



## BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### THE GATHERING at Bluff Park

We're so excited about what God is doing here at The Gathering at Bluff Park, the new worship service here at Bluff Park UMC. Our great team has worked hard over the last six months to create a welcoming atmosphere, relaxed worship, and rich experiences for people to encounter the love of God in new ways. Thanks to this team's hard work, we are excited to be preparing our first new member classes for those that want to join BPUMC through The Gathering! Our ability to reach new people for Jesus has been enabled by the generous support of this church. We can't wait to see what God has in store for us next!



We currently have four small groups that meet weekly in people's homes and have had several outreach events in our community, but you might be wondering, "What can I do to help this new ministry of our church?" So glad you asked! We're always looking for people to greet outside the chapel, serve communion, read Scripture in worship, or help design a new altar or stage area for worship. But more than all that, you can simply help us spread the word! Invite your friends, your neighbors, the people you work with or know that need a place to belong. If there's one thing that we know, it's that God is always making a bigger space around His table. We hope you can help us grow this particular expression of grace in Bluff Park!

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

[www.BluffParkUMC.org](http://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!*

## Our Staff

PHONE: 205.822.0910

### PASTORS:

**Mike Holly**

mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104

**Angela Martin**

amartin@bpumc.org, ext. 107

**Tom Duley**

tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112

**John Carl Hastings**

jchastings@bpumc.org, ext. 120

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR MINISTRIES: Fran Gatch**

fgatch@bpumc.org, ext. 103

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Bart Styes**

barts@bpumc.org, ext. 118

**DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:**

**Stanley Davidson**

sdavidson@bpumc.org, ext. 105

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

**Jason McCrory**

jmccrory@bpumc.org, ext. 117

**FINANCIAL MANAGER: Joe Pitard**

jpitar@bpumc.org, ext. 101

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA:**

**Andrew Seltz**

aseltz@bpumc.org, ext. 119

**SECRETARY: Brenda Atkins**

batkins@bpumc.org, ext. 111

**DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP MUSIC: Lonnie Parsons**

**ORGANIST: Jay Tumminello**

jtumminello@bpumc.org

**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: Tracy Estes**

imagination@bpumc.org

**FACILITIES MANAGER: Chad Malcom**

cmalcom@bpumc.org

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newsletter@bpumc.org

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've been working with the LifeTrack Daily Devotional for many months now and I have found it to be very helpful to my spiritual growth to engage with the Scripture and to write a devotional that might be helpful to you.

Today, I'm hoping to convince you to read the Bible every day. Start with just this week: Seven days in a row.

Here are three reasons that I think you should that I found from a great author:

1. **THERE'S INTERESTING STUFF IN THE BIBLE** - Don't ever let anyone tell you that the Bible is boring. If someone says that, they are not reading enough of the Bible. Noah's ark, David and Goliath, Samson and Delilah, love and marriage, Peter cutting off a soldier's ear, a dead man coming back to life... There are some incredible stories in the Bible if you dig deep enough.

2. **THE BIBLE IS REALLY UNLIKE ANY OTHER BOOK** - the Bible is really a collection of 66 small books, letters, hymns and poems. It was written over thousands of years in three different languages. It was all collected, organized and preserved. We have the Bible because people copied it over and over and over again - by hand.

3. **THE BIBLE HAS INFLUENCED THE WORLD LIKE NO OTHER BOOK** - It has shaped preachers and church members alike. It has become influential to leaders, presidents and kings. It has influenced people who changed the world and who stood up for the least of these. How many other books can claim this?

I know it may be overwhelming to think about reading the Bible, but even reading for 5 minutes a day will help you grow in your faith.

Would you give this week a try? Seven days in a row???



## SO, WHERE DO I START???

1. I would start with the New Testament, specifically the Gospel of Mark (the first book of the New Testament).

2. If you would like to move throughout the whole Bible, try signing up for the LifeTrack Daily Devotional which is delivered to your e-mail inbox each and every day.

