



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd and it marks the beginning of the Season of Lent in the Church.

The Adult Ministries of BPUMC will be having a special Ash Wednesday presentation at their Wednesdays with Friends program at 10:00am. This program will be led by Rev. Ross Furio.

Later, Wednesday evening, we will have our Ash Wednesday worship service in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm.

We look forward to beginning the season of Lent together in worship.

Winter/Spring Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 10-11 Bargains on the Bluff
- 19 Blood Drive
- 22 Ash Wednesday Service/Lent Begins
- 26 Human Trafficking Program

MARCH

- 10-12 Youth Discovery Weekend
- 17 Silent Auction
- 29 Spring Break No MidWeek

APRIL

- 1 Easter Egg Hunt
- 2 Palm Sunday
- 6 Maundy Thursday
- 7 Good Friday
- 9 Easter Sunday
- 16 Confirmation Sunday
- 16-18 Rise Against Hunger
- 26 Last Day of Children/Youth
Midweek Activities

MAY

- 7 Blood Drive
- 14 Mother's Day
- 21 Senior Sunday

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!

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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 BPUMC!

We are already in the second month of 2023! February recalls a promise that winter is on its way out (though not gone yet!). It also stirs us in thoughts of love as Valentine's Day is quickly approaching. Another celebration that will begin during February is our season of Lent.

We normally don't think of Lent as a celebration. It, as a season, is not joyous like Advent and Christmas. Lent focuses on penance. The Lenten journey brings us to the foot of the Cross. We see the depth of God's love and grace for us as we, as the hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" states, "behold the very dying form of one who suffered there for me." Yet, without the Lenten journey we would not reach the grand celebration of Easter and the glorious resurrection!

We will begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 22, as we share in the service of the Imposition of the Ashes and begin the season of Lent. I want to invite you to not only make plans to attend Ash Wednesday, but to attend to the intent of the season of Lent. It's a hard season; we consider all the ways we sin and are not who God has created us and is calling us to be. Yet, it is vital in our discipleship. Every now and again we need to stop and intentionally ask the Holy Spirit to show us where we are missing it. We need to stop and take a hard, close look at the cross; not turning away from the sight or dismissing it in beautiful platitudes that rob it of its starkness. We need to be reminded of just how much God loves us.

So, I invite you, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent. To engage in self-examination, repentance, and prayer. To read and meditate on God's Holy Word. To allow yourself to be broken, convicted, and then in grace, gloriously redeemed.

"For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son, so that whosoever believed in him would not perish, but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but rather that the world might be saved through him."

In grace,

Pastor Kevin



Bargains on the Bluff Spring Sale

The Bargains on the Bluff Spring Sale is coming! Join us for our consignment sale on Friday, February 10th from 9am–8pm and Saturday, February 11th from 9am–2pm. All proceeds from the sale support our children's ministry and our award winning parent's day out program, Little Imaginations! We've got all things maternity, kids, and babies as well as Jr's and women's clothes, shoes, and accessories! Want to shop early? Consider consigning or volunteering! For more information on everything go to bargainsonthebluff.com.



