



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Lent and Easter Schedule 2021

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 17th

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28th

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 1th

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 2nd

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4th



Commitment Sunday

Commitment Sunday will be on February 14, 2021. You can bring your 2021 Ministry Budget Pledge Card to Traditional Worship or the Gathering that morning. Or you can mail or bring your pledge card to the financial office staff. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can invest what God has given you into the ministries and missions of Bluff Park UMC in this vital year. Not only will this help us put together a faithful budget for this year but it will also assist in planning which new ministries will be possible. I invite you to join my family as we make a pledge toward the 2021 Operating Ministry Budget!

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Sunday Morning

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:00 am

THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK: 11:00 am

Worship online at Facebook:
www.facebook.com/bluffparkumc

Worship online at our website:
bluffparkumc.org/church-online

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Our faith, our lives, and our ministries take on a new life when the stories are shared with others. Help us tell God's story of love as it unfolds in our church and community. Send news, photos, videos, and stories to newsletter@bpumc.org

Message from the Pastor

We have endured a winter like no other as we kicked off a new decade together. We are in the midst of a massive campaign to give out new vaccines developed at record speed to fend off the growing epidemic. We also have gone through an incredibly divisive time and remain in a state of disunity. If there was ever a time for faith and hope, it is now! I am reminded of the hopeless situation that the Jewish people found themselves in at the time of Esther. Someone was plotting to wipe them out and the only person in a place of power to stand up for them was Esther. The Old Testament book named after her suggests that maybe God has put her in that place of power "for such a time as this." Maybe God has brought our church family together for such a time as this.



We have been told by many church experts that this is a time for hope and for all church members to focus on a unified vision. We have hope because we are the people of the God of the universe and because His love and care for us is clear. We were bought with a price, according to Paul. The sacrificial love of Christ Jesus proclaims that we are not alone in this world fending for ourselves. No, God is walking through the valleys with us - by our side. This is a time to claim that hope and hold on to it tightly.

It is also a time for us to focus on the mission that God has placed in our hearts and in our hands. That is one reason why Angela and I have chosen Walter Bruggemann as our guide for this Lent. His devotional uses many Old Testament passages to help us discover how our own way in life is often at odds with God's way for us. That way (God's way and not our own) is often a path of choosing to make God's mission the focus of our lives. We sacrifice our own way and our own wants for the sake of God's greater and more wonderful plans. I hope you will join us in worship in-person or online this Lent as we explore this vital journey especially at such a time as this!

BPUMC Mission Work in Chile

Bluff Park UMC has supported missionary John Elmore's work in Chile since 2007. We are one of about 65 United Methodist Churches throughout the U.S. that support him as Covenant Churches. To be in a Covenant Church relationship with a Methodist missionary requires three commitments: 1) to pray for our missionary and his work; 2) to contribute monetarily to his work; and 3) to send a team at least once a year to work alongside of him.

Since 2007, BPUMC has sent mission teams to Chile to work with John in the various towns where he has served. His current assignment in Angol is to renovate and revitalize the only Methodist camp in Chile. It will be used for spiritual retreats, youth camps, and church meetings.

BPUMC's September 2019 mission team to Chile painted all the bedrooms, repurposed old bunk beds into nightstands, painted out-buildings and fences, and landscaped the grounds. We will send another work team to Chile when it is safe to do so!

What Our Church is Doing for Members in Need

Our "Congregational Care Team" provides support to our members by letting them know that their church family cares and is thinking about them. A major focus of the team is providing care for our members who are in senior living facilities or those members confined mostly to their homes. The team also provides care and support for church members who are ill, have lost a loved one or who are celebrating a joy such as a new baby.

THE FLOWER MINISTRY

The 18 members of our Flower Ministry Team make numerous vases of flowers from the flowers used in our sanctuary and deliver them to those in need of comfort. In 2020, they delivered 106 vases of flowers or poinsettias to 75 members of our congregation.

THE CARD MINISTRY

In 2020, the 10 members of our Card Ministry Team sent more than 300 thinking of you, get well, and sympathy cards to 189 of our TLC members and others as directed by our ministerial staff. The team sent birthday, Valentines, Easter, and Christmas cards to each of our approximately 70 TLC members. Graduation cards were sent to BPUMC's graduating high school seniors.

