

Bluff Hall Church Newsletter

February 2026



February is thought of as the month of LOVE! Of course, we all think of Valentines Day, but for Christians, most importantly, **GOD IS LOVE**. According to BibleStudyTools.com, “the word ‘Love’ appears in the Bible hundreds of times and, although it is not the most used word in the Bible, it is one of the central themes and driving forces of God’s Word.” The Bible teaches that love is defined by actions like patience, kindness, and selflessness as exemplified by God’s gift of Jesus. Many verses highlight its divine nature and call for believers to love God and each other deeply.

Defining Love:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 Corinthians 13:13 “So now faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.

Gods Love for Humanity:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life”

Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

How to Love Others:

1 John 4:7-8 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 Corinthians 16:14 “Let all that you do be done in love”

John 15:12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you”

1 Peter 4:8 “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins”



Annual Meeting

All members are strongly encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 1, following the morning worship service. A Carry-In Dinner will follow in the dining hall. Each family is asked to bring a covered dish. Tableware and beverages will be provided.

**Contact
Information**

Bluff Hall Evangelical
Free Church

951 North 400th Ave.
Payson, IL 62360

Church Phone
217.656.4370

bluffhallefc@gmail.com
www.bluffhallefc.org

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00



Prayer Needs



New, Recent, & Updated Requests:

- Those fighting cancer:
 - Vaughn Flesner
 - Earl Mast
 - Janice Waner
 - Danny Thomure
 - Travis Cooper
 - Darla Schneider
 - Johnny Sparks
 - Jim Brinkman
 - Chuck Laaker
 - Becky Mellon
 - Julie Hooper
 - Dan Riggs
 - Jon Cromie
 - Wayne Stotts
 - Penelope Summers (9 year old)
 - Hazel & Brielle Kramer – young daughters of Andy and Kathleen Kramer
 - Debbie Lohnes (wife of Dan Lohnes) – white count staying up after bone marrow treatments
- Wanda Speckhart – continued progress in rehab at Good Samaritan Home
- Mary Speckhart – healing of legs
- Stephanie Javaux – recovery from hip replacement
- Cole Cutforth – intestinal infection and gall bladder issues
- Kent Huber – answers to health issues
- Sarah Riggs – continued healing from foot surgery

Ongoing Requests:

- Marilyn Speckhart, Joan Groh, Gail Oitker, Bob Cutforth, Betty Speckhart,
- Steve Kaiser – out of hospital, palliative care, and daughter, Katie who is caring for him
- Carolyn Kaiser – out of nursing home and son Scott who is caring for her
- BJ Cutforth – Needs miraculous healing
- Missionaries: Alex McClain, Dan Lohnes, Ahdee Wayzee, Stuart Humphrey
- Myanmar Mission and Seminary
- Those who gave us our freedom.
- Our local, state and federal leadership
- Search Committee, future pastor God is preparing to serve as our shepherd and the church as a whole.
- The unrest and division in our own country.
- Those in the community grieving the loss of loved ones:
 - Family of Jim & Letha King
 - Family of Lee Gallaher
 - Family of Janelle Farmer
 - Family of Norman Boone
 - Family of Becky Rennecker
 - Family of Marsha Loos
 - Family of Doug Rabe on 2nd anniversary of his passing.

Military:

Seth Miles, Henry Dodd, Ryan Mena, Blaine Brown, Gary Velasquez, Lucas Velasquez, Kason Spratt

If you need pastoral care or have prayer concerns for the prayer chain, please contact one of the deacons or call church phone: 217-656-4370

Volunteers Needed

We need individuals and/or couples to plan Family Day scheduled for Sunday, March 15th (following service). If interested, please contact Susan Humphrey.



Angel Tree Update

THANK YOU all for your generous donations. 3 medium size and 1 large box of clothes and undergarments were delivered to the Payson Grade School. Also several gas cards and a clothes basket was donated to the Well House.

Bluff Hall now accepts Online Gifts

Want to give online?

Go to bluffhallefc.org/donate and click the link to fill out the giving form.

