

He Is Risen!

April 2021

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Holy Week Schedule 2021

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 1st @ 7pm

Good Friday Tenebrae

Friday, April 2nd @ 7pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 4th

Traditional Worship @ 8:30am

Traditional Worship @ 10am

The Gathering @ 11am

Worship Livestreams @ 10am & 11am



Easter Love Offering

The Easter Love Offering is our annual missions giving opportunity during the Season of Lent. Your offerings will 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.

For 2021, the local missions include Church of the Reconciler, Fair Haven—Fountain of Love, McCoy Adult Day Care, and Urban Ministry. The two international missions are BPUMC's Chile Mission Team and Rise Against Hunger.

In 2020, the Easter Love Offering went to support the following:

- Chile Mission—\$1,950
- Fairhaven—Fountain of Love—\$1,950
- Urban Ministries—\$1,950
- United Community Center/The Riley Center—\$1,000
- McCoy Adult Day Care—\$950

Please help us support these missions. Mark your donation "Easter Love Offering."

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

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

The Christian Church has survived many critical points in history from a devastating fracture of the then unified church in 1054 AD/CE to numerous persecutions throughout our history. The Church keeps going and thank goodness for God has chosen us as the Body of Christ to convey His message and do His work in the world. It is not that God needs the Church in so much as He chooses the Church. As God's chosen people, we are empowered by His Holy Spirit to carry out the work of ministry and mission in the world.



I am so honored and so very blessed to be one of the pastors of a church family that has not lost focus of this calling during the pandemic. In the last year, we have certainly faced significant issues. At the same time, our members have continued to serve and lead throughout the crisis. In the midst of a very different way of doing church, we have continued to carry on the work of ministry and mission in the world.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline says that the local church is the most important and the most significant vehicle for the ministry and mission of the church. While it is beautiful to be connected to churches around the world, the local community still trumps any other form of Church in that it is a place where we are connected as a church family and where we can access care and calling together.

When we work together as a local church, God can use us in ways we could never be useful individually. God puts us to work together to do more than we ever dreamed possible. The word "together" is so important for us to remember in this Easter season. The Resurrected Jesus calls us together to be his body, to be his people, and to do his work. Together we can face the difficulties of this life and this world. Together, the Church has survived. May God continue to help us survive and thrive!

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Mike".

Did You Know?

Bluff Park UMC is partnering with the UAB Wesley Foundation. We are offering this UAB United Methodist college student ministry the Chapel on Thursday evenings for worship and programming.

Meet a Member Devoted to Missions

Tell us about you. I was born Mary Elizabeth DeShazo at home in the Bellevue Heights area of Birmingham on November 20th, 1929. I'm 91 years old. I grew up in the Central Park and College Hills neighborhoods in Birmingham.

I met my husband Joe in 1946 when he returned from World War II. We married in 1948 when I was 19 and Joe was 25. Joe was in the military, so we moved a lot. Together we lived in 13 different cities - in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, New Mexico, Florida, Massachusetts, Texas - with 25 years in Mobile, Alabama.

We have two children - Franklin and Carol. Carol and her husband Pat Westbrook are members at BPUMC. I am a proud grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother. Not everybody gets to appreciate the richness of family and five generations.

Joe died in 1991. In 1993, my daughter Carol and her husband Pat said come on home. They were kind enough to allow me to add a wing to their house where I have made my home for 28 years. To be so loved has been one of God's greatest blessings for sure.

How old were you when you started attending church? I think I may have been born on the front pew of Central Park UMC in Birmingham. I can't ever remember not being in church. When I was about 10 years old, we moved to McCoy UMC.

Why has the church been important to you and your family? As I have no memory of not being at church, why would it not be a part of my life? I think what has held me to the church is my faith, family, friends, fellowship, and service - especially mission to the world.

How long have you been a member of Bluff Park UMC? I've been a member here for 18 years. BPUMC is a community church, we live close, and it was the smartest thing we ever did. In total, I've been a member of about 12 churches in 8 different cities plus multiple chapels on bases.

