



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

June Sermon Series

Join us in the main Sanctuary each Sunday morning during the month of June for an AMAZING Sermon Series on AMAZING people from the Old Testament. Each INCREDIBLE story will be taught in Children's Church and in the Sermon and we will provide questions for people of all ages to take home and discuss!

We look forward to seeing you in June!



Student Ministries Presents

Ice Cream Social

Featuring

Soft Serve & Pies

June 3rd from 5-7pm

Join us as we celebrate the ordination of Rev. Stanley Davidson, Director of Children's Ministry here at Bluff Park UMC.

This annual event is a fundraiser for our student ministries and a fun time to gather as a church family as we head into summer.

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Sunday Morning

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 8:45 & 11:00 am

THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK: 11:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:45 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

I hope you are excited about a great summer and maybe have a weekend getaway or a family vacation planned.

Summer is also a great time to try something new.

Here are some great ideas to try out with friends, family or neighbors:

1. Game Night - Each person in the group or family picks a classic board game and play each one on a different occasion. You can even print up funny certificates for the winners.

2. Disposable Camera Project - In a world of iPhones and Instagram, you might be surprised to know that they still sell disposable film cameras. Give one to each person or family member and give each person an assignment. Develop the pictures and have a night to share the pictures together over dinner!

3. Visit the Library - The Library? Yes, the Library. In addition to books and films, you might enjoy the other activities such as a children's story time or training for how to use a computer or tablet.

4. Catch a baseball game - The Birmingham Barons play downtown and it is always fun on a good day to catch a game. *Why not go with your church family on June 15th and watch a game?* We will even offer a church bus to take you to and from the game. Contact the main office to sign up: 205-822-0910.

5. Give water to those who thirst - Try taking ice cold bottled water downtown on a hot day and give water to those who are thirsty. You can even find folks at a local park who might be thirsty.

Our Children's Ministry at Bluff Park UMC also has some big activities planned for the summer.

Camp on the Bluff is already completely full, but we are still taking registrations for Vacation Bible School. VBS 2018 is the week of July 16-20, 2018. You can click on the link below to register your child or grandchild. Or you can forward this invitation to someone you know in the community that might want to participate.



Mike

CAMP ON THE BLUFF

At one time, June was a quiet month for the Children's Ministry area of Bluff Park UMC. With school out and Midweek Meetups over for the summer, the staff and volunteers spent time gearing up for Vacation Bible School in July. But, in June of 2017, we began to offer a free Summer Camp for kids in our community and in 2018 the program has nearly doubled.

According to Stanley Davidson, the Director of Children's Ministry, Sunday mornings in the Summer become mini-reunions for the kids. They don't see each other at school or Midweek activities, so they spend the time catching up with each other and trading news about their summer activities. Most of the conversations revolve around the various summer camps the kids are attending. But, Stanley noticed that there were always a few kids who were left out of the conversation because they weren't able to attend a camp. "I figured, if there were kids in our church who didn't have a summer camp to go too, there must be others in our community as well. I thought we should do something special for those kids."

Stanley brought a proposal to the Children's Council to create a summer camp that teaches basic skills in areas like basketball and gardening along with the basics of the Christian faith. From that idea, Camp on the Bluff was born.

When registration for the first camp was opened in 2017, all 60 spaces were filled in 45 minutes. The campers who signed up included church members, kids from the Bluff Park community, and also a group of kids from the Riley Center in Birmingham. The program was expanded to accommodate 100 kids in 2018 and it still filled up in under 24 hours.

A group of dedicated volunteers are at the heart of this program. They donate their time to share their passion with the kids. Stanley makes sure that the kids leave knowing God created them, God loves them, Jesus saves them, and that they can share the love of God with others.

According to Stanley, the program is working well. We are seeing families of campers return for other events at the church and getting more involved with our children's ministry. And the kids are having a great time!

