



## BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### REFLECTING GOD'S GENEROSITY

Stewardship Campaign 2022

Two critical stewardship campaigns will begin this month. Beginning on October 10, 2021, we will explore what it means for each and every one of us to reflect God's generosity to the world. This sermon series and stewardship campaign will lead us to the commitment of our financial pledges for the 2022 Ministry Operating Budget as well as for a brand new one-year capital campaign. This capital campaign (Bridging our Legacy to Our Shared Future) will be described in detail over the course of the month and it is important to understand that, as usual, capital campaign giving is second-mile giving above and beyond your normal pledge or giving to the church's operating budget. A letter about the campaigns as well as a pledge card will be mailed out this month! Please read carefully and make sure that you subscribe to the LifeTrack:Daily devotionals and Sunday worship services so that you can follow along with our studies on reflecting God's generosity.

### COMMITMENT SUNDAY

November 7, 2021

*Pledge cards will be sent out in October to each and every household. If you do not receive one, please let the church office know. Please note that the pledge card is double-sided. One side is for the 2022 Ministry Operating Budget and the other side will be for the one-year capital campaign: Bridging Our Legacy to Our Shared Future.*

### Fall Event Calendar

#### OCTOBER

- Offering of Blankets Begins
- 10 Blood Drive
- BPUMC Students One Night for the Homeless
- 11 BPUMC Kids Field/Mission Trip
- 27 Halloween Carnival
- 31 BPUMC Students Pumpkin Olympics

#### NOVEMBER

- 7 All Saints' Day @ Morning Worship
- Veteran's Day Lunch Celebration
- 11 BPUMC Kids Field/Mission Trip
- 12-14 BPUMC Students Fall Retreat
- 14 Churchwide Potluck Supper
- 17 Family S'Mores Night
- 28 Advent Family Workshop

#### DECEMBER

- 3 Preschool Christmas Storytime
- 5 BPUMC Kids Christmas Pageant and Churchwide Christmas Party
- 11 BPUMC Kids Parents Night Out
- 12 Churchwide Potluck Supper
- Sanctuary Choir Christmas Presentation
- 15 BPUMC Students Christmas Party
- 19 BPUMC Kids Sunday School Christmas Party
- Service of Lessons and Carols
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services
- 26 Blood Drive

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

[www.BluffParkUMC.org](http://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!*  
Care Contact Information  
205.533.9902 | care@bpumc.org

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Published monthly by

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street, Hoover, AL 35226

Article deadline 2nd Tuesday monthly

Editor, Andrew Seltz

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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

Do you feel that you were born for some important reason or purpose? How did you come to feel that way or come to realize your divine purpose? In my own life, I have experienced a feeling like this in my call to ministry. When I engaged in ministry and mission in the local church, it just felt like that was what I was supposed to do. It wasn't as though I operated without fear or doubt. It was more of a sense that the next steps in this direction were the right ones for me.



Theologians argue that we were born to reflect God's image to the world. Sin has a way of wrecking this image, but it can be rebuilt in faith and in our service to others. The more that we do what God calls us to do, we reflect God and His Son, our Savior, to the world. One of the clearest ways that we reflect God to others is through our generosity. We were, as one author put it, born to be generous. If God is truly generous and we are made in His image, then we were born to be generous.

God's generosity is seen in His continual patience with His own people as well in the sending of His own Son, Jesus Christ, to the world. During the month of October, we will look to the Bible to find what it means for us to discover our own unique calling in terms of generosity as well as how God is calling our church family to respond to His call for our church's ministry and mission. Join us in worship either in person or online starting October 10th as we explore **Reflecting God's Generosity!**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike".

## Charge Conference

Save the date. The Charge Conference will take place on November 21st. The time has not yet been set, so watch for another announcement with more details.

