

## BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### 2023 Lay Leader Nominations

The Nominations Committee is organizing to begin work on our lay leadership for the next year in preparation for our Charge Conference. We will be nominating for the following committees:

- SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)
- Finance
- Trustees
- Church Council
- Permanent Endowment
- Scholarship

If you have an interest in serving on one of these committees, please let one of the members of the Nominations Committee know. Members of the committee are:

- Rev. Dr. Kevin Payne
- Rev. Ross Furio
- Rev. Stanley Davidson
- Lay Leader Tina Hardy
- Charlie Averette
- Randy Smith
- Charles Prueter
- Bob Nelson
- Margaret Cook
- Johnny Guy
- Andrea Martin
- Bill Pearson
- Connie Wright
- Natalie Gray
- Kathryn Coltrane
- Andy Holder

### Fall Event Calendar

#### SEPTEMBER

- 4 Blood Drive
- 7 BPUMC Kids & Students Wild Wednesday  
Pastor's Bible Study Begins
- 25 Sozo Children's Choir Concert
- 23-24 Bargains on the Bluff

#### OCTOBER

- 9 Blood Drive  
BPUMC Students One Night for the Homeless
- 10 BPUMC Kids Field/Mission Trip
- 26 Wild Wednesday: Pumpkin Olympics
- 29 Halloween Carnival

#### NOVEMBER

- Warmth for the Homeless Collection
- 6 All Saints' Day @ Morning Worship  
"I Love America" Sanctuary Choir Concert and Luncheon right after Morning Worship
- 11 BPUMC Kids Field/Mission Trip
- 4-6 BPUMC Students Fall Retreat
- 16 Family S'Mores Night
- 27 Advent Family Workshop

#### DECEMBER

- 2 Preschool Christmas Storytime
- 4 BPUMC Kids Christmas Pageant and Churchwide Christmas Party
- 7 BPUMC Students Christmas Party
- 11 Sanctuary Choir Christmas Presentation
- 18 Blood Drive  
BPUMC Kids Sunday School Christmas Party
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services
- 25 Christmas Day Worship-Lessons and Carols

*Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace*

[www.BluffParkUMC.org](http://www.BluffParkUMC.org)

# Sunday Morning

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:00 am  
THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK: 10:00 am  
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 am  
Nursery care available all morning!  
Care Contact Information  
205.533.9902 | care@bpumc.org

## Our Staff

PHONE: 205.822.0910

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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

Hello Church Family!

School is fully back in swing, and our Fall programming is underway with something for all ages. This is a great time to get reconnected and involved! I am excited about the Bible Study I will be facilitating beginning on September 7. [More information about it can be found on page 3.]

We are also getting ready to launch our "It's Time" Capital Campaign. Our goal is to be completely debt-free within the next 3 years! Currently we pay \$15,000.00 per month for a mortgage payment. Can you imagine what we can do with that money once the debt is paid! That is our goal. More information will be forthcoming over the next few weeks. Please be in prayer for our congregation, for this campaign, and for where God might be calling you to be involved.

We are such a generous congregation. We support a variety of ministries, programs, and missions that reach our congregation, our community, and the world! It is amazing to witness the impact, love, and care that Bluff Park UMC has for our neighbors. May we continue to grow together in worship, study, fellowship, and service!

In grace,

Pastor Kevin





## Pastor's Bible Study Begins

Come join Kevin for the Pastor's Bible Study this fall as we explore "In the Beginning-Genesis." Our story of faith begins in Genesis 1:1. The fingerprints of the book of Genesis are found throughout the rest of Scripture. We will study the text of Genesis itself, as well as the composition of the book, its context, and its foundational understandings that are at the heart of Christian understandings. The study will start on Wednesday, September 7th at 5:00pm in the Fireside Room.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Bluff Park UMC gym on Sunday, September 4th, from 7:30am–12:00pm. Please make time to stop by and give the gift of life.

We need the help of our whole community to make sure we collect the needed pints to meet our hospital commitment for this drive.

SCHEDULING A DONATION APPOINTMENT IS IMPORTANT! Walk-ins can be worked in, but appointments are preferred.