Camp on the Bluff runs from June 18-21. Please keep the children, our volunteers, and staff in your prayers.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Exciting things are happening in the Children's Ministry this month! To begin with, Children's Church will be partnering with our traditional worship services in June on a sermon series called "Incredibles Too!" Each week in June, either Rev. Mike Holly or Rev. Angela Martin will be preaching in our traditional worship services on a hero of the Old Testament, and I will be preaching on the same hero in Children's Church! Because both the adults and children will be hearing the same things in church during June, we will be offering "Family Discussion Postcards" as a way to help families discuss, put into action, and dig deeper into what they are learning in church. Each postcard includes discussion questions that families can talk about at any time throughout the week, as well as a possible family activity that families can do together to dig deeper into and put into action what they are learning. These cards can be picked up at the Welcome Desk, or when your child is picked up from Children's Church, on each Sunday during the month of June.

We will also spend the month of June planning for and leading Camp on the Bluff! You can read more about this exciting event on page three of the Newsletter. Further, we already have 175 children from our church and community registered for our Vacation Bible School, and we are expecting record breaking numbers again this year! We will be spending June putting final plans in place for VBS and getting ready for the arrival of the children on July 16-20. Please pray for both the volunteers and the children who will be attending these two events, and let us know if you would like to help with either of these events by emailing Melissa Hendon atmhendon@bpumc.org.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Summer 2018 is here and we have lots of opportunities for our students to have fun, spend time with their friends, and make new ones. We also have some important work to do, like repairing homes in east Tennessee on our ASP Mission Trip, volunteering with the children's ministry during Vacation Bible School, and moving out of our current Youth Wing into the new facility!

To help us do all the work ahead of us this summer, we have hired Leslie Norris to be our Summer Intern. She is an alumna of Hoover High School, grew up in our youth program, and is currently a student at Millsaps College where she is discerning her call into ministry.

We look forward to having Leslie with us and can't wait to kick off our summer activities!

BLUFF PARK STUDENTS

SUMMER 2018

BIG EVENTS		SUNDAY NIGHTS 5-7PM		WEDNESDAY 6-8PM	
MAY 27 Move Up A Grade!	JUNE 3 Ice Cream Social	JUNE 6 Pool Party Details TBA	JUNE 10 Games @ Preserve	JUNE 13 Romans vs. Christians	JUNE 17 Father's Day*
JUNE 22 Adventure Camp	JUNE 23 Adventure Camp	JUNE 24 Adventure Camp*	JUNE 27 Hunger Games	JULY 1 Movie Night	JULY 4 4th of July*
JULY 11 Water Balloon Games	JULY 15 VBS Training	JULY 16-20 Vacation Bible School	JULY 18 Room 35226 Setup	JULY 22 Bowling	JULY 25 Laser Tag
AUG 1 6 Flags (HS Trip)	AUG 5 Pool Party Details TBD	AUG 8 Holy Ground Returns!			

Keep Track of Our Summer Plans...

Instagram: [@bpumc_youth](https://www.instagram.com/bpumc_youth)

Facebook: [@BluffParkStudents](https://www.facebook.com/BluffParkStudents)

Contact mbohanan@bpumc.org to receive texts and emails.

55+ MINISTRY

LEARNING, LAUGHING, AND HAVING FUN

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has a heart for people 55+ and Friends. We offer ministry to, by and with maturing adults. God has made each of us for a purpose. Join us and discover your purpose here at Bluff Park through service, learning and worship.

Bluff Park UMC has a full schedule of events for people Fifty-Five Forward. Adventurous travel, educational speakers, heartwarming experiences, mission opportunities, music, movies, dancing, exercise, archery, and concerts are all a part of the fun. Take a look at some of the exciting things we have on our calendar. You are invited to join us on The Bluff!

- June 8** **Take a Walk in the Park:** Join friends from BPUMC for an easy walk in Red Mountain Park. Friday, June 8 ~ Meet at Park Entrance ~ 8:30 AM ~ Bring a drink. GPS 2011 Frankfurt Dr. 35211
- June 22** **American Dinner Theater: Let's Celebrate Our Nation's Heritage!** Friday evening, June 22 ~ 6 - 8:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Live Music with Dinner by "Drexel and Friends". "Valor and Sacrifice: The Birth of Our American Flag and National Anthem" presented by World Traveler and Historian, Niki Sepsas. Catered by Jim and Nick's Barbeque: Chicken/ Pork, Potato Salad Baked Beans, Bun and Banana Pudding \$12
- July 27** **"Summer Dance"** ~ Presenting "Pocket Change" Terrific Live Dance Band Friday evening, July 27 Fellowship Hall - Refreshments

SHEPHERD'S CENTER SCHEDULE

Meet & Greet—10 AM—Programs —
10:30 AM - Lunch—11:30 AM—
Games & Exercise—12:30pm
Thursdays In The Fireside Room
All are Welcome!