McCoy Adult Day Care Rock-a-thon

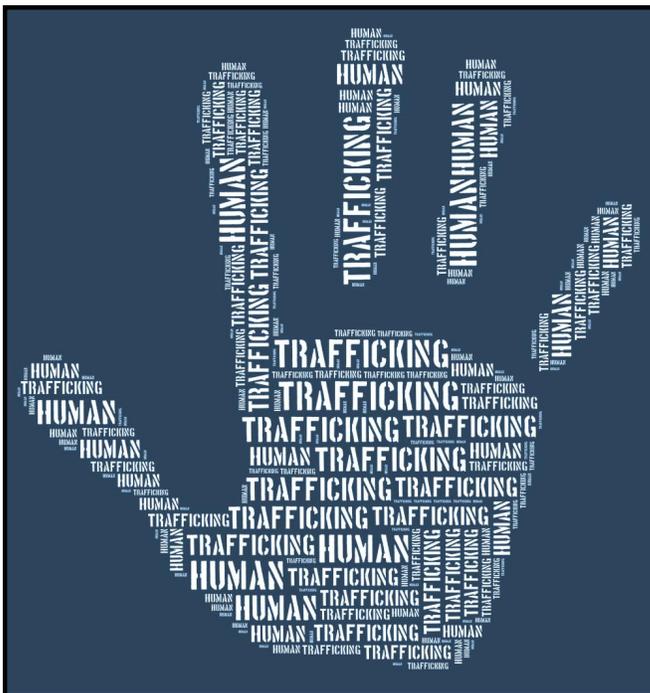
There are 94,000 individuals in Alabama living with some form of dementia, and the number is growing rapidly. McCoy Adult Day Care provides respite care hours, hot meals and music, drum, art, and storytelling therapy for local area families caring for loved ones with dementia. On Saturday, February 18th, we need you to come and rock for a cause! McCoy Adult Day Care will be hosting their 31st annual Rock-a-thon Fundraiser at St. Mark UMC from 10:00am–12:00pm. There will be fun activities for rockers of all ages. If you are unable to attend but would like to donate, you can make a check out to the church, write McCoy Day Care on the memo line, and drop it in the offering plate. All funds raised help cover the cost of day care expenses for caregivers and are tax deductible.

Save The Date!

Shamrockin' Youth Legacy Gala

Friday, March 17 from 6:30pm–10:30pm
At the Hoover Country Club

We'll have a Shamrockin' good time celebrating St. Patrick's Day AND benefiting BPUMC Youth Ministries! Come dressed in your most festive GREEN attire (semi-formal encouraged but not required) for the silent and live auction, try your luck for other prizes too! And of course there will be music to kick your heels to and plenty of food and drink. Sláinte! Tickets on sale soon - \$50 per adult and \$20 per student. Please email silentauction@bpumc.org if you'd like to volunteer or donate an item for the auction



Adult Ministries and United Women of Faith
Present

A Program on Human Trafficking

Sunday evening, February 26th @ 4pm, in the Chapel

Our speaker will be Lieutenant Ashley Blalock from the Northport Human Trafficking Taskforce. Learn what human trafficking is, how victims are recruited, and how you can protect yourself, your loved ones, and others.

An optional meal will follow the program in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be a requested \$5 donation and all proceeds will be donated to Well House. [Dinner will only be available for those who register and pay by Tuesday, February 21.]

For more information contact Sylvia Sumners:
sumners@bellsouth.net

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We in the Children's Ministry at Bluff Park UMC are committed to offering our Vacation Bible School free of charge, so that any child that would like to attend VBS is able to attend. One of the primary ways that we are able to offer this free ministry for such a large number of children is through proceeds from Bargains on the Bluff, our church's semi-annual Mommy and Me Consignment Sale. This year's sale will be held on the week of February 6th, and we need your help! First, we need volunteers to help before and after the sale. There are many ways that people of all ages can help! To learn more about how you can volunteer, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org. Secondly, we would love for as many people as possible to shop at Bargains on the Bluff. Every dollar you spend helps children be able to attend Vacation Bible School, and to learn about the love of Jesus Christ while they are there! We hope that you will make time to volunteer and/or shop at Bargains on the Bluff this year!

The Children's Ministry will be spending much of the month of February planning for three upcoming events: our community Easter Egg Hunt, Camp on the Bluff, and Vacation Bible School. Would you join us in praying for each of these events, the volunteers who help make them

possible, and especially for the children and families that attend these events? We are excited for what has already happened in 2023, and cannot wait to see what God has in store for our children throughout the rest of this year!



STUDENT MINISTRY

It's a new year and our student ministry is back in full force! We kicked off the semester with our High School Discovery Weekend, where our high schoolers spent two days planning and preparing for our upcoming Discovery Weekend. They did an incredible job and we are looking forward to Discovery in March!

Our first Wild Wednesday of the year lived up to its name and was a huge hit as we let the youth get a little wild at Nerf Night! We have also had a great time getting back to our regular weekly programming, from Sunday School to Holy Ground to Sunday Activity Nights. We have such an amazing group of middle and high schoolers here at Bluff Park and that group is growing all the time! We've had such a wonderful start to 2023 and we hope and believe that we will see God work and move in this ministry all year long.