**BluffParkUMC.org/lifetrackdaily**





## OUR BIG FRONT DOOR

The rhythm of life changes when school lets out for the summer. Students aren't distracted by school and have more time to relax and hang out. They also travel on vacations, so Sundays are often the time when they are getting back in town. We try to follow that rhythm in our ministry and plan lots of activities that allow our students to connect and have fun together, like dinners and game nights. These activities also create an opportunity to invite students from outside of our church tell them about all of the great thing happening at Bluff Park UMC. Already in June, we have had about 20 new students involved in activities who have never been part of our student ministries before.

One great thing happening this fall is the opening of our new building. This summer is a busy and exciting time as we get ready to move into our new space. There is a lot of work to be done. We have to furnish and decorate all of the new rooms. We have to move and set up equipment from our old Youth Wing into the new space. A dedicated team of volunteers is taking charge of this process.

Our new Youth Wing is a huge opportunity to extend our ministry to the students of our community. We are developing a new after-school program. We see this as a 'Big Front Door' that we can open wide and invite in students who don't already have a church home.



## SERVING IN SUMMER

The summer break from school gives our students an opportunity to take part in more ambitious mission projects. July 8th marks the eleventh year that Bluff Park Students have set out on the Appalachia Service Project. That's over a decade of building ramps, fixing leaky roofs, winterizing walls, repairing flood damage, and building relationships and memories that will last a lifetime. Our group of students and adults will be serving this summer in Hancock County, Tennessee.



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



We have already had a busy summer in the Children's Ministry. Our Camp on the Bluff was a huge success and we are extremely grateful to all of the volunteers who donated their time to give our kids a wonderful camp experience. Our campers learned about cooking, science, gardening, basketball, and cheering. And, each day, Mr. Stanley shared the basics of the Christian Faith too!

Camp on the Bluff was big, but VBS 2018 is going to be HUGE. We already have over 250 children from our church and community registered for our Vacation Bible School, and expect that number to grow before opening day on July 16th. We are in need of 10 more volunteers to lead children between activities each day. There is no lesson planning involved in this volunteer spot: you simply get to know, hang out with, and walk with a group of children each day! If you would like to volunteer this year, please contact Melissa Hendon at [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org).

Please pray for both the volunteers and the children who will be attending this event. And, if you haven't registered your kids for VBS yet (what are you waiting for???) visit: [bluffparkumc.org/vbs-2018/](http://bluffparkumc.org/vbs-2018/) and sign up today. We look forward to seeing you there!



## STUDENT MINISTRY

Last month we kicked off our summer with a pool party at Birchtree and a trip to the Ocoee River for some fun in the great outdoors. This month there will be a lot of emphasis on serving others. Whether that's repairing homes in Hancock County, restocking Room 35226 at Simmons Middle School, or shepherding children through Vacation Bible School, our students will be on a mission to love God through loving others. But don't worry, there will still be plenty of fun along the way! Check the calendar and follow us on social media to keep up with what is coming next!