Inside The Gathering—Common Tables

One of the ways God is moving in The Gathering at Bluff Park is through our Common Tables. These are our way of gathering people in community around a meal and conversation to hear what God might be leading us to know or do in our community.

Each Common Table gathering begins with a meal together in a member's home, followed by conversation around what God is saying to us through the Scriptures and in our lives. We believe that sharing our stories together allows us to enter into one another's story in a way that is not possible in less intimate situations. Each table is different, yet all allow us to experience God's love and grace through the lives of newfound friends where God is leading all of us to transformation. We've had several tables going strong already and are starting more this summer!

To sign up for a Common Table, visit www.thegatheringatbluffpark.org/commontables or email jchastings@bpumc.org. We look forward to seeing you around the Table!

Member Updates

BAPTISMS IN MAY

- Elizabeth Jane Long—5/6/18
- Charlee Paige Sabbatini—5/6/18

NEW MEMBERS IN MAY

- The Long Family—5/6/18
- The Sabbatini Family—5/6/18
- Becky Smith—5/13/18
- Matt and Betsy Johnson 5/13/18

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Kay Adams on the passing of her husband Ken on May 12th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Ann Rabb on the passing of her husband Bill on May 22nd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

June 1

Romans 8:31-39 | Psalm 35

June 2

1 Samuel 2:1-10 | Psalm 43

June 3

2 Corinthians 4:5-12 | Psalm 63

June 4

1 Samuel 2:11-17 | Psalm 44

June 5

Acts 15:1-5 | Psalm 47

June 6

John 5:1-18 | Psalm 53

June 7

1 Peter 4:7-19 | Psalm 50

June 8

2 Corinthians 5:1-5 | Psalm 40

June 9

Luke 8:4-15 | Psalm 138

June 10

Mark 3:20-35 | Psalm 24

June 11

1 Samuel 7:3-15 | Psalm 15

June 12

1 Samuel 8 | Psalm 62

June 13

Luke 11:14-28 | Psalm 72

June 14

Hebrews 2:5-9 | Psalm 73

June 15

1 Samuel 10:1-8 | Psalm 74

June 16

Mark 4:1-20 | Psalm 76

June 17

Mark 4:26-34 | Psalm 96

June 18

Galatians 6:11-18 | Psalm 80

June 19

1 Samuel 15:10-23

Psalm 78:1-39

June 20

Luke 6:43-45 | Psalm 81

June 21

1 Samuel 16:14-23 | Psalm 34

June 22

Acts 21:1-16 | Psalm 88

June 23

Luke 21:25-28 | Psalm 103

June 24

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 | Psalm 98

June 25

Acts 27:13-38 | Psalm 89:1-18

June 26

Acts 27:39-44 | Psalm 97

June 27

Mark 6:45-52 | Psalm 101

June 28

2 Corinthians 7:2-16

Psalm 105:1-22

June 29

2 Corinthians 8:1-7 | Psalm 66

June 30

Luke 4:31-37 | Psalm 108

Monthly Calendar for June 2018

Sunday, June 3 8:45 am Traditional Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service 5:00 pm Ice Cream Social	Monday, June 4 10:00 am Prayer Shawl	Tuesday, June 5 8:30 am Statewide Primary Election	Wednesday, June 6 9:00 am Food Pantry 4:00 pm Student Ministry Pool Party 4:30 pm Chile Team meeting 5:30 pm Men's Chorus 6:00 pm Handbell 6:30 pm Choir	Thursday, June 7 9:30 am Sewing Group 10:00 am Shepherd's Center	Friday, June 8 8:30 am 55+ A Walk in the Park at Red Mountain 12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon	Sunday, June 10 8:45 am Traditional Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service 12:30 pm Youth Council Meeting 4:00 pm Methodism in 2020 Meeting and Prayer Service	Monday, June 11 10:00 am Prayer Shawl	Tuesday, June 12 8:30 am Maintenance 4:00 pm 55+ Ministry Meeting 6:00 pm Under the Bridge	Wednesday, June 13 9:00 am Building Committee 4:00 pm Student Ministry Game Night 5:30 pm Men's Chorus 6:00 pm Handbell 6:30 pm Choir	Thursday, June 14 9:30 am Sewing Group 10:00 am Shepherd's Center	Friday, June 15 5:30 pm BPUMC Night at the Ballpark	