CALLS AND VISITS

Our Minister of Care, Rev. Wayne Williams, visits and calls our TLC members on a regular basis.

In 2020, Wayne visited in-person with 21 of our TLC members before COVID prohibited face-to-face visits. Though many of our TLC members do not answer or return phone calls, Wayne talked numerous times with 79 of the 82 people that were TLC members during the year. During COVID, members of the Flower Ministry team and others volunteered to make additional calls to check on our TLC and to our Open Door Café members.

Meet our Missionary in Chile

NAME: John Elmore

JOB TITLE: Mission Coordinator ~ Chile



BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR JOB: Be available to coordinate Volunteer Mission teams to Chile.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB? The best part of my

job is working with teams that come from churches in the United States.

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND? I was born in Richmond, Virginia. From age 4 to 12, my family lived in Panama where my father worked for a government agency. We then moved back to Northern Virginia where my father worked in Washington. I never liked school and did not go to college. From the time I left high school, until I left the U.S. and became a missionary; I was a carpenter, brick layer's helper, and Able Body Seaman (ABS) on an oil tanker. I also worked on a farm and with disabled adults. I always wondered why I was never able to settle with one profession. I kept moving around. I believe now, it is because God was preparing me for the work that I am doing now.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY: I have been married for 19 years to Maria Cristina Hurtado Rocha; we have no children. My wife is a schoolteacher.

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED ATTENDING A CHURCH REGULARLY? I always went to church; my parents took me every Sunday. When I was 19, I left home and stopped attending church. I came back to church when I was thirty-five.

WHEN AND WHERE DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED IN MISSION WORK? My first mission trip was in 1988. It was a disaster relief trip to North Alabama with my home church ~ Forest Lake UMC in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL PEOPLE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO GET INVOLVED IN HANDS-ON MISSION WORK?

I have been trying to get people involved in Mission work for twenty-five years. As a Christian you must realize that it is "not about you". The only thing personal about being a Christian is your relationship with Jesus Christ, the rest of the time you have a responsibility and an obligation to love your neighbor. Once you realize this and that all people need some type of hands-on mission work, then the possibilities are endless. You will never stop trying to find ways to help your neighbor, you will realize the whole world is your neighborhood.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Midnight Bunny Run Candy Collection

Since we will not be able to have an in-person Easter Egg Hunt again this year, we will be bringing back the Midnight Bunny Run! Parents will be able to register for this event very soon! But for now, we need candy! Lots of candy (we always need candy.) We need individually wrapped non-peanut/peanut butter candy that can fit inside an Easter Egg. We will take bags that have a few pieces missing because they needed to be tested for quality control! I mean, we have standards to maintain!

Where can you drop off your Easter Candy donations? You can always bring them by the main office Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. You can send them with your kids to any in-person event. You can also leave them in a tub in the Narthex if you come for an in-person worship service.

If you'd like to help but would not like to go out and shop you can always donate funds and we will do the shopping. The link to donate is here:

<https://bit.ly/3rq45P9>



STUDENT MINISTRY

Tornado Relief Project

As you all have heard by now, Fultondale was hit with a very destructive tornado. Many homes and businesses were destroyed. Multiple organizations are sending donations of canned goods (including our own church) to help families during these times but, they really need some can openers as well. In a recent posting of the top items needed by the city of Fultondale, can openers were listed twice with multiple exclamation points!

In response BPUMC Kids and BPUMC Students are having a "Can OPENER Drive." Because these items are needed ASAP, 40 can openers at a cost of \$400 (including tax and shipping) have already been ordered and are on their way here. We are hoping to collect money to cover the cost of this first order and possibly exceed it so that we can order more. This first shipment will go to Fultondale UMC.

If you would like to help us meet our goal, you can donate money using the link below. Thank you so much for your help with this much needed item.

Donate Here: <https://bit.ly/3oPkGKF>



ADULT MINISTRY

Free Educational Programs for Adults

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Alabama – Greater Birmingham Chapter has the following free bonus classes available for adults. All classes are currently conducted via Zoom. You must register to participate. To register for a class or for more information, contact OLLI through their Website at <https://olli.ua.edu/> or call them at (205) 348-6482.

- Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 12:00-1:15 pm – **Heart Health**
- Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 12:00-1:15 pm – **Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa and Honor Flight**
- Thursday, February 11, 2021, 12:00-1:15 pm – **Archaeology of Alabama**
- Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 12:00-1:15 pm – **Hip and Knee Replacement**
- Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 12:00-1:15 pm – **Why Public Art?**
- Tuesday, February 23, 2021 ~ 12:00-1:15 pm – **COVID-19's Impact on Seniors' Mental Health**
- Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 12:00-1:15 pm – **CSI Tuscaloosa – Forensic Art.**

OLLI is an adult learning membership program designed for men and women age 50 and better who wish to pursue lifelong learning in a relaxed non-competitive atmosphere. An OLLI membership that allows you to participate in ALL their programs is \$50 per year.



Need Help with Your Taxes?

If you need help with your taxes, the following organizations may be able to help.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

Website: <https://bit.ly/3tuUDvN>

Email: taxaide@aarp.org

Toll-free Nationwide: 888-OUR-AARP (888-687-2277)

United Way of Central Alabama

Website: <https://bit.ly/39TWltn>

Phone: 205-251-5131

Save the Date – Easter Drive-Through Luncheon

Wednesday, March 31st, 11 am to 12:30 pm

More Information to Come – RSVP is Required

INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL MISSIONS



BPUMC's Easter Love Offering Goal \$10,000

During the Season of Lent, we ask for a special Easter Love Offering to support several of the mission agencies/projects that we work with throughout the year. Each of these ministries provides vital services to the communities they serve.

Our goal of \$10,000 will allow us to support the following ministries. Your generosity through the Easter Love Offering enables each of them to continue to serve

those in need. Our Missions Committee chose these ministries after thoughtful discussion. Criteria included their association with the United Methodist Church, ties between the selected ministry and our congregation, and BPUMC efforts to place our resources where food, water, or shelter is a part of the ministry.

- Chile Mission
- Rise Against Hunger
- Church of the Reconciler
- Fairhaven – Fountain of Light
- McCoy Adult Day Care
- Urban Ministry

The Easter Love Offering is sponsored by the BPUMC United Appeal Fund.

A WAY OTHER THAN OUR OWN



Lent 2021

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which falls this year on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Pastors Mike Holly and Angela Martin will be exploring the wonderful Lenten devotional book by Old Testament scholar Walter Bruggemann this year in both Sunday morning worship as well as in their Table Talk podcast. If you would like to join in with the Lenten devotional journey this year, consider purchasing Bruggemann's daily devotional entitled *A Way Other Than Our Own* available at Cokesbury.com, Amazon.com, and several other retailers.

New Church Website!

Our brand new church website is up and running. We invite you to browse through the pages and see all of the new content. Highlights include: 1) Enhanced Live-Stream pages for Traditional Worship and The Gathering and 2) Easy links for registering for worship.

Table Talk with Mike and Angela

Season 2 of the Table Talk podcast with pastors Mike Holly and Angela Martin has begun! Listen in as Mike and Angela discuss the insights from the book *Being United Methodist in the Bible Belt* and go over important and unique information about Methodism. The podcast is available on our new website or you can search in your favorite podcast app such as Apple Podcasts, Android Podcasts, Spotify, and Stitcher.

Member Updates

BAPTISMS...

Tucker Douglas Waites—1/3/21

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Jean Brown who passed away on January 3rd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

