



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

As United Methodists, we know that just as sure as there is a first Sunday for a pastor, there will be a last Sunday. It's part of who we are. While it is painful and sad, it is also a good thing because it allows churches to experience the varied gifts of many pastors and it allows pastors to learn and strengthen their ministry through the many wonderful relationships and experiences in the life of the churches we serve. I will forever be grateful to all of you! Because of my time here with you at BPUMC, I am a better, wiser, more seasoned pastor as I go to serve Huffman UMC. In that way, I take all of you with me! God's gift of grace experienced through you will become gifts of grace shared with others.

Thank you so much for the love and care extended to me and my family as we have prepared to move. For your words of encouragement and love, thank you; every card, phone call and text has been so special. For your many acts of kindness and generosity, thank you. To the Sunday School classes and individuals who fed us this past week, thank you; every meal was delicious!

I shared with the Church Council one of my favorite lines from a movie: Beginnings are usually scary, endings are usually sad, but it's what's in the middle that counts (Birdee Pruitt in Hope Floats). I have loved being in the middle with you and "every time I think of you, I will give thanks to my God" (Phil. 1:3).

Blessings and peace,
Angela



Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Sunday Morning

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:00 am
THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK: 11:00 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 am
Nursery care available all morning!
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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

My home is upside down right now as we are in the process of renovation. Some carpet is ripped up revealing 1960s craftsmanship in the flooring below. We are not yet at the place of enjoying our new room, but we cannot yet see what the room will look like just yet. We have ideas, plans, and dreams swimming around in our collective minds. But we will have to patiently wait for the work to finish.



This summer, Rev. Angela Martin shared in a sermon that we have been in a liminal space for quite some time. We have left behind the way of life we had in 2019 and we have not yet gotten back to what is next. But God is faithfully leading us into that new place. I am confident that God has led Angela to a place where He can faithfully utilize her gifts. I am also confident that God is leading Rev. Ross Furio into our church family so that his gifts can be shared with us as well. In a way, this is a fun place to be because we have no idea what will be next for us. God could do just about anything with us! It is also an uneasy place to be when we miss certain folks or when we are anxious about the future.

That is where faith comes into focus. Throughout the Bible, the word "faith" is used to describe the primary way that the people of God relate to God. And this word is almost always tied to the idea of trusting in God and in God's plans. Life is full of these liminal moments and faith helps us move forward courageously because we know that God is trustworthy and leading us to something good. Like the old hymn says, "Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus..."

July and August will be months of coming together and dreaming about what is next! We will have a vacation Bible school for children (and then a new event for adults!). We will have times to gather for fellowship and worship. And we will begin the process of dreaming together about where God is leading us, together.

Are you ready?

Mike



One Year Capital Campaign

Friends, this past year has been a time of second-mile generosity even in the midst of a global pandemic. Members of our church family have pledged and have been giving to the "Preserving Beauty, Preserving Ministry" one-year capital campaign. We have received pledges totaling just over \$600,000 and those gifts are coming in but we still need to finish faithfully this year. This campaign has already produced fruit in our church's ministry and in our facilities. Every stained glass window in the Education Building and in the Chapel is now protected and preserved. We are scheduled to begin work on the Sanctuary stained glass windows this fall. We have been able to upgrade our cameras and sound for live-streaming worship in the Chapel and in the Sanctuary. A new chiller for the Sanctuary has been ordered and we are not having to dip into the church's main operating ministry budget for any of these expenses (as long as all of our pledges continue to come in this year!). Our church family is preserving the beauty in our Sanctuary and Chapel and is preserving the ministries and missions of our church in such a time as this.

A NEW One-Year Capital Campaign

This fall, we will announce a brand new one-year capital campaign for 2022 that will focus on helping our church family connect our legacy to our shared future together. Our sacred connections to God and to one another can lead toward a bright and hopeful future. What others have established before us needs to be honored and cared for so that they can be used for ministry to the people in our community! We will be conducting an annual ministry operating budget campaign this fall as well as this NEW one-year capital campaign. Please be prayerful about how God is calling you to be generous to both of these concurrent campaigns in the fall.



Ice Cream Social

On July 11 at 6:30pm we will be having an Ice Cream Social for members of the church to meet our new associate pastor Rev. Ross Furio and welcome him to Bluff Park UMC.

Flower Vases Needed

The flower ministry is running low on vases and could use some donations. The ideal size is 6 - 9 inches tall with a 3 - 4 inch diameter mouth?