Events for February

Wild Wednesday: Movie Night

We're kicking off the month with another Wild Wednesday on February 1st from 5:30-7:30! This month is Movie Night, and it's the perfect night for students to bring their friends! We'll have dinner together for \$4, and then we'll head to Holy Ground for popcorn, candy, and a movie. Any and all 6th-12th graders are invited to join us!



Meet the Youth Director

If we haven't met yet, my name is Regan Sanders, and I'm the new Youth Director at Bluff Park UMC! It is such a gift to be a part of this community and to work with our incredible students, and I am really looking forward to this year together. I would love to get to know all of our youth families better, so if you have a student in our ministry and would ever like to get coffee and get to know one another, please feel free to reach out!

ADULT MINISTRY

Wednesday with Friends – Faith Focus: Rev. Angela Martin

Join us in the Chapel at 10 AM on Wednesday, February 8th, when Reverend Angela Martin, Sr. Pastor Huffman UMC will be our speaker. The event will also be live-streamed.

An optional meal will be available in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the program for \$10. Please register to attend, indicating if you want a meal. *[Lunch will only be available for those who register and pay by Wednesday, February 1st.]* To register, go to the Events Tab on the BPUMC website or call the church office.



February 22nd at 10 am Rev. Ross Furio will be with us in the Chapel to help us kick off the season of Lent as we remember once again that we are dust, and it is to dust that we shall return. There will be a chance for you to receive ashes at the end of our time together. Come ready to hear a reminder of why we do this practice every year, and expect to leave prepared to walk to the cross this Lenten season. Optional lunch available for \$10.00. To register, go to the Events Tab on the BPUMC website or call the church office.

Adult Ministry Trip to the Biblical History Center in LaGrange, Georgia

Join us for a special Easter Trip to the Biblical History Museum in LaGrange, Georgia on March 21st. We will participate in the “Empty Tomb Tour” and have a Biblical Meal. The meal is a four-course meal consisting of 15 different food items. We will travel on a commercial bus leaving the church at 6:15am and returning around 5pm. The cost is \$135 per person. Register go to the Events Tab on the BPUMC website or call the church office. Deadline to register is March 13th. Contact Sylvia Sumners for more information: ssumners@bellsouth.net

Wednesday with Friends – Ash Wednesday Edition

You are invited for a special Ash Wednesday edition of our monthly Wednesday with Friends gathering. On

LOCAL, U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS



FEBRUARY'S MISSION FOCUS: “BUNDLES OF HOPE”

During the month of February, BPUMC's mission focus is on collecting diapers for Bundles of Hope.

We distribute diapers every month during our food

pantry. Thousands of diapers are shared with families in our community. There are a number of ways that you can get involved. You can make a monetary donation through the church by designating a gift to “Bundles of Hope”, you can make a diaper donation (size 6 and pullups are the most needed items), or you can volunteer to package diapers or help with distribution on the first Wednesday of each month.

Mission Opportunity @WE Café

On January 17, the WE Café at Urban Ministry began opening up 5 days a week for lunch!! This is only possible because of the amazing involvement of volunteers! If you would like to volunteer, please contact

Casey Hobbs, either at 205-781-0517 or by email at casey@urban-ministry.org. There will be training sessions so that everyone will be on the same page. To see more about the WE Café, go to www.urban-ministry.org/ministries/we-cafe/ Thanks so much for considering giving to the West End community—you will receive more than you will give—guaranteed!





BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.
Give blood.



Red Cross Blood Drive

The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Your donation is desperately needed. There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Bluff Park UMC gym on Sunday, February 19th, from 7:30am–12:30pm. Please make time to stop by and give the gift of life. A Red Cross Donor Card or photo ID is required to make a donation. To schedule an appointment to donate, call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit their website at Red-CrossBlood.org and use the keyword BPUMC.

Member Updates

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Joseph Thomas who passed away on December 23rd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Peggy Fields who passed away on December 24th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mary Huguley whose husband Benlee passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Michele Cahoon who passed away on January 8th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Betty Knowles who passed away on January 10th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Sara Perry whose husband Jim passed away on January 12th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Wayne Freeman who passed away on January 23rd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

February 1

Ruth 3:1-13 | Psalm 37

February 2

John 5:1-5 | Psalm 37

February 3

Isaiah 29:1-12 | Psalm 37

February 4

Mark 7:1-8 | Psalm 37

February 5

Matthew 5:13-20 | Psalm 112

February 6

Romans 11:2-10 | Psalm 112

February 7

2 Corinthians 4:1-12 | Psalm 112

February 8

John 8:12-30 | Psalm 112

February 9

Genesis 26:1-5 | Psalm 112

February 10

Leviticus 26:34-46 | Psalm 112

February 11

Matthew 15:1-9 | Psalm 112

February 12

Matthew 5:21-37 | Psalm 119

February 13

James 1:2-8 | Psalm 119

February 14

James 2:1-13 | Psalm 119

February 15

Proverbs 2:1-15 | Psalm 119

February 16

Hebrews 8:1-7 | Psalm 119

February 17

Exodus 19:9b-25 | Psalm 119

February 18

Mark 9:9-13 | Psalm 119

February 19

Matthew 17:1-9 | Psalm 3

February 20

Acts 7:30-34 | Psalm 3

February 21

Romans 11:1-6 | Psalm 3

February 22

Joel 2:1-17 | Psalm 3

February 23

Jonah 3:1-10 | Psalm 3

February 24

Johan 4:1-11 | Psalm 3

February 25

Matthew 18:1-7 | Psalm 3

February 26

Matthew 4:1-11 | Psalm 5

February 27

Genesis 3 | Psalm 5

February 28

Hebrews 2:10-18 | Psalm 5

Monthly Calendar for February 2023

Wednesday, February 1

7:00 am Food Pantry
5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek
5:30 pm Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, February 2

9:30 am Quilting Group

Sunday, February 5

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
5:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Student Ministry

Monday, February 6

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, February 7

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, February 8

10:00 am Wednesday with Friends - Faith Focus
5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:30 pm Elementary Midweek
5:30 pm Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, February 9

9:30 am Quilting Group

Friday, February 10

9:00 am-8:00 pm Bargains on the Bluff Sale

Saturday, February 11

9:00 am-2:00 pm Bargains on the Bluff Sale

Sunday, February 12

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
4:00 pm Church Council

5:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Student Ministry

Monday, February 13

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

6:00 pm Missions Committee

Tuesday, February 14

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, February 15

5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study

5:30 pm Elementary Midweek

5:30 pm Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Youth Holy Ground

6:00 pm Men's Chorus

6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, February 16

9:30 am Quilting Group

7:00 pm Book Club

Sunday, February 19

7:30 am-12:30 pm Blood Drive

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Traditional Worship Service

10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park

5:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Student Ministry

Monday, February 20

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, February 21

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, February 22- Ash Wednesday

10:00 am Wednesday with Friends

5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study

5:30 pm Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Men's Chorus

6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, February 23

9:30 am Quilting Group

6:30 pm Finance Committee

Sunday, February 26

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
4:00 pm Human Trafficking Program
5:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Student Ministry

Monday, February 27

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

10:00 am Joy Circle Meeting

Tuesday, February 28

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study



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

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Jim Perry, by Bete and Vic Graffeo

CHRISTIN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP

Harry Hill, by John and Cathy Brown, Wesley Forum Class

FOOD PANTRY

Odessa Harbor, by Annabelle Bradley

Joe Thomas, by Jan Harris

MISSIONS

Bill and Peggy Fields, by Mike and Diane Collins

OPERATING FUND

Charles and Carolyn Arthur, by Judith G. Smith

Bill Fields, by John and Sue Irwin, Bill and Jane Roberson

Peggy Fields, by John and Sue Irwin

Odessa Harbor, by Nancy Ratcliffe

Jim Perry, by John and Sue Irwin, A.V. and Mary Marlow, Rick and Jennifer McEuen, Philip and Lynda Wasden, Bradley and Charlotte Word

Joe Thomas, by Dennis and Betty Daigle

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Bill and Peggy Fields, by Preston and Anne York

Jim Perry, by Preston and Anne York

Joe Thomas, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Joe Thomas, by Bill and Paulette Pearson

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Jim Perry, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP

Doris and Rudy Riley, by Linda Sully

In Honor of...

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Kevin Payne and Family, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

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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Believe, Belong, Grow, Serve!

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.