## Your Generosity Is Needed!

### Capital Campaign

As you well know, we are in the final months of the one-year capital campaign we began in 2020. We began this campaign with the hope of Preserving Beauty in the restoration and protection of our stained-glass windows as well as in protecting our Sanctuary and historic organ with a new chiller. We also began this campaign with the hope of Preserving Ministry in the process of obtaining enough funds in our church's annual operating budget for the continuing debt service of our loan.

Everyone in our church has the opportunity to give to our Preserving Beauty, Preserving Ministry one-year capital campaign. We are so very close to reaching our goal. Half of the windows are already restored and the chiller has been delivered. We are also very close to receiving enough funds for our 2021 debt service. Our mission and ministry continue to thrive because of the generosity of our wonderful church family. We cannot finish this important campaign without you!

### 2021 Ministry Operating Budget

Our church is still engaging in ministry and mission even as we continue in the global COVID-19 pandemic. During the past few months alone, we have held a Vacation Bible School for children in our church family as well as a very successful Adult Vacation Bible School with three amazing speakers. The videos from the Adult Vacation Bible School are available on our church's YouTube channel! Church members are serving in more congregational care and continue to send cards and deliver flowers. Our choir

### How To Give

Here is what you can do (for both campaigns):

1. Send in your giving regularly to the church office or in the offering box or baskets in worship.
2. Visit our website or the church's Realm account and set up your giving.
3. Give to the church through your Bank/Credit Union bill pay or e-check options.
4. Or give through bequests, endowments, securities, or other options.

Our church's finance office will be ready to help you with any questions!

is preparing a very special Advent/Christmas presentation. And our missions continue to provide food and care both in our Food Pantry here at the church as well as in providing meals and blankets to those in need in downtown Birmingham.

As we enter into this final quarter of 2021, it is important that everyone in our church family faithfully finish our pledges and financial commitments by the end of the year. Even if you have not pledged to the 2021 Ministry Operating Budget, please continue to give generously so that we can continue in ministry and mission to our com-



## You Can Help Alleviate World Hunger!

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organization that distributes food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable. Since 2005, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have packaged more than 543 million meals consisting of rice, soy, vegetables, vitamins, and minerals. On Sunday, October 17 from 1:00 - 7:00 pm, members of BPUMC and Vestavia Hills UMC are joining together at the VHUMC Lighthouse Gym to pack 100,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. Grab your Sunday School class, your small group, your best friend, and/or your family and sign up to volunteer for one of the two-hour shifts. There are jobs for everyone 5 years of age or older.

To register, go to: [events.riseagainsthunger.org/VestaviaHillsUMC2021](https://events.riseagainsthunger.org/VestaviaHillsUMC2021)

For more information about the event, contact Bennie Vinson at [bfinson@bellsouth.net](mailto:bfinson@bellsouth.net) or at 205-682-9966.

For more information about Rise Against Hunger, go to: [www.riseagainsthunger.org](https://www.riseagainsthunger.org)





## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We will be offering a Community Halloween Drive Thru again this year on Wednesday, October 27th from 6:00-7:00 in the Bluff Park UMC parking lot! Families in our community will be invited to drive through our church's parking lot, which will be filled with Halloween decorations, cars decorated for Halloween/Fall, music, lights, members of our church in costume, and/or members of our church waving signs. At the end of the drive thru, each child in each car will receive a bag of candy! While no one will be allowed to leave their cars as they drive through, we will encourage children to ride through in their costumes so they can show them off and interact with our members along the route!

We need your help in two ways to make this happen! First, we need a TON of candy to make this event a success! The candy needs to be individually wrapped and cannot contain peanuts or peanut butter. If you would like to pick up a bag or two (or five!) to donate to the event, you can bring them to the church office Monday through Friday 8am-4pm, or drop them off at our welcome desk in the Narthex on Sunday morning. We will be collecting until Wednesday, October 20th. If you would like to donate some money to buy candy instead of going out and shopping, we have a link set up for that. The suggested amount is \$10 but we will of course be very grateful for any amount given. The link is here: <https://bit.ly/39MBwEV>

Second, we would love as many youth and adult members/groups of our church as possible to be at the event and help us show our love for our community! These volunteers/groups would do things like dress up in costumes and wave at passing cars, hold and wave signs that say things like "Happy Halloween" or "BPUMC love you," and/or decorate their cars with Halloween/Fall decorations! If you would like to sign up to be one of these volunteers, please email Melissa Hendon at [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org).