If you have vases to donate you can leave them for the flower team on the counter in the Parlor Kitchen.



Save the Date: Back to School Bash

Make plans to join us at the end of the summer for a big outdoor celebration. For a church accustomed to hosting big celebrations it is hard to believe that our last one was the Halloween Carnival in 2019. The drive-through Halloween and Christmas events were a big success and kids and parents appreciated our Midnight Bunny Run at-home egg hunt. But, the time has come for us to gather in-person and celebrate again.

On August 15th, from 4-6pm, we will gather outside in the church parking lot for a Back to School/Back to Life party. There will be food, music, games, and more. We'll have time for the kids to play and the adults to re-connect.

We look forward to seeing you there!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Camp on the Bluff was amazing this year! Besides learning about soccer, arts and crafts, gardening, dance, and science, our children learned that God created them, God loves them, Jesus died for them, and that they can share the love of God with others! Camp on the Bluff would not have been possible without the love and support of everyone at Bluff Park UMC who prayed for this ministry, tithed to our church, volunteered at these camps, and/or helped prepare for and clean up after Camp on the Bluff. From the bottom of our hearts and on behalf of all of the children: Thank You! We are proud to serve at such a loving, caring, and giving church!

We now turn our attention to Vacation Bible School and the beginning of a new school year! During the week of July 12-15, our children will be attending Vacation Bible School, where this year they will learn that they are treasured by God. Each night will consist of Bible stories, music, science experiments, crafts, and more! Please join us in praying that our children will grow closer to God during this fun, exciting, and meaningful week!

We also want to encourage everyone to mark your calendars for Sunday, August 15th! On that date, we will be encouraging our children to start their school year off right with prayer, love, and encouragement through a blessing of the backpacks ceremony during worship. Also during worship, we will be providing our rising 3rd graders with their very own Bible, geared towards them at their age level! Finally, that afternoon from 4:00-6:00 in our church parking lot, everyone from our church and community is invited to a Back to School Bash, which will include food, live music, a train ride, the Log Jammer, sports inflatables, a dunk tank, raffle prizes, a mission project, and more! We hope you will join us that day as we kick off the new school year through worship and fellowship!



STUDENT MINISTRY

BPUMC STUDENTS SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

This summer BPUMC Students Sunday School will be different. We will meet on the ground floor of the youth building but we will not have a curriculum. Instead we will hang out and catch up with one another. JT will bring a special snack (covid-aware) each Sunday for everyone. It's a great time to bring a friend or relative to get to know JT and see what our youth program is all about. Masks, social distancing, temperature checks, etc. will still be going on. If you have any questions, just email Melissa at mhendon@bpumc.org

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Parents! We need your help!! We need one volunteer each Sunday to hang out with JT on the ground floor during the Sunday school hour (8:45-9:45.) Your job will be to sit, drink coffee (or whatever you like), eat a snack (if you want), and engage in conversation if needed. What a great job!! Please consider signing up for a few weeks this summer. The link to do it is below. Please don't make Ms. Melissa scramble each week looking for a volunteer! Y'all are the best!!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B48A9A928ABF85-bpumc1>

SUMMER SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

There are two different opportunities to help Children's Ministries this summer and earn some service hours. Click on the link to sign up and get more info!:

VBS (July 12-17, 6-7:30pm) Open to all youth.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B48A9A928ABF85-vbs2021>

Upcoming Events

July 9

Sr High Broomball

July 11

VBS Training

July 11

Movie Night (Registration Required)

July 18

Sunday Night Activity 6-7:30

July 25

Sunday Night Activity 6-7:30

August 1

Laser Tag (Registration Required)

August 8

6th and 9th Night

August 15

School Year Sunday Nights Return

August 18

MidWeek Returns

ADULT MINISTRY

NEW THIS SUMMER: Adult VBS

On August 10-12 from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon you are invited to participate in a spiritually-renewing Adult Vacation Bible School either in-person or online this August as we have guest speakers, music, and hymns from our wonderful Sanctuary Choir and staff, as well as time for fun and fellowship. This free event is open to all. We do strongly encourage registering for this event so that we can plan for all aspects of the event. You can register through Realm or by contacting the main office. Please make sure to be clear if you will participate in every day of Adult Bible School or in one or two if you will participate in person. Realm Link: <https://bit.ly/3qypu9A>

Christmas In July Pecan Sale

The UMW is having a pecan sale in the month of July to benefit our Local mission Fund. Choose from 1lb Mammoth Halves for \$12.00 or 1lb Large Pieces for \$11.00. Pecans will be delivered in early November. Place your order with any UMW member or contact theresaricher-son@gmail.com.

