



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

August 12th will be a special day in worship at Bluff Park UMC. Kids will be back in school and many of us will be shifting out of 'vacation mode' as we head into the fall. We are encouraging every Sunday School class to encourage all their members to attend and invite a friend to church as well.

We also have two special events during worship that morning. We will be presenting Bibles to all of our 3rd grade students and bless the backpacks of all our students. The students will each receive a special backpack tag that reminds them that God loves them and our church loves them too!

We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and renewed on August 12th as we begin a new season of ministry here at Bluff Park UMC.



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

Summer is almost over and school will begin for most students in about 8 days. We are hoping to see as many people as possible in church on August 12, 2018. We will have some big events in worship and many Sunday school classes will start a new year together that Sunday.

Over the summer, I've talked to several new folks at Bluff Park UMC and they have all said that what brought them to BPUMC was a personal invite from a friend.

It was not our website. It was not because of the yellow pages (do we still have yellow pages???). Sometimes, people say that they saw a video from our church on social media. Sometimes it is because they happened to pass by on Valley Street.

But most of the time, it is because they were invited by someone who shared positive stories about our church family.

I read a great article about three reasons that you should invite someone to church:

1. They might make a new friend. Friendship is one of life's great treasures, and the church is a great place to make friends. How cool would it be if you invited someone to church and they made a new lifelong friend?

2. They might be encouraged. They say only 20% of an iceberg is visible above the water. The rest is below the surface. People's struggles are kind of like that. You never really know what they are going through. They might look happy on the outside, but they are really in need of hope or encouragement. A simple invitation to church might be a spark of hope for someone.

3. They might meet Jesus. In the book of Acts, you can read about Andrew who brought his brother to meet Jesus. Andrew's brother was Simon Peter, who turned out to be a great Apostle. By far, the best reason to invite someone to church is that they might meet Jesus.

So what do you say? Who can you invite to participate at Bluff Park UMC? If you invite them, consider meeting them at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex or at the coffee station at The Gathering so that you can walk them personally to their seat for worship!



Mike

ROOM 35226

Each day there are students in our community who go without their basic needs being met. They may be out of dress code because they don't have enough clean clothes in their closet to wear each day of the week. They may be skipping meals over the weekend because there is not enough food in the kitchen at home. Or, it could just be that a student forgot to put on deodorant before leaving home. This can negatively affect their school performance. Whatever the cause, Hoover is too caring a community to leave these student's needs unmet. Many of us strive to help on a case-by-case basis. But what if we could do even more? Well, we can!

Room 35226 is part of the Bluff Park UMC Student Ministry's response to meeting these needs. The vision is to have a room at every school in the 35226 zip code stocked with school supplies, clothes, toiletries, and food. Students and guidance counselors will have access throughout the day, for any needs that arise. Each time a student takes something they need, they have the opportunity to post a note on the wall, not of what they took, but of what they plan to give back - to another student or to the community.

The first room was established at Simmons Middle School and we've already expanded to Bluff Park Elementary. We hope to extend the Room 35226 program to the Green Valley, Gwin, and Shades Mountain Elementary Schools very soon.

On July 18th, Bluff Park UMC Students (many of whom had been VBS volunteers all day) met with Principal Cain at Simmons Middle School to learn about the needs that are filled through Room 35226 and reorganize supplies there in preparation for the start of the new school year.

This program began with an initial monetary gift by Beav's Place (www.beavspplace.com), providing financial support to Christian churches and organizations in the Birmingham area to support youth outreach ministries. It continues through material and financial donations from our church and community. Room 35226 was the VBS mission project this year and they raised \$1,375.86 for the program.

If you would like to learn more about Room 35226 or make a donation, visit the website: BluffParkUMC.org/room35666

School Supply Drive

Help kids in our local schools!

During the month of August, we are doing a school supply drive for local schools! This is a way to help with needed resources for our Little Imaginations preschool program and the Room 35226 project! These are the supplies most needed:

Room 35226: Ear buds, 5 inch scissors, assorted pocket folders with brads, Kleenex, baggies (quart and gallon), pencils, wipes, glue sticks, post it notes, poster board.