To schedule your appointment to donate call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit their website at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and use the keyword BPUMC!

**GIVE BLOOD**  
*You can make a difference.*



## Sozo Children's Choir Concert

On Sunday, September 25th the Sozo Children's Choir will be coming to Bluff Park UMC. The choir will sing in both the Traditional Worship and The Gathering in the morning and then return in the evening to perform a concert in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm.

The Sozo Children's Choir is a group of children traveling from Sozo Uganda to America as the Sozo Children's Choir, touring the States while leading worship at churches, schools, and events. Come and experience cultural Ugandan singing and dancing with African instruments, powerful corporate worship, and brief testimonies.

The Sozo Children's Choir provides spiritual, personal and cultural development opportunities for those served by *Sozo Children* in Uganda. They refer to visiting the US for choir tour as a 'mission trip' for the children, who are often the recipients of short-term mission service from friends and sponsors from the States. Through this tour, the children are able to share Christ's love, grow in their faith, and continue learning to serve others as part of Sozo Children's mission to empower vulnerable children to become thriving leaders for Jesus Christ.

This free concert is open to the community. A love offering will be collected to support the Sozo Children's Choir and Sozo Children.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We had an amazing summer in the Children's Ministry at Bluff Park UMC: we had over 80 children attend Camp on the Bluff and over 130 children attend our Vacation Bible School! Together we learned who God is, how much God loves us, how we can have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, how we can grow in that relationship, and how we can share the love of God with others in our families, schools, community, and the world. We could not have done that without the love, prayers, and support of each member of our great church!

As we now turn our attention to the Fall, we want to let everyone know that Midweek Meetup for children is back! Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30 for birth-5th Grade on the 1st floor! The children who attend will enjoy dinner (\$2), choir, age focused Bible Study/Classroom time, and recreation! We would love for your children to attend and invite their friends!

Many aspects of the ministries described above would not be possible without the support of Bargains on the Bluff, our semi-annual Mommy and Me Consignment Sale! Bargains on the Bluff generously donates a large portion of its proceeds to the Children's Ministry at Bluff Park UMC. Because of this, I would love to invite you to support Bargains on the Bluff in two ways. First, please consider shopping at their Fall sale on September 23rd and 24th in the Old Gym here at our church. Second, if you are able, consider volunteering to work before, during, or after the sale. For more information on how you

can volunteer, please contact Melissa Hendon at [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org). By doing either of these things, you will be investing in the lives of the children of our church and our community! I look forward to seeing you there!



## STUDENT MINISTRY

We are so excited to be back in the swing of things as the fall semester continues to roll on! We have had an amazing start to the school year and we are looking forward to where God is continuing to lead us throughout this new year! Below are some events we have planned for this month as well as some big events that are coming up in the coming months. If you want more information check out our website at [bluffparkumc.org/youth/](http://bluffparkumc.org/youth/) or email [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org) to get added to our weekly newsletter.

### Upcoming Activities

#### September 7th Wild Wednesday (Water Night!!)

Join us for Wild Wednesday at the church from 5:30-7:30. It's going to be a fun night full of water activities!

#### September 11th, 18th, 25th Student Ministry Open Gym

From 4-6 on Sunday afternoons come hang out with us for some open time in our New Gym! All students 6th-

12th are invited to come and shoot some hoops with us.

#### September 14th, 21st, 28th Holy Ground

Join us on Wednesday Nights from 5:30-7:30 for our student-led worship service! 5:30-6:00 is our \$2 dinner and 6:00-6:30 is free time in our gym, we then conclude with our worship service in the holy ground from 6:30-7:30!

### Big Upcoming Events!

Halloween Carnival  
October 29th

Fall Retreat!  
November 4-6

One Night for the Homeless  
November 10th

## ADULT MINISTRY

### 2nd Annual Adult Vacation Bible School A Success!

More than 60 people attended the 2nd Annual Adult Vacation Bible School held August 9 to 11, 2022. Participants enjoyed lessons on God's Grace by our pastors, music, sing-alongs, games, food, and fellowship. In addition, attendees wrote notes of encouragement for local school children. We hope you will join us next year!!