New Ladies Morning Prayer Group

BPUMC has a new Ladies Prayer Group that meets on

Thursday mornings at 8:30 in the Fireside Room. All women interested in praying for themselves, others, our Church, our community, our world and all prayer requests are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Sylvia Sumners at ssumners@bellsouth.net or at 205-482-5680.

Prayer links us with God's true purposes, for us and for the world. It not only brings the blessings of God's will to our own personal lives, it brings us the added blessing of being in step with God's plan. - Billy Graham.

Hoover Rec Center Membership Includes Membership in the Hoover Senior Center

If you are 55 or older, and a member of the Hoover Rec Center, you automatically have a membership in the Hoover Senior Center. In addition to serving lunch to Jefferson County seniors 60 and over, the Senior Center has activities that include: exercise, games, art/craft classes, dance, book club, etc. For a complete list or activities, go the Senior Center Website at <http://www.hooveralabama.gov/451/Seniors>. Look under the heading "Activities" for a link to their monthly newsletter.

LOCAL, U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

UMCOR Provides Food and Hygiene Kits in Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

The United Nations has declared Yemen as the largest humanitarian crisis in the world with more than 24.7 million people - or 70% of the population - in need of assistance. Yemen's six years of civil war have resulted in the more than 4 million internally displaced people "IDPs" searching for safety. Many of them end up in tight quarters and unsanitary conditions of IDP camps. The UN Children's Fund estimates that nearly 2.3 million Yemeni children under the age of five will suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021. Emergency relief is desperately needed!

To read more about the crisis in Yemen and what the United Methodist Commission on Relief (UMCOR) is doing to help, go to: <https://umcmmission.org/may-2021/displaced-families-in-yemen-receive-hope-in-umcor-packages/>.

A gift to UMCOR International Disaster Relief, Advance #982450, will assist more families with needed emergency relief.

Church of the Reconciler Turning Used Plastics into Useable Items

In their plastics recycling workshop, the Church of the Reconciler (COTR) has been able to produce carabiners, flowerpots, and bookmarks - all from #2 and #5 plastic waste. They are partnering with Community on the Rise to employ community members in the recycling workshop so they can help clean up Birmingham while also earning money and learning new skills.

You Can Help - BPUMC's United Methodist Women are collecting and delivering the requested items to COTR. If you can donate any of the following items, please place them in the box in the office directly across from Reverend Mike Holly's office. Questions? Contact Carol Westbrook at cdwest43@gmail.com.

- Plastic bottle caps or lids (clean)
- Any clean #5 plastics - includes bottle caps and jar lids without metal
- Any clean #2 plastics - includes straws, most store bags and clear plastic jugs
- Old irons and panini presses (must have flat griddles)
- Plastic safety goggles

June Drive-Thru Pantry on the Bluff

In June, 225 households received food from BPUMC's Food Pantry (Pantry on the Bluff). The following were also given out:

24 Weekend Backpacks to Bluff Park Elementary children who need food for weekends.

- 6,050 children's diapers
- 450 children's pull-up diapers
- 912 adult diapers

Our thanks to the 41 volunteers who prepared for and operated the May Pantry on the Bluff.



Realm is an online ministry tool designed for real-time connection. It helps members of our church family connect with each other and with our staff. Realm allows you to manage your own personal information, control your giving, make pledges, and keep in touch with the ministry groups that matter to you.

Realm is not like a social network that's open to everyone. It's only made up of the people in our church community. Realm gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

You can access Realm on the web or through a free app on your phone.

If you have not setup your Realm account yet, contact Jason McCrory in the church office and request an invitation to join.

First Things First

As we approach the summer months, please remember that giving during the summer often drops off as people are away on vacation. During the summer, many vital ministries occur such as Vacation Bible School and mission trips. If you can automate your giving through Realm or if you can prepay your summer giving before June, that will greatly help our ministries continue to bless and serve others!

Member Updates

NEW MEMBERS

- McKenzie Sue Cory - 6/20/21

BAPTISMS

- McKenzie Sue Cory - 6/20/21

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Rachel and Blake Shultz on the birth of a daughter, Stella Blake on June 10th.