Little Imaginations: Colored Copy Paper, Black Sharpies, Glue Bottles, Glue Sticks, Quart and Gallon Zip-Lock Bags.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry has had an amazing summer! Between Camp on the Bluff and Vacation Bible School, we were able to host over 350 children at Bluff Park UMC over two weeks. Together, these children learned that God created them, God loves them, Jesus rescues them, and that they can share the love of God with others in their family, their community, and the world! Further, our children at Vacation Bible School raised over \$1375.86 for Room 35226, our Student Ministry mission project that provides school supplies, clothes, and food for students in many of our local schools who are in need of these items. All of these children and their parents will be invited back to our church on Wednesday, August 22nd, for a VBS/Camp on the Bluff Reunion Night, and our hope and prayer is that some of these families who do not have a church home would consider becoming a part of our great church!

Vacation Bible School and Camp on the Bluff would not have been possible without the love and support of everyone at Bluff Park who prayed for these events, volunteered at these events, and/or helped prepare for and clean up after these events. From the bottom of our hearts and on behalf of all of the children: Thank You! We are proud to serve at such a loving, caring, and giving church!

We now turn our attention to the beginning of the new school year! During the month of August, we will be encouraging our children to start their school year off right with prayer, love, and encouragement through a blessing of the backpacks ceremony on Sunday, August 12th. Further, we will be providing our rising 3rd graders with their very own Bible, geared towards them at their age level, on the same day. Finally, Midweek Meetup will return on Wednesday, August 15th! Our Midweek Meetup Children's Programs allow children from 2 years old-5th Grade to spend each Wednesday night throughout the school year growing in their relationship with God through Bible studies, games, music, Bible memory verses challenges (with great prizes!), and more! We hope to see you at all of these great events in August!



STUDENT MINISTRY

The Summer has been full of "God sightings," as we call them at Holy Ground. Our Appalachia Service Project work teams built a ramp, installed dry wall, pulled down rotten exterior walls, and hung new insulation and vinyl siding. Two families in Hancock County, Tennessee will now be safer, warmer, and drier in the years to come due to the efforts of our students. Then on Sunday, July 15th, we walked through the new youth wing construction site. Students and parents were given an opportunity to pray over the space and then write their hopes and dreams for what God will do here on the subfloor before everything is finished. It was a very moving experience. Yes, summer may seem like a "time off" from the normal routine of the school year. But for us, it has been anything but that.

Preparing to move into the new building will be a major focus during the month of August. We will be going through the old Youth Wing sorting and organizing the things we will be moving into the new space once it is finished. There is a lot of work to be done, but it is an exciting time to be part of the Youth Ministry at Bluff Park.



55+ MINISTRY

CHANGES COMING THIS FALL

The *Shepherd's Center – Bluff Park* has been in operation for 20 years, but will be ending in September. It has an honored twenty year history of service to aging people in our community. We are grateful for those who have volunteered their time, energy, and thoughts for so many years. We want to thank BPUMC for giving its building, utilities, staff, funding and resources to this project connected to the National Shepherd Centers of America.

New Beginnings! Starting the first Thursday in September, all senior adults are invited to meet each week, on Thursday, at 10 AM in the Fireside Room for Coffee, Cake, Table Games, Crafts, Exercise and Movies. There will be no dues. However, each attendee will be required to furnish cake, donuts or other foods to accompany the coffee.

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP IN 55+ MINISTRIES:

- August 22** “**Living Your Strengths Class**” with the Reverend Mike Holly. Starts @ 4:30 PM in the Church Parlor. Register: fgatch@bpumc.org Book Cost: \$20
- September 25** “**Welcome Fall Luncheon**” at Noon in the Fellowship Hall Kristie Tingle Higginbotham and Jan Hunter, Catered Lunch, Entertainment, Fall Décor and Shopping.
- October