## STUDENT MINISTRY

Our Student Ministry exists to reach out to students in our congregation and community and give them a place where they can learn, play, worship, grow, and mature together. All Students currently in 6th-12th grade are welcome to attend! We strive to create an atmosphere where all students can feel welcome to explore their faith and discover things about God and themselves. To get our weekly email newsletter full of upcoming events, email [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org)

### Upcoming Events

#### Midweek Meetup/ Holy Ground

Come on Wednesdays for a \$2 dinner starting at 5:30 then stay for sometime to hang in the New Gym from 5:30-6:30 with Holy Ground (our Student led worship service) going from 6:30-7:30!

#### Sunday Night Activities

Join us on Sunday Nights from 6:00-7:30 for something different each night! Dinner will be served and then we have a rotating schedule of Serve Night, Game Night, and Mystery Night. So every Sunday is a little different!



#### One Night for the Homeless October 10th- October 11th

Our annual One Night for the Homeless is coming up soon and we are so excited about it! Every year our students spend the night outside and discuss homelessness and food insecurity. We also raise money/ materials for our local shelters. This year we will be collecting blankets. You can drop your blankets by Susan Reynolds office in the staff building anytime before the event, or you can drop them off with the Students on the night of October 10th from 5:00 onward!!

## ADULT MINISTRY

### Upcoming Events!

Save the Dates! The Adult Ministry Council has been hard at work bringing you new events this fall! Some of the plans are still in process due to our current pandemic restrictions – updates will be provided as given to us by the Trustees and staff of Bluff Park UMC.

- **Church-wide Dinners!** Plan on the second Sunday of every month for there to be a dinner on the grounds at Bluff Park UMC at 5:30 pm.
- **Faith Focus!** Our Adult Vacation Bible School was such a big hit that we are planning on a monthly similar event at 10:00 am on the second Wednesday of each month. Starting on October 13, 2021, we will have a guest speaker in the Chapel along with music, fun, and fellowship. Lunch options TBA.
- **Wednesdays with Friends!** For the fourth Wednesday of every month, we are putting together fun events, programs, or outings for adults in our church family and community. Information about each event will be announced monthly. Plan on the events to be held at 10:00 am.



### BPUMC Weekly Update Via Email

Every weekend, the church sends out a church update via email. It contains the announcements that will be in the church bulletin, plus more! At the beginning of each month, it also contains a link to the online version of the church Newsletter.

To receive the Weekly Update, other special announcements and the Church Newsletter via email, visit [bluffparkumc.org/newsletter](http://bluffparkumc.org/newsletter) to signup online. If you need help, please call the church office at 205-822-0910.

## LOCAL, U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

### Blankets for the Homeless

Student and Adult Ministries are partnering to collect full-size bed blankets for the homeless through the end of November. The youth will collect full-size blankets during their “One Night for the Homeless” immersion experience from 6 pm Sunday, October 10th through and 7am Monday, October 11th. Full-size blankets are best because they can be wrapped around a person several times to provide additional warmth.

Between now and the end of November, you can also bring new warm full-size blankets to the main office Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm or drop them off in the Sanctuary Narthex or at the back of the Chapel during in-person worship events. You can also send them with your children and youth to an in-person event.

If you would like to make a donation for us to buy the blankets, you can use this link: <https://bit.ly/3kPUB94>

Thank you very much for your support!