Highlights of Church Council Meeting - January 9th, 2026

Prior meeting minutes read. 9 members present

Leona Loos, Treasurer, gave the following: 4th Qtr numbers are checkbook balance -\$42,209.61, income-\$23,989.99, expenses-\$16,721.06. Money Market-\$17,823.72 with \$2,740.95 of that for building fund, Memorial Fund-\$11,747.53. CDs \$75,000, building fund-\$10,714.42, & \$150,243.13.

Discussion on

-Lights installed over back door of dining hall.

-Still looking into choices on how to proceed with cabin.

-Leona will be looking for best rate to renew CD that matures in Jan.

-Search committee looking into Pastor candidate more.

-Discussed need for offering envelopes and cost.

-Appreciation expressed for good job done on obtaining pastors each Sunday, Christmas Eve services, and Christmas party.

-Church financial books are ready for audit.

-There is a need for new candles and holders used on Sundays.

Annual Meeting will be Feb 1st following services, and a carry in after conclusion of meeting.

Next quarterly meeting will be Apr. 15th at 7 p.m. Next Council Meeting will be Mar 18th at 7 pm.

Pastor Search Committee Update

The Pastor Search Committee continues to move forward with unity, prayer, and gratitude for the congregation's support. The committee remains encouraged as we seek God's guidance together in this important season for Bluff Hall EFC.

Over the past month, the committee has continued vetting several candidates through resume' reviews, Zoom conversations, and in-person visits.

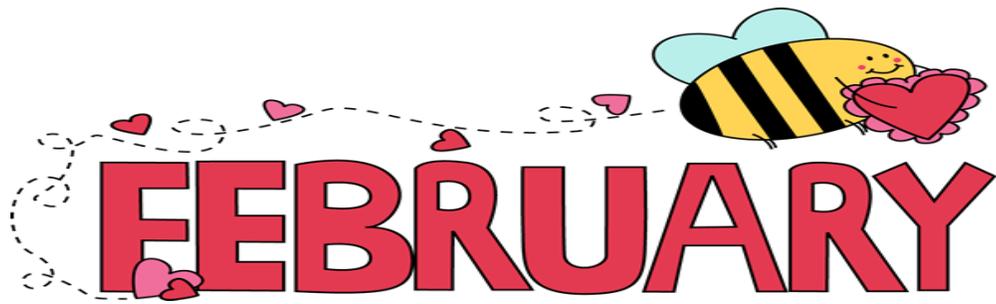
After prayerful consideration, the committee has decided not to move forward with Michael Quicke. We remain thankful for each individual who has expressed interest and are trusting God's timing as the search continues.

Christmas Party Pictures



Thank you to the committee (Meredith, Debbie and Diana) for all their time and effort, Kristy for the pictures, those who attended, and those who stayed around to help clean-up. It was a great turnout and good fun was had by all!





Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Annual Meeting / Carry in Lunch	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Women's Fellowship Sewing Day 9a.m.	26 March Newsletter Info Due	27	28

Deacons: Paul Miller & Clayton Miller
Flowers: Artificial arrangement or donations



Women's Fellowship News

- Feb. 5 Bill Mowen
- Feb. 7 Carter Miles
- Feb. 11 Trevor Maiers
- Feb. 14 Stuart Kaiser
Donna Riggs
- Feb. 16 Paul Miller

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 at 9:00 a.m. This is a sewing day. Don't sew, no problem! There are always non-sewing tasks to do. Please bring a covered dish to share with the group for lunch. Dessert will be provided by the hostesses.

Bluff Hall Outreach Mission

If you have a neighbor or know someone that the church might be able to serve in our community, please let the Missions Team know through Mary Fairchild (217-257-7250)

Church Chuckle

THE UNWRITTEN
11TH
COMMANDMENT:
THOU SHALT NOT
STEAL ANOTHER
FAMILY'S PEW.

Looking Ahead

Church Council - March 18 - 7 p.m.

Family Fun Day - March 15 -
following morning worship service

Services Online

For those who are unable to join us in person, check out the live stream. Services are also available on our YouTube channel. Both are available by searching [bluffhallefc](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbluffhallefc) at youtube.com

Please pass along any information you have for the March newsletter. It may be emailed to bluffhallefe@gmail.com or texted/called to Diana @ 217-242-6276. Thanks!



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