**BIG EVENTS**

**SUNDAY NIGHTS 5-7PM**

**WEDNESDAY 6-8PM**

# BLUFF PARK STUDENTS

## SUMMER 2018

<b>MAY 27</b> Move Up A Grade!	<b>JUNE 3</b> Ice Cream Social	<b>JUNE 6</b> Pool Party Details TBA	<b>JUNE 10</b> Games @ Preserve	<b>JUNE 13</b> Romans vs. Christians	<b>JUNE 17</b> Father's Day*	<b>JUNE 20</b> Dodge Ball
<b>JUNE 22</b> Adventure Camp	<b>JUNE 23</b> Adventure Camp	<b>JUNE 24</b> Adventure Camp*	<b>JUNE 27</b> Hunger Games	<b>JULY 1</b> Movie Night	<b>JULY 4</b> 4th of July*	<b>JULY 8-14</b> ASP Mission Trip
<b>JULY 11</b> Water Balloon Games	<b>JULY 15</b> VBS Training	<b>JULY 16-20</b> Vacation Bible School	<b>JULY 18</b> Room 35226 Setup	<b>JULY 22</b> Bowling	<b>JULY 25</b> Laser Tag	<b>JULY 29</b> King Pen
<b>AUG 1</b> 6 Flags (HS Trip)	<b>AUG 5</b> Pool Party Details TBD	<b>AUG 8</b> Holy Ground Returns!	<p>Keep Track of Our Summer Plans...</p> <p>Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/bpumc_youth">@bpumc_youth</a></p> <p>Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BluffParkStudents">@BluffParkStudents</a></p> <p>Contact <a href="mailto:mbohanan@bpumc.org">mbohanan@bpumc.org</a> to receive texts and emails.</p>			



## FIREWORKS

Have you been enjoying relaxing in a hammock and sipping lemonade under a shade tree? Perhaps your family meets annually at the beach for a walk along the sandy shore and a splash in the pool.

Here at BPUMC things are sparkling! Hiking in June at Red Mountain Park was just the beginning. Bill Pearson attracted a new group of people (55+) to church involvement. He offered a fresh idea of exercise and beauty. We launched an early Fourth of July bombshell with the American Dinner Theater. More than one hundred and seventeen people celebrated "America" on Friday evening June twenty-second. Music and mayhem was provided by the band "Drexel and Friends" and Niki Sepsas shared stories about the American Flag and our National Anthem.

### HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP IN JULY:

- July 10** "Trip to North River Yacht Club, Tuscaloosa" ~ Cypress Inn Lunch, Shopping in Northport, Tour Yacht Club ~ 10 AM Depart
- July 20** "Dancing Class" led by Paulette and Bill Pearson ~ 5:30 PM - Gym Get ready for the Summer Dance! RSVP fgatch@bpumc.org
- July 27** "Dancing Class" led by Paulette and Bill Pearson ~ 5:30 PM ~ Gym
- July 27** "Summer Dance" ~ Presenting "Pocket Change" Terrific Live Dance Band Friday evening, July 27 Fellowship Hall - Refreshments

## SHEPHERD'S CENTER SCHEDULE

Exercise—9:45 AM—Meet & Greet—10 AM—Programs — 10:30 AM — Lunch—  
11:30 AM—Games & Exercise—  
12:30pm  
Thursdays In The Fireside Room  
All are Welcome!

**July 05**  
NO MEETING - Building Reserved  
for BPUMC Food Pantry Ministry

**July 12**  
*Coffee and Conversation* with Senior  
Pastor of BPUMC, Rev. Mike Holly

**July 19**  
NO MEETING - Building Reserved  
for BPUMC Vacation Bible School

**July 26**  
"How to Create Summer Smoothies"  
Rosemary Dallum Demonstration





## Meet the Staff

**NAME:** Rev. Angela Martin

**JOB TITLE:** Associate Pastor

### BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

My pastoral work includes worship planning, occasional preaching, teaching Sunday school classes and Bible studies, leading LifePath Strengths classes, making hospital visits and

checking in with people on the prayer list. Besides sharing these pastoral duties with the other ministers, I work with the Church Life committee planning church-wide, inter-generational events like the Chili Cook-Off in January and the Fall Block Party in October that, at times, also invite the community to join us. I also work with the Education committee to provide small-group programming when needed.

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR ROLE?

I've been serving at Bluff Park for 3 years and I am beginning my 10th year of appointed ministry.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

The people and relationships forged through ministry.

### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:

Husband, Pat (32 years!)

Children - Patrick (married to Lindsey), Amanda, Zac

3 grandchildren - Caleb, Natalie and Summer

### FAVORITE THING TO DO AWAY FROM WORK?

Spending time with my family, especially my grandchildren and reading.