What are some things about you that people in the church might not know? I am fortunate to have traveled to all seven continents with Joe, family, friends or by myself. My last trip was with Carol to Iceland in February 2020. In Mobile, I managed the Singer Company sewing department for 10 years. While Joe and I were members of



Mary Elizabeth DeShazo Davis

Forest Hill UMC in Mobile, we were two of 12 volunteers asked to spend two years starting a new church. The church we started, Christ UMC, has just celebrated their 40th year. And... I love to dance!

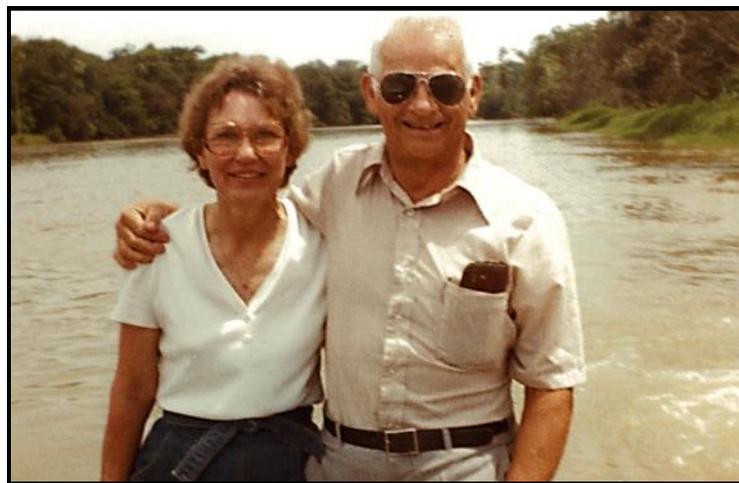
Where have you done hands-on mission work? *Locally*, I've volunteered at the Fire House Ministries Homeless Shelter, McCoy Adult Day Care Center, Fair Haven Senior Living, Kairos prison ministry, to name a few.

In the U.S., I have volunteered at the Vashti Center in Thomasville, GA; an Oklahoma Native American reservation; the Dumas Wesley Community Center and Inner-City Mission in Mobile; and the Appalachian Service Project in Kentucky. In addition, I went to South Carolina twice with other Bluff Park members to help with hurricane clean-up.

Internationally, I have been part of mission teams that worked in Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Panama.

Some of the jobs on these mission projects were construction, mixing concrete, plasterwork, applying stucco, caulking windows, painting, sewing altar cushions, patching blue jeans, teaching Bible School, preparing food, building hot houses to help with the reforestation of Costa Rica's native trees with their beautiful green, red and brown woods, and lots of cleaning.

What would you tell people to encourage them to get involved in Hands-On Mission work? You always receive more than you give. And you can't outgive God. Jesus said to go ye into all the world.



Elizabeth and Joe Davis in Ciudad Neily, Costa Rica during a 1984 mission trip.



In 2012, a missions team from Bluff Park United Methodist Church worked at the El Vergel Institute for Agriculture, in Angol, Chile. Elizabeth is pictured here with her grandson, Brian Westbrook.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VBS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
JULY 12TH-15TH
6:00PM-7:30PM

TREASURED! DISCOVERING YOU'RE PRICELESS TO GOD!

Due to COVID restrictions, a smaller volunteer base, and the cancellation of crucial fundraising events, VBS will only be open to BPUMC attendees rising 4K through 5th grade. (Rising 6th-12th can register to help through BPUMC Students, contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org to find out more.)

VBS will look very different this year. It will be at night 6pm-7:30pm. There will not be a meal but a prepacked snack will be served each night (kiddos may bring their own snack if they choose.) Kids will be divided up into large classrooms that allow social distancing. There will not be a large gathering. Masks will be required. The kids will remain in their classrooms throughout the night and their station leaders will travel to them.

Because we will have a smaller group this year, we will have carpool drop-off and pick-up!

We will be charging this year. You will be sent a link

that you can make a payment on after registration or you can bring a check by the church Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. The fee will be \$10 per child with a family Max of \$30. This price will include a t-shirt for each child and a CD for each household. It will also include all of the collectible Bible Buddies and cool gadgets we will be using!

Please register each child that will be attending our VBS and let us know what grade they are going into, allergies, and their t-shirt size.

