provide a curriculum and craft that you can use, or you can design your own lesson and craft. The church will make available Craft supplies (paper, scissors, paste, crayons, etc.) a lesson, and a snack.

This is an excellent way to connect with our young members, while teaching them Christian values and Bible stories. It will be an enjoyable experience. Please let Dick McGarrity, Sarah Brauen, Chris Hochstetler, or Linda Nelson know if you are interested.

MISSION

Peace and Global Witness Offering

Peace and Global Witness Offering is September 8 through October 6. We will be collecting on the first Sunday of October.

Mission Opportunity

Elder Jade Hochstetler has made the decision to step down from Session and Mission Committee Chair as of October 1. If this is an area you might be interested in serving, please contact LeAnn Carr or Tom Edwards, co-chairs of Nominating Committee.

Little Free Pantry

Sept 2-8 – Sarah Brauen
Sept 9-15 – Sarah Noland
Sept 16-22 – Diane Winebar
Sept 23-29 – Jodi Brauen
Sept 30-Oct 6. – Jayne McGarrity

Donations of ramen noodles, boxed cereal, and taco kits would be helpful this month. Thanks for your continued support!!



Thanks to Mike Short from Lima Municipal Court for helping Tammie and Bob Hursh to cover August Pizza Night at LRM. Also, thank you to everyone who helped with donations. We were able to provide pizza, pop, chips, and homemade cookies provided by our congregation for ~30 men.

Tam and I are looking for 1-2 volunteers to help on September 14 and October 12. We have volunteers on November 9. 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. Thanks, Bob!!



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

July 2024 – General Fund Summary

Balance January 1, 2024	\$
Year-to-date offerings and receipts	
Year-to-date expenses	()
Balance July 31, 2024 balance	\$

A couple special non-budgeted fund balances on July 31 included \$121 for Little Free Pantry supplies, and \$743 for monthly Lima Rescue Mission pizza dinners. Thank you for supporting BPC’s ministries!



Prayers of Sympathy for:

The family and friends of Ben Miracle who passed away July 24.

The family and friends of Ralph Middleton who passed away August 11.

The family and friends of JoAnn Kelly (LeAnn Carr's Aunt) who passed away August 17.

Prayers for:

Those who live alone or in care facilities and are less able to engage in meaningful connections with others, including Hazel Rodabaugh and Owen Ziessler.

Prayers for diplomacy, peace, and hope throughout the world.

Members and friends serving in the armed forces.

Prayers of Joy for:

Donnas Stone who has a new great-grandson, Jordan.

Bev Begg's great granddaughter who got married in August.

We Pray for God's Healing for:

- Jodi Diller
- Darlene Hey
- Gene and Sue Mathewson
- Colletta Mullenhour
- Jeannie Nichols
- Mariah Pneuman
- Rev. Matthew Zuehlke
- LeAnn Carr's mother
- LeAnn Carr's Aunt Becky
- Sylvia (Diane Winebar's sister)
- Jim and Deb Augsburger (Jodi's friends)
- Linda Francies (Bev Begg's daughter)
- Mary Fremont (Jeff and Kerry Fremont's sister-in-law)
- 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)



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.



Dear BPC Family,
Thank you very much for all your kind words, cards, and prayers for our family during the past several months. It has meant a lot to us having your support.

Love,
Jeff, Cindy, and Sarah Gillen

Thank you to Linda Nelson, Carole Enneking, Robbie McGarrity, Barb McClurg, Sarah & Dan Nolan, Clara Brauen (& friend Addie), Diane & Clair Winebar for helping with VBS games the week of July 21. Over 100 area youth participated, and more than \$550 was collected for bedding sets for kids in Children Services custody.

Bluffton Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your ongoing support of the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. We are grateful for your recent donation. God Bless you!

The fellowship committee wants to thank all that participated in the lunch served at the Bluffton History re-enactment day on August 10. It was a very successful outreach for the church and for all who setup, cooked, served, cleaned, baked, and tore down, your help was dearly appreciated.

Birthdays

Sept	2	June Strahm
	4	Jeremy Szabo
	7	Marshall Wagner
	11	Craig Bowman
	13	Julianna Hotmire
	14	Sue Dorsey
	23	David McClurg
	24	Jayne McGarrity
	26	Sue Mathewson
	29	Cindy Gillen
	30	Andrea Best
		Wyatt Marshall
Oct	5	Robert McGarrity

Anniversaries

Sept.	1	Jeff and Cindy Gillen
	14	Don and Cathy Carroll
	29	Phil and Pam Weisenbarger



Join Grace Mennonite Church for a Community Chili Cook Off

Sunday, September 8, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
502 Main Street, Pandora
Dinner by donation to support our mission partners!
Everyone welcome! Enjoy a bowl of chili and vote for your favorite!

There's nothing that compares to the peace, hope, and love that comes from knowing Jesus.

Ladies Small Group

**Come join the Claralice Circle.
We'd love for you to be part of the conversation!**

Small group resumes September 10. We meet every Tuesday, 6:30-8:00 p.m., at the church.

Small Group is about growing our faith through study and discussion. We explore God's place in our lives. We do this together, in community, and our friendships are the stronger for it.

We draw inspiration from the Bible, books, devotionals, art, music, prayer, and each other. And we have fun!

It's a safe place to talk about our concerns, joys, and everything in-between. If you'd rather listen than talk, that's just fine.

**Join us for a gathering or two.
See if small group is right for you.**

Questions? Talk to
Diane Winebar or
Carole Enneking



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

blufftonpc.org

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

Custodians: Chris and John Hochstetler

2022 Church Officers

Elders on Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Sycks

Faith Formation – Linda Nelson

Fellowship – Kerry Fremont

Mission – Jade Hochstetler

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