## Member Updates

### NEW MEMBERS IN JUNE

- Art Moorehead—6/10/18
- Christie and Mitch O'Brien—6/17/18

### SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Ed Cox who passed away on June 5th. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Judy Wible on the death of her husband Jim who passed away on June 23rd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

## LIFETRACK

**July 1**

Mark 5:21-43 | Psalm 145

**July 2**

2 Corinthians 8:16-24 | Psalm 106

**July 3**

2 Corinthians 9:1-5 | Psalm 124

**July 4**

Mark 9:14-29 | Psalm 33

**July 5**

1 Corinthians 4:8-13 | Psalm 132

**July 6**

2 Corinthians 10:7-11 | Psalm 141

**July 7**

Matthew 8:18-22 | Psalm 144

**July 8**

Mark 6:1-13 | Psalm 147

**July 9**

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 | Psalm 1

**July 10**

James 5:7-12 | Psalm 5

**July 11**

John 7:1-9 | Psalm 12

**July 12**

Exodus 25:10-22 | Psalm 18

**July 13**

Colossians 4:2-18 | Psalm 17

**July 14**

Luke 1:57-80 | Psalm 21

**July 15**

Mark 6:14-29 | Psalm 148

**July 16**

2 Samuel 6:6-12 | Psalm 9

**July 17**

Acts 23:12-22 | Psalm 36

**July 18**

Luke 7:31-35 | Psalm 38

**July 19**

Colossians 1:15-23 | Psalm 37

**July 20**

Acts 17:16-31 | Psalm 35

**July 21**

Luke 18:35-43 | Psalm 32

**July 22**

Ephesians 2:11-22 | Psalm 116

**July 23**

Hebrews 13:17-25 | Psalm 52

**July 24**

Acts 20:17-38 | Psalm 47

**July 25**

Luke 15:1-7 | Psalm 34

**July 26**

Colossians 1:9-14 | Psalm 59

**July 27**

Colossians 3:12-17 | Psalm 40

**July 28**

John 4:31-38 | Psalm 55

**July 29**

Ephesians 3:14-21 | Psalm 29

**July 30**

2 Samuel 11:14-21 | Psalm 56

**July 31**

Romans 15:22-33 | Psalm 61

# Monthly Calendar for July 2018

<b>Sunday, July 1</b>	Chile Mission Trip Traditional Worship Service Sunday School The Gathering at Bluff Park Traditional Worship Service LifePath Strengths Course	9:00 am 4:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	Youth ASP Trip Building Committee Student Ministry Game Night Men's Chorus Choir Sunday School Shepherd Training	5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Chorus Choir
<b>Monday, July 2</b>	Chile Mission Trip Prayer Shawl				
<b>Wednesday, July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day</b> OFFICE CLOSED Chile Mission Trip		<b>Thursday, July 12</b> Chile Mission Trip Youth ASP Trip Sewing Group Shepherd's Center LifePath Strengths Course	<b>Thursday, July 19</b> 8:30 am 9:30 am 6:00 pm	VBS Sewing Group LifePath - Strengths Course
<b>Thursday, July 5</b>	Chile Mission Trip Food Pantry Sewing Group LifePath Strengths Course	9:30 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm		<b>Friday, July 20</b> 8:30 am	VBS
<b>Friday, July 6</b>	Chile Mission Trip		<b>Friday, July 13</b> Chile Mission Trip Youth ASP Trip Friendship Class Luncheon	<b>Sunday, July 22</b> 7:30 am 8:45 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Blood Drive Traditional Worship Service Sunday School The Gathering at Bluff Park Traditional Worship Service
<b>Saturday, July 7</b>	Chile Mission Trip		<b>Saturday, July 14</b> Chile Mission Trip Youth ASP Trip	<b>Monday, July 23</b> 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	UMW Hope/Love Circle Prayer Shawl LifePath - Strengths Course
<b>Sunday, July 8</b>	Chile Mission Trip Youth ASP Trip Departs Traditional Worship Service Sunday School The Gathering at Bluff Park Traditional Worship Service Methodism in 2020 LifePath Strengths Course	8:45 am 8:45 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 pm 5:00 pm	<b>Sunday, July 15</b> Traditional Worship Service VBS Crew Leader Training Sunday School Safe Sanctuaries Training VBS Training Break Away Groups The Gathering at Bluff Park Traditional Worship Service Youth Council Meeting VBS Youth Training/Safe Sanctuaries	<b>Wednesday, July 25</b> 9:00 am 4:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Building Committee Student Ministry Men's Chorus Choir
<b>Monday, July 9</b>	Chile Mission Trip Youth ASP Trip Prayer Shawl		<b>Monday, July 16</b> 8:30 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	<b>Thursday, July 26</b> 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Sewing Group UMW Friendship Circle Shepherd's Center LifePath - Strengths Course Finance Committee Book Club
<b>Tuesday, July 10</b>	Chile Mission Trip Youth ASP Trip Maintenance 55+ Ministry Trip Under the Bridge	8:30 am 10:00 am 6:00 pm	<b>Tuesday, July 17</b> 8:30 am 6:00 pm	<b>Friday, July 27</b> 6:00 pm	55+ Summer Dance
<b>Wednesday, July 11</b>	Chile Mission Trip		<b>Wednesday, July 18</b> 8:30 am 4:00 pm	<b>Sunday, July 29</b> 8:45 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	Traditional Worship Service Sunday School The Gathering at Bluff Park Traditional Worship Service Methodism in 2020
				<b>Monday, July 30</b> 10:00 am 6:00 pm	Prayer Shawl LifePath - Strengths Course