### September Drive-Thru Pantry on the Bluff Report

In September, 252 households received food from BPUMC's Food Pantry (Pantry on the Bluff). The following were also given out:

- 5,800 children's diapers
- 250 children's pull-up diapers
- 888 adult diapers

Our thanks to the 48 volunteers who prepared for and operated the September Pantry on the Bluff.



JOIN US FOR THE  
*Going Beyond*  
**SIMULCAST**  
**PRISCILLA**  
**SHIRER**

Worship with Anthony Evans

**OCTOBER 16, 2021**



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021**

**BPUMC CHAPEL**  
733 VALLEY STREET, HOOVER AL

**9:00AM TO 4:00PM.**

**TICKETS \$20.00**

**REGISTER ONLINE**

[BluffParkUMC.org/event/womens-conference](http://BluffParkUMC.org/event/womens-conference)

**EMAIL: WOMENSCONFERENCE@BPUMC.ORG**



**LIFETRACK**

<b>October 1</b>	Romans 8:1-11   Psalm 8
<b>October 2</b>	Luke 16:14-18   Psalm 5
<b>October 3</b>	Genesis 2:18-24   Psalm 120
<b>October 4</b>	1 Corinthians 7:1-9   Psalm 121
<b>October 5</b>	1 Corinthians 7:10-16   Psalm 122
<b>October 6</b>	Jeremiah 3:6-14   Psalm 124
<b>October 7</b>	Hebrews 3:7-19   Psalm 125
<b>October 8</b>	Hebrews 4:1-11   Psalm 131
<b>October 9</b>	Matthew 15:1-9   Psalm 132
<b>October 10</b>	Genesis 1:26-27   Psalm 133
<b>October 11</b>	Matthew 6:19-20   Psalm 140
<b>October 12</b>	Colossians 4:2-4   Psalm 142
<b>October 13</b>	Matthew 6:24   Psalm 144
<b>October 14</b>	John 3:16   Psalm 12
<b>October 15</b>	1 Chronicles 29:9   Psalm 13
<b>October 16</b>	2 Chronicles 9:8   Psalm 14
<b>October 17</b>	Philippians 4:12-13   Psalm 132
<b>October 18</b>	1 Thessalonians 5:15-18 Psalm 17
<b>October 19</b>	Philippians 4:4-6   Psalm 18
<b>October 20</b>	Luke 17:17-18   Psalm 20
<b>October 21</b>	Psalm 100:4   Psalm 21
<b>October 22</b>	2 Corinthians 9:7   Psalm 25
<b>October 23</b>	2 Corinthians 8:1-2   Psalm 26
<b>October 24</b>	Genesis 12:2   Psalm 28
<b>October 25</b>	Matthew 1:24-25   Psalm 63
<b>October 26</b>	Genesis 32:28   Psalm 98
<b>October 27</b>	Luke 6:12-13   Psalm 41
<b>October 28</b>	Luke 11:9   Psalm 44
<b>October 29</b>	Hebrews 11:1-3   Psalm 47
<b>October 30</b>	Luke 1:38   Psalm 53
<b>October 31</b>	Mark 10:17-22   Psalm 49

**Member Updates**

**NEW MEMBERS**

- Claire and Gene Donaldson - 9/19/21
- Sarah-Grace Jones and Dylan Hutto - 9/26/21

**SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...**

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Wes and Allison Wells (parents) as well as to Rick and Tina Hardy (grandparents) in the passing of Elijah Hardy Wells on the day of his birth. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Jan Rogers and her family in the passing of her husband, Robert "Bob" Rogers, on September 11th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of JB Dover who passed away on September 29th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