### Wednesdays with Friends – Faith Focus on September 14th: Update on Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center

All Adults! On Wednesday, September 14th at 10 a.m., join us in the Chapel to learn about the ministry of the *Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center* from its Executive Director, Tony Jones. If you are unable to attend in person, the event will be live-streamed.

An optional boxed lunch of Chicken Salad and Pimento Cheese Sandwiches (1/2 each), Pasta Salad, Chips, and Dessert will be available immediately after the program for \$10 per person. *Please register to attend, indicating if you want a meal.* [Lunch will only be available for those who register and pay by Friday, September 9th.]

Four ways to register - 1) Go to the Events Tab on

the BPUMC website and scroll to find the event you want to register for, 2) Go to: <https://bit.ly/3wrLc3n> , 3) send an email to [adultministry@bpumc.org](mailto:adultministry@bpumc.org), or 4) call the church office.

### Wednesday with Friends on Wednesday, September 28th: Red Mountain Theater's Seasoned Performers

All Adults! Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, September 28th at 10 AM for *The Seasoned Performers* presentation of *Noodle Soup for Breakfast* (A nostalgic trip down memory lane that celebrates the people who taught us so much of what we know today - our Grandparents.)

An optional boxed lunch of Meatloaf, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Garlic Cheese Biscuits and Dessert will be available immediately after the program for \$10 per person. *Please register to attend, indicating if you want a meal.* [Lunch will only be available for those who register and pay by Friday, September 23rd.]

Four ways to register - 1) Go to the Events Tab on the BPUMC website and scroll to find the event you want to register for, 2) Go to: <https://bit.ly/3dF3K9B> , 3) send an email to [adultministry@bpumc.org](mailto:adultministry@bpumc.org), or 4) call the church office.

## LOCAL, U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

### September Mission Focus – Bundles of Hope Stuff the Bus Diaper Drive

During the month of September, BPUMC's mission focus is on collecting diapers for the Bundles of Hope diaper drive. The goal for this September's annual diaper drive is to stuff an actual bus with more than 500,000 donated diapers.

**Bus Location and Drop-off Times** ~ The bus will be in the grassy area in front of the Target store on Highway 280. Hours of operation are weekdays from 4 to 8 PM and weekends from 8 AM to 8 PM.

Here's how you can support both Bundles and BPUMC's own Food Pantry diaper distribution:

1. **Host a neighborhood diaper drive!!!** Get the entire family and neighborhood involved - make it real rather than just writing a check. You will receive: 1) a collection box and yard signs, 2) weekly fun and encouraging messages to post on social media, and 3) the opportunity for school-age children to earn Community Service Hours for the time they spend working on the drive!
2. **Donate diapers:** Bundles needs size 6, and pullups. You can place the diapers in one of the collection boxes located throughout the church. Or you can take them to the bus.
3. **Help Stuff the Bus:** Volunteers are needed (4-

hour shifts) to wave signs and organize diapers as people drop them off at the bus (see above for location and times). To volunteer, go to: [bundlesdiaperbank.org](http://bundlesdiaperbank.org), click Get Involved and then Volunteer Sign-up.

4. **Make a monetary gift.** Write a check to BPUMC with "Bundles of Hope" written in the memo line. Bundles can take your dollars and stretch them even farther thanks to their membership in the National Diaper Bank organization.

For more information and to volunteer to host a neighborhood diaper drive, please contact Betsy Guy at [betsyduguy@att.net](mailto:betsyduguy@att.net) or 205.542.6634.

### Pantry on the Bluff August Report

In August, 212 households received food from BPUMC's Food Pantry (Pantry on the Bluff). In addition, 7,789 child and adult diapers and pullups were given out. Our thanks to the 52 volunteers who prepared for and operated the August *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.