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

### In Memory of...

#### GENERAL OPERATING FUND

**Ken Adams**, by Ronald Adams, Joana Coffman, Jim and Sandy Dollar, Phyllis Johnston, Rachel LeDuke, Mike and Sandra Williams, William and Lyn Roden, Lois Truss, Kenneth and Martha Wade

**Bill Rabb**, by Patricia Fitzsimmons, A.V. and Mary Marlow

#### BUILDING FUND

**Ken Adams**, by Kenny Adams, Jim and Sally Holland, Wayne and Jacki Walton

**Bill Rabb**, by Wayne and Jacki Walton

#### FOOD PANTRY

**Ken Adams**, by John Baker, Canterbury Class, John and Rosemary Dallam, Julia Dunne, John and Sue Irwin, Jim and Gail Garner, Tim McElroy, Stokely and Sandra Morgan, Robert and Ann Nelson, John and Sylvia Sumners, Ed and Nan Thomas, UAB Maternal-Fetal Medicine, UAB Ob/Gyn

#### PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

**Ken Adams**, by Kenny Adams, Gene and Jean Brown,

Elizabeth Davis

**Bill Rabb**, by Gene and Jean Brown, Curtis and Paula Thompson

#### GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Ken Adams**, by Dyer and Ronda Carlisle

**June O. Howe**, by Pony Green

**Mary E. O'Neill**, by Pony Green

#### UMCOR

**Ken Adams**, by Kathy Minor

### In Honor of...

#### PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

**Sue Crunk**, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

**Steve White**, by J. B. and Frankie Thrasher

#### UNDER THE BRIDGE

**Morris Jackson** (Chick-fil-A)

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



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**FREE**

**SHIPWRECKED**  
RESCUED BY JESUS

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

55+ Ministries Presents

# Summer Dance

Featuring Music By:

**"Pocket Change"**

Friday, July 27

6-8 PM — Fellowship Hall

Tickets \$15

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

RSVP: [fgatch@bpumc.org](mailto:fgatch@bpumc.org) or 822-0910



**American  
Red Cross**

## JULY 22ND BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Bluff Park UMC gym on Sunday, July 22nd, from 7:30am—12:30pm. 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 [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and use the keyword BPUMC.