The last day to register will be June 15th, or when we reach maximum capacity! Absolutely no walk-ins will be allowed!



Click Here to Register Your Kids!

<https://bit.ly/3m4WB2D>

STUDENT MINISTRY

In-Person Holy Ground is Back!

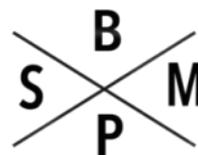
Join us Wednesday nights for Worship and Hang Out! Drop off starts at 6:00pm. Come down to the ground floor to hang out together in the classrooms, share a snack, and shoot some hoops in the gym. At 6:30ish we will head up to the Youth Worship space and gather for Holy Ground until 7:30pm.

In-Person Sunday School with JT

Join JT every Sunday morning, from 9:00-9:45am, on the ground floor of the youth building for Sunday School. Refreshments will be available so no worries if you forget breakfast. You need to register for Sunday School at this time since space is limited. Contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org.

Upcoming Events

- Discovery Weekend April 9-10
- Confirmation Sunday April 11
- Family Night April 28th
- Senior Sunday May 23rd



**BLUFF PARK
STUDENTS**

ADULT MINISTRY



Spiritual Growth Resources

Spring is the perfect time to enjoy spiritual growth! Here are two daily resources available to you:

- **Life Track:** Daily Email: bluffparkumc.org/lifetrack-daily
- **Upper Room Devotionals:** www.upperroom.org/devotionals

Hoover Senior Center—Exercise Videos

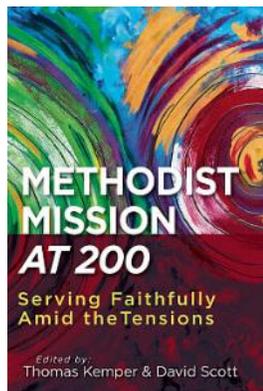
The Hoover Senior Center has posted links to numerous videos that will guide you through Chair Exercise, Tia Chi, Walk at Home, Strength and Balance, and Yoga. For quick links to the videos, visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/HooverNewHorizons>. The videos can be found at the top of their homepage. While you're there, scroll through their Facebook page, they list a lot of activities!

If you are a Hoover resident 55 or older, you can purchase a membership to the Senior Center for only \$10 per year. For more information, call the Senior Center at 205-739-6700.

LOCAL, U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

New Book: Methodist Mission at 200 – Serving Faithfully Amid the Tensions

For more than 200 years, millions of Methodists have shared God's love with the world. Baked into the theological purpose of our mission is the compassion and resolve to relieve human suffering by offering healing, hope, and holiness everywhere in the world. Millions of Methodist people on every continent persist in serving faithfully amid the tensions and challenges that cry out for transformation.



This book tells the story of these global efforts, beginning with John Stewart's ministry among the Wyandotte Nation in America, and what Methodists have learned about God's mission along the way. This book also describes how United Methodist Global Ministries is living out these lessons of cooperation, humility, relationship, and practicing holistic mission. Together, Methodists pursue and promote personal, social, and cosmic transformation. Together, we work and live amid the tensions that enrich and expand our awareness of Methodist identity in God's diverse world. Paperback [ISBN: 9781791015985] or E-Book [ISBN: 9781791015992]

Learn More About United Methodist Missions – Globally

To learn more about what the members and churches of

the United Methodist Church are doing at home and throughout the world, check-out the following websites:

- **UMC Global Ministries** – umcmission.org
- **United Methodist Commission on Relief (UMCOR)** – umcmission.org/umcor/
- **United Methodist Volunteers in Mission** – umvim.org



March Food Pantry Report

We had another successful drive-through Food Pantry in March:

- 331 households received food
- 8,890 child and adult diapers given out
- 24 Weekend Backpacks were given to Bluff Park Elementary children who need food for the weekends
- 48 volunteers prepared for and operated the food pantry

Thanks to everyone for your help and support!