## Member Updates

### BAPTISMS

- Walker Smith - 8/14/22
- Mac Owen Dickson - 8/21/22

### SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Sandra Stephens on the passing of her husband Fred on July 28th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Nell Smith who passed away on August 10th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Nadine Hamilton who passed away on August 13th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Frances Stinson who passed away on August 16th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

## LIFETRACK

### September 1

Philippians 2:25-30 | Psalm 112

### September 2

Colossians 4:7-17 | Psalm 112

### September 3

Matthew 10:24-32 | Psalm 112

### September 4

1 John 1:5-10 | Psalm 27

### September 5

Genesis 1:1-5 | Psalm 27

### September 6

John 1:1-14 | Psalm 27

### September 7

John 8:12-20 | Psalm 27

### September 8

Matthew 4:12-17 | Psalm 27

### September 9

Matthew 5:13-16 | Psalm 27

### September 10

Isaiah 9:1-7 | Psalm 27

### September 11

1 John 2:1-11 | Psalm 91

### September 12

Matthew 6:25-34 | Psalm 91

### September 13

John 14:15-19 | Psalm 91

### September 14

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 | Psalm 91

### September 15

Jeremiah 29:10-14 | Psalm 91

### September 16

Deuteronomy 32:1-4 | Psalm 91

### September 17

Exodus 15:1-3 | Psalm 91

### September 18

1 John 4:7-21 | Psalm 139

### September 19

Isaiah 54:4-10 | Psalm 139

### September 20

Romans 5:1-11 | Psalm 139

### September 21

Romans 8:31-39 | Psalm 139

### September 22

Ephesians 2:1-10 | Psalm 139

### September 23

Luke 13:34-35 | Psalm 139

### September 24

John 3:1-17 | Psalm 139

### September 25

1 John 3:11-24 | Psalm 51

### September 26

John 13:31-35 | Psalm 51

### September 27

1 Corinthians 13 | Psalm 51

### September 28

Philippians 2:1-11 | Psalm 51

### September 29

Matthew 5:43-48 | Psalm 51

### September 30

Romans 3:8-10 | Psalm 51

# Monthly Calendar for September 2022

**Thursday, September 1**  
9:30 am Quilting Group

**Sunday, September 4**  
7:30 am Blood Drive  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park

**Monday, September 5—Labor Day**  
**Office Closed**

**Wednesday, September 7**  
7:00 am Food Pantry  
5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Midweek: Wild Wednesday  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:30 pm Choir

**Thursday, September 8**  
9:30 am Quilting Group

**Sunday, September 11**  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park  
2:00 pm Nominations Committee  
4:00 pm Church Council Meeting  
6:00 pm Student Ministry

**Monday, September 12**  
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Tuesday, September 13**  
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

**Wednesday, September 14**  
10:00 am Wednesday with Friends:  
Faith Focus  
5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek  
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:30 pm Choir

**Thursday, September 15**  
9:30 am Quilting Group  
7:00 pm Book Club

**Sunday, September 18**  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park  
4:00 pm Student Ministry Open Gym  
6:00 pm Student Ministry

**Monday, September 19**  
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Tuesday, September 20**  
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

**Wednesday, September 21**  
5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek  
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:30 pm Choir

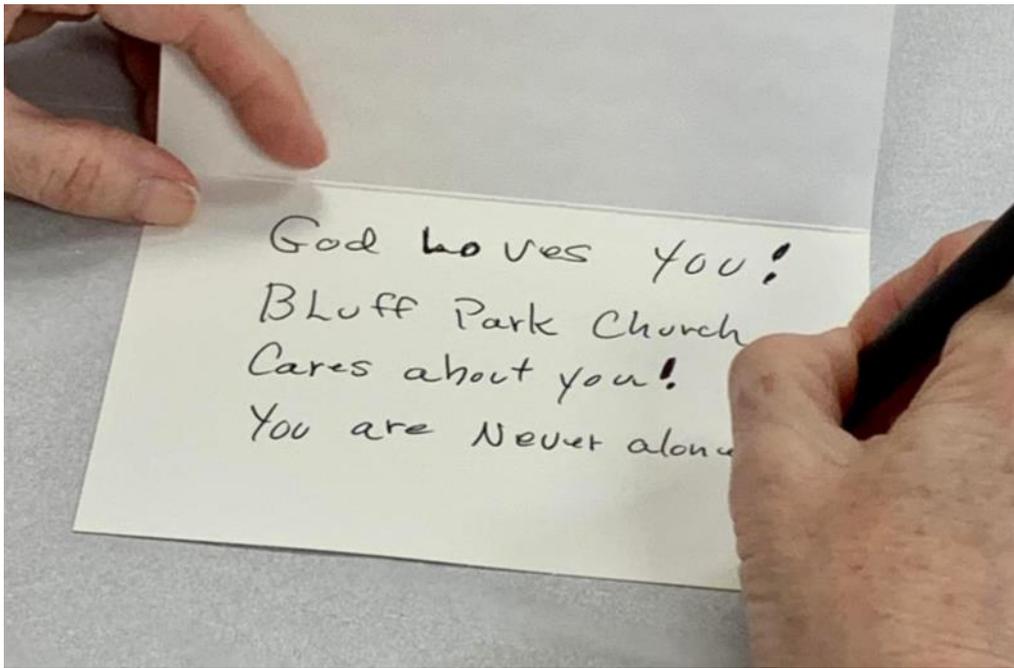
**Thursday, September 22**  
9:30 am Quilting Group  
6:30 pm Finance Committee