Congratulations to Kelly and Quinton Lochmann on the birth of a daughter, Maisie Lorraine on June 13th.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Alan Hallmark who passed away on June 8th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Lynda Powell on the passing of her husband Butch on June 25th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Patty Elliot who passed away on June 27th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

	July 1
1 Corinthians 4:8-13	Psalm 135
	July 2
2 Corinthians 10:7-11	Psalm 140
	July 3
Matthew 8:18-22	Psalm 144
	July 4
Mark 6:1-13	Psalm 33
	July 5
2 Corinthians 11:16-33	Psalm 1
	July 6
James 5:7-12	Psalm 5
	July 7
John 7:1-9	Psalm 14
	July 8
Colossians 2:1-5	Psalm 12
	July 9
Colossians 4:2-18	Psalm 17
	July 10
Amos 4:6-13	Psalm 149
	July 11
Ephesians 1:3-14	Psalm 148
	July 12
Acts 21:27-39	Psalm 9
	July 13
Acts 23:12-35	Psalm 28
	July 14
Luke 7:31-35	Psalm 26
	July 15
Colossians 1:15-23	Psalm 31
	July 16
Acts 17:16-31	Psalm 35
	July 17
Luke 18:35-43	Psalm 32
	July 18
Ephesians 2:11-22	Psalm 63
	July 19
Hebrews 13:17-25	Psalm 41
	July 20
Acts 20:17-38	Psalm 47
	July 21
Luke 15:1-7	Psalm 49
	July 22
Colossians 1:9-14	Psalm 116
	July 23
Colossians 3:12-17	Psalm 54
	July 24
John 4:31-38	Psalm 55
	July 25
Ephesians 3:14-21	Psalm 56
	July 26
Genesis 18:1-15	Psalm 57
	July 27
Exodus 24:1-11	Psalm 61
	July 28
Mark 6:35-44	Psalm 62
	July 29
1 Corinthians 11:17-22	Psalm 70
	July 30
1 Corinthians 11:27-34	Psalm 73
	July 31
Exodus 13:3-10	Psalm 76

Monthly Calendar for July 2021

<p>Thursday, July 1 8:00 am Students ASP@Home 9:30 am Sewing Group</p> <p>Friday, July 2 8:00 am Students ASP@Home</p> <p>Saturday, July 3 8:00 am Students ASP@Home</p> <p>Sunday, July 4 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Traditional Worship Service 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park</p> <p>Monday, July 5 Holiday Office Closed</p> <p>Wednesday, July 7 7:00 am Food Pantry 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Adult Handbells</p> <p>Thursday, July 8 9:30 am Sewing Group</p> <p>Sunday, July 11 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 6:30 pm Ice Cream Social</p> <p>Monday, July 12 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:00 pm Mission Committee 6:00 pm VBS</p> <p>Tuesday, July 13 8:30 am Maintenance 6:00 pm Under the Bridge</p>	<p>6:00 pm VBS</p> <p>Wednesday, July 14 11:00 am Adult Ministry Council 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm VBS</p> <p>Thursday, July 15 9:30 am Sewing Group 6:00 pm VBS 7:00 pm Book Club</p> <p>Sunday, July 18 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 5:00 pm Student Ministry</p> <p>Monday, July 19 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p> <p>Wednesday, July 21 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Adult Handbells</p> <p>Thursday, July 22 9:30 am Sewing Group 6:30 pm Finance Committee</p> <p>Saturday, July 24 5:00 pm Fisherman Class Dinner</p> <p>Sunday, July 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</p>	<p>6:00 pm Student Ministry</p> <p>Monday, July 26 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry</p> <p>Tuesday, July 27 6:00 pm Under the Bridge</p> <p>Wednesday, July 28 5:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 5:00 pm Adult Handbells</p> <p>Thursday, July 29 9:30 am Sewing Group</p>
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How To Worship Online

On Sunday mornings the weekly Traditional worship Livestream can be found on our website, our Facebook page, and the church's YouTube channel. 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, Facebook, and YouTube.

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...

CHRISTIN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP

Alan Hallmark, by Harry Hill

FOOD PANTRY

Barbara Morgan, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

MAINTENANCE FUND

Barbara Morgan, by Bob and Pan Cahoon

OPERATING FUND

Bill and Peggy Best, by Marvin and Diane Broome

Peggy Best, by Nathan and Alice Chase

Jean Clemons, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

Alan Hallmark, by Otis and Ann Manar

Barbara Morgan, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton, Joann Klingensmith,

Ali Powell, by Joan Davis

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bill and Peggy Best, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

Barbara Morgan, by Bob and Ann Nelson

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.