A Message from the Bishop

2021 Key Calendar Dates: Below is the calendar for the 2021 Appointment-making season.

- 1st Appointment-Making Session: February 22-25
- 2nd Appointment-Making Session: March 17-18
- Finalize Appointments: April 6
- District Superintendents notify moving clergy of their new appointments: Thursday, April 8
- District Superintendents notify Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee chairs of their new clergy: Friday, April 9
- Appointments are announced and posted: Sunday, April 11
- Moving pastors last Sunday in current church: June 20
- Transition Sunday: June 27
- Moving Day: June 30
- Moving pastors first Sunday in new appointment: July 4

I invite each of you to pray daily for moving clergy, receiving churches, district superintendents and me as we participate in the final stages of our appointment-making rhythm for the upcoming Conference year. May every clergy appointment lead to fruitful ministry, new disciples and transformed communities.

As always, it is a privilege to serve as your bishop.



Blessings,

Debra Wallace-Padgett
Resident Bishop
North Alabama Conference

Member Updates

NEW MEMBERS

- Butch and Beverly Wright—2/28/21

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Gary White who passed away on March 14th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Rollina Oglesbay who passed away on March 23rd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Sue Pearson on the passing of her husband Jack on March 26th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

April 1

1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Psalm 116

April 2

John 18:33-19:3 | Psalm 22

April 3

John 19:38-42 | Psalm 31

April 4

John 20:1-18 | Psalm 118

April 5

1 Corinthians 15:35-49
Psalm 98

April 6

1 Corinthians 15:50-58
Psalm 103

April 7

John 12:44-50 | Psalm 99

April 8

Acts 2:42-47 | Psalm 147

April 9

Acts 4:23-31 | Psalm 136

April 10

John 20:19-23 | Psalm 145

April 11

John 20:24-31 | Psalm 146

April 12

1 John 2:3-11 | Psalm 1

April 13

1 John 2:12-17 | Psalm 2

April 14

Isaiah 26:1-15 | Psalm 5

April 15

1 John 2:26-28 | Psalm 6

April 16

Luke 22:24-30 | Psalm 17

April 17

Acts 3:1-10 | Psalm 21

April 18

Luke 24:36b-48 | Psalm 148

April 19

1 John 3:10-16 | Psalm 9

April 20

1 John 3:16-24 | Psalm 26

April 21

Mark 16:9-18 | Psalm 38

April 22

2 John 1-6 | Psalm 28

April 23

1 Samuel 16:1-13 | Psalm 39

April 24

Mark 6:30-34 | Psalm 30

April 25

John 10:11-18 | Psalm 32

April 26

1 Peter 5:1-5 | Psalm 47

April 27

1 Chronicles 11:1-9 | Psalm 48

April 28

Mark 14:26-31 | Psalm 49

April 29

Acts 8:1-8 | Psalm 50

April 30

Acts 8:9-25 | Psalm 54

Monthly Calendar for April 2021

Thursday, April 1—Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 2—Good Friday
7:00 pm Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday
8:30 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park

Monday, April 5
Office Closed

Tuesday, April 6
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, April 7
7:00 am Food Pantry
5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground

Friday, April 9
Discovery Weekend

Saturday, April 10
Discovery Weekend

Sunday, April 11—Confirmation Sunday
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, April 13
8:30 am Maintenance
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm Under The Bridge

Wednesday, April 14
5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground

Thursday, April 15
7:00 pm Book Club

Sunday, April 18
7:30 am—12:30pm Red Cross Blood Drive
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, April 20
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, April 21
5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground

Thursday, April 22
6:30 pm Finance Committee

Sunday, April 25
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, April 26
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle

Tuesday, April 27
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, April 28
5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground



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

Ann Boutwell, by Fred and Sue Boone

OPERATING FUND

Linda King, by Jim and Audrey Ann Wilson

Jean Shaw, by Morgan and Jayne Ogilvie

John Whitcomb, by Jim and Gail Garner, Jim and Audrey Ann Wilson

Lloyd White, by Seekers Class, Shawn and Debbie Smith

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Kathy Hohne, by Otis and Temmie Bibb

Laurie White, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

In Honor of...

BUILDING FUND

Bob and Pan Cahoon's 70th Wedding Anniversary, by their children

MUSIC FUND

Carole Armistead, by Paula Thompson

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Jens Pilgrim-Larsin, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

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

X



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.