**Sunday, September 25**  
8:45 am Women's Bible Study  
9:00 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park  
4:00 pm Student Ministry Open Gym  
6:00 pm SOZO Uganda Choir Concert  
6:00 pm Student Ministry

**Monday, September 26**  
10:00 am Joy Circle - Woman, You Are Set Free from Your Ailment  
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Wednesday, September 28**  
10:00 am Wednesday With Friends  
5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek  
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:30 pm Choir

**Thursday, September 29**  
9:30 am Quilting Group



## LIFETRACK by Email

You can sign up to have more daily devotional tools to enrich your LifeTrack Spiritual Formation Journey delivered to your e-mail inbox everyday!

To subscribe to the daily email distribution use your smart phone and follow the QR code or visit the web @ [bluffparkumc.org/lifetrack-daily](http://bluffparkumc.org/lifetrack-daily)

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

### In Memory of...

#### FOOD PANTRY

**Buddy Culverhouse**, by Bobbie Tohill

**Nell Smith**, by Bobbie Tohill

#### OPERATING FUND

**Patricia Shanlever**, by John and Sue Irwin

#### ORGAN FUND

**Nadine Hamilton**, by Elizabeth Davis

#### PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Jack Charles**, by Elizabeth Davis

**Patricia Shanlever**, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Patricia Shanlever**, by David and Jeannie Jenkins  
UNDER THE BRIDGE

**Hank Jasper Pocopanni**, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

### In Honor of...

#### MUSIC MINISTRY

**Gaile Ketcherside**, by Leonette Slay

*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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**BLUFF PARK UMC PRESENTS**

# BO+ B

**BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF**  
A MOM AND ME CONSIGNMENT SALE EVENT

**THURSDAY, September 22nd 2-7 PM**  
Preview Sale - Consigners & Volunteers only

**FRIDAY, September 23rd 9-6 PM, PUBLIC SALE**

**\*SATURDAY, September 24th 9-2 PM, PUBLIC SALE**  
\*25% Off on Select Items

**FEATURING:**  
**NEW AND GENTLY USED**

- \*FALL/WINTER Kids, Ladies, Maternity Clothing,
- \*Shoes and Accessories \*Swings, Exersaucers, High Chairs
- \*Strollers & Other Baby Equipment \*Children's Furniture
- \*Children/Baby Bedding \*Indoor & Outdoor Toys
- \*Books/Games/DVDs \*Much, Much More!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**  
Volunteer for a shift or two and get VIP Shopping Privileges!

[www.BargainsonTheBluff.com](http://www.BargainsonTheBluff.com)

## SOZO CHILDREN'S CHOIR

# MIRACLE TOUR

— 2022 —

**FREE CONCERT**  
Sunday, September 25th @ 6:00pm  
Bluff Park United Methodist Church  
733 Valley Street, Hoover Alabama 35226

  
SOZO CHILDREN'S CHOIR

[BluffParkUMC.org](http://BluffParkUMC.org)