February

1 Acts 21:17-26 | Psalm 113

February 2

1 Corinthians 7:32-40 | Psalm 42

February 3

Jeremiah 29:1-14 | Psalm 72

February 4

Proverbs 12:10-21 | Psalm 71

February 5

1 Corinthians 9:1-16 | Psalm 73

February 6

Matthew 12:9-14 | Psalm 75

February 7

Isaiah 40:21-31 | Psalm 34

February 8

Acts 14:1-7 | Psalm 77

February 9

Acts 15:36-41 | Psalm 78:1-39

February 10

Mark 3:7-12 | Psalm 80

February 11

2 Corinthians 2:12-17 | Psalm 81

February 12

1 Timothy 1:12-20 | Psalm 88

February 13

Luke 19:41-44 | Psalm 87

February 14

Mark 9:2-9 | Psalm 115

February 15

Hebrews 2:1-4 | Psalm 25

February 16

1 Timothy 3:14-16 | Psalm 26

February 17

Psalm 51:1-17 | Psalm 32

February 18

1 John 1:3-10 | Psalm 102

February 19

2 Timothy 4:1-5 | Psalm 35

February 20

Matthew 9:2-13 | Psalm 30

February 21

1 Peter 3:18-22 | Psalm 98

February 22

Ephesians 2:1-10 | Psalm 52

February 23

1 Peter 3:8-18 | Psalm 47

February 24

Matthew 4:1-11 | Psalm 45

February 25

Romans 3:21-31 | Psalm 60

February 26

Romans 4:1-12 | Psalm 40

February 27

Mark 8:27-30 | Psalm 138

February 28

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | Psalm 29

Monthly Calendar for February 2021

Tuesday, February 2 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study	5:30 pm Elementary Midweek 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground	10:00 am Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park 5:00 pm Girl's High School Small Group
Wednesday, February 3 7:00 am Food Pantry 3:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 pm Elementary Midweek 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground	Sunday, February 14 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park 5:00 pm Girl's High School Small Group	Monday, February 22 10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
Sunday, February 7 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park 5:00 pm Girl's High School Small Group	Tuesday, February 16 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study 6:00 pm Under The Bridge	Tuesday, February 23 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study Wednesday, February 24 3:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 pm Elementary Midweek 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground
Monday, February 8 6:00 pm Missions Committee	Wednesday, February 17 3:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 pm Elementary Midweek 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	Thursday, February 25 6:30 pm Finance Committee
Tuesday, February 9 8:30 am Maintenance 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study 6:00 pm Under the Bridge	Thursday, February 18 7:00 pm Book Club	Sunday, February 28 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park 5:00 pm Girl's High School Small Group
Wednesday, February 10 3:45 pm Pastor's Bible Study	Sunday, February 21 9:00 am Sunday School	

How To Worship Online

On Sunday mornings the weekly worship Livestream can be found on our Facebook Pages. If you aren't a Facebook user, there is also a dedicated page on our website where you can tune in live each week. The link to the livestream page is on the upper right of the website homepage and will take you to the Livestream page.

If you are not able to tune in to the live broadcast, the full service recording is available immediately after the service on the Livestream page and on Facebook.

Our Livestream is available every week. No matter what happens in the weeks ahead, you can stay connected and worship with your church family here at Bluff Park.



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

BUILDING FUND

Jean Brown, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

Linda King, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

Wanda Strong, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

CHILDREN'S FUND

Bill Best, by Terry and Ann Bice, David and Jeannie Jenkins, Ron and Carole Roegner, Ken and Martha Wade

CHRISTIN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Jean Brown, by Harry Hill

FOOD PANTRY

Peggy Adams, by Jackie Wesson

Patricia Crain Jennings, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

Ray Pritchard, by Jackie Wesson

Bud Summers, by Jackie Wesson

METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Joyce Pharo, by Duncan Thompson Construction

MUSIC FUND

Tony Nassif, by Gary and Debra Hoffman, Bobby and

Patricia Hyde, Marcus and Sophia Kennedy, Randy and Alice Marie Morrison, Bobby and Wanda Stracener
Jim Nichols, by Birmingham Fraternal Council Past Presidents Council

OPERATING FUND

Jean Brown, by Doris Crowe

Linda King, by Debra Linton

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jean Brown, by Catherine and Alan Hallmark

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Jean Brown, by Celia and Wayne Baggett, Dorothy Halstead, A.V. and Mary Marlow, Jim and Sara Perry, Jane and Terry Weatherly, Brad and Charlotte Word

In Honor of...

FOOD PANTRY

Sula Hicks, by Kay Adams

Note: Some Memorials and Honorariums are not listed by the request of the donors.

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Bluff Park
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
— Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace —

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Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life!

Our Purpose

Bluff Park United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world around us.

Our Vision

Bluff Park United Methodist Church seeks to be a community creating relational experiences to help all people find life and know through a relationship with God: who they are, why they matter, and how they can serve the world in love.