<b>Sunday, October 3</b>		9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study	<b>Thursday, October 21</b>	
9:00 am	Sunday School	6:00 pm	Under the Bridge	9:30 am	Quilting Group
10:00 am	Traditional Worship Service	<b>Wednesday, October 13</b>		7:00 pm	Book Club
11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	4:30 pm	Pastor's Bible Study	<b>Friday, October 22</b>	
3:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	5:30 pm	Children's Midweek	5:00 pm	Fisherman Class Dinner
4:00 pm	Senior High Boys Small Group	6:00 pm	Student Ministry	<b>Sunday, October 24</b>	
5:00 pm	Girls High School Small Group	6:00 pm	Faithful and Inclusive Bible Study	9:00 am	Sunday School
6:00 pm	Student Ministry	6:00 pm	Adult Handbell Choir	10:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
<b>Monday, October 4</b>		6:00 pm	Men's Chorus	11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am	Prayer Shawl	6:30 pm	Choir	4:00 pm	Senior High Boys Small Group
<b>Tuesday, October 5</b>		<b>Thursday, October 14</b>		5:00 pm	Girls High School Small Group
9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study	9:30 am	Quilting Group	6:00 pm	Student Ministry
<b>Wednesday, October 6</b>		<b>Saturday, October 16</b>		<b>Monday, October 25</b>	
7:00 am	Food Pantry	9:00 am	Women's Conference	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl
4:30 pm	Pastor's Bible Study	<b>Sunday, October 17</b>		10:00 am	Joy Circle
5:30 pm	Children's Midweek	9:00 am	Sunday School	<b>Tuesday, October 26</b>	
6:00 pm	Student Ministry	10:00 am	Traditional Worship Service	9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm	Faithful and Inclusive Bible Study	11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	<b>Wednesday, October 27</b>	
6:00 pm	Adult Handbell Choir	1:00 pm–7:00 pm	Rise Against Hunger	4:30 pm	Pastor's Bible Study
6:00 pm	Men's Chorus	4:00 pm	Senior High Boys Small Group	6:00 pm–7:00 pm	Drive Thru Halloween
6:30 pm	Choir	5:00 pm	Girls High School Small Group	6:00 pm	Faithful and Inclusive Bible Study
<b>Thursday, October 7</b>		6:00 pm	Student Ministry	6:00 pm	Adult Handbell Choir
9:30 am	Quilting Group	<b>Monday, October 18</b>		6:00 pm	Men's Chorus
<b>Sunday, October 10</b>		10:00 am	Prayer Shawl	6:30 pm	Choir
7:30 am–12:30 pm	Blood Drive	<b>Tuesday, October 19</b>		<b>Thursday, October 28</b>	
9:00 am	Sunday School	9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study	9:30 am	Quilting Group
10:00 am	Traditional Worship Service	6:00 pm	Under the Bridge	6:30 pm	Finance Committee
11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	<b>Wednesday, October 20</b>		<b>Sunday, October 31</b>	
4:00 pm	Senior High Boys Small Group	4:30 pm	Pastor's Bible Study	9:00 am	Sunday School
5:00 pm	Girls High School Small Group	5:30 pm	Children's Midweek	10:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
<b>Monday, October 11</b>		6:00 pm	Student Ministry	11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am	Prayer Shawl	6:00 pm	Faithful and Inclusive Bible Study	4:00 pm	Senior High Boys Small Group
<b>Tuesday, October 12</b>		6:00 pm	Adult Handbell Choir	5:00 pm	Girls High School Small Group
8:30 am	Maintenance	6:00 pm	Men's Chorus	6:00 pm	Student Ministry
		6:30 pm	Choir		

*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 —

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
(205) 822-0910

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X



*follow us*



X

**FREE**

# BLUFF PARK UMC HALLOWEEN DRIVE-THRU

**OCTOBER 27TH 6PM – 7PM**

**STAY SAFE IN YOUR CAR!  
CANDY FOR ALL OF THE KIDS!!!**

**FOR DETAILS VISIT [BLUFFPARKUMC.ORG/EVENTS](http://BLUFFPARKUMC.ORG/EVENTS)  
OR VISIT US ON FACEBOOK @BLUFFPARKUMC**