Sunday, June 17—Father's Day 8:45 am Traditional Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	Monday, June 18 9:00 am Camp on the Bluff 10:00 am Prayer Shawl	Tuesday, June 19 9:00 am Camp on the Bluff	Wednesday, June 20 9:00 am Camp on the Bluff 4:00 pm Student Ministry Game Night 5:30 pm Men's Chorus 6:00 pm Handbell 6:30 pm Choir	Thursday, June 21 9:00 am Camp on the Bluff 9:30 am Sewing Group 10:00 am Shepherd's Center	Friday, June 22 Youth Adventure Camp	Saturday, June 23 55+ Dinner Theater	Sunday, June 24 8:45 am Traditional Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	Monday, June 25 9:00 am Little Imaginations Summer Camp 9:30 am UMW Hope/Love Circle 10:00 am Prayer Shawl	Tuesday, June 26 9:00 am Little Imaginations Summer Camp	Wednesday, June 27 9:00 am Little Imaginations Summer Camp 9:00 am Building Committee 4:00 pm Student Ministry Game Night 5:30 pm Men's Chorus 6:00 pm Handbell 6:30 pm Choir	Thursday, June 28 9:00 am Little Imaginations Summer Camp 9:30 am Sewing Group 9:30 am UMW Friendship Circle 10:00 am Shepherd's Center 6:30 pm Finance Committee 7:00 pm Book Club	Friday, June 29 9:00 am Chile Mission Trip Little Imaginations Summer Camp	Saturday, June 30 Chile Mission Trip
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Methodism in 2020:

Informational Meeting and Service of Prayer

On Sunday, June 10, 2018 at 4:00 pm in the Chapel at Bluff Park UMC, Rev. Mike Holly will share with the church a brief history of the major issues facing the unity of the United Methodist Church for the past few decades including the recent work of the Commission of a Way Forward in preparation for the called General Conference in 2019 in St. Louis. At the conclusion of this informational meeting, we will hold a prayer service for the denomination and our witness to the community and world. Until the General Conference has done its prayerful discernment and work, we as a congregation will continue to operate as we always have done. At this informational meeting, we will share the schedule of further conversations for the rest of the summer as follows.

Rev. Mike Holly will recommend that anyone interested read the book *Unafraid and Unashamed: Facing the Future of the United Methodism* by his friend Rev. Wil Cantrell over the summer.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

FOOD PANTRY

Martha Bond Cook Hillburn, by Jo Ann and Preston Huddleston

Joyce Kullman, by Ken and Kay Adams

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

George Nash, by Phil and Pat Cartrette

Jane Robinson, by J. B. and Frankie Thrasher

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

Michael Thompson, by Pony Green

In Honor of...

BUILDING FUND

Anonymous donation in honor of the work done during the last church workday project.

UNDER THE BRIDGE

J.B. Thrasher, by the Joy Circle

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

X



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X

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FREE

BLUFF PARK UMC VBS
JULY 16-20
8:30AM-12:00PM
Rising 4k-5th Grade
Register Online
BluffParkUMC.org/vbs2018

55+ Ministries Presents

Summer Dance

Featuring Music By:

"Pocket Change"

Friday, July 27

6-8 PM — Fellowship Hall

Tickets \$10

Enjoy live music, refreshments, friends, dancing, decorations and tons of fun. All are Welcome!

RSVP: fgatch@bpumc.org or 822-0910

BPUMC Night at the Ballpark

Friday, June 15th

Baseball, hotdogs, fireworks and fellowship! Sign up in the narthex on Sunday mornings or call the church office. Tickets are \$13 and include admission to the game and a meal voucher good for a hotdog, chips and a drink. Transportation to the ballpark is available on the church bus but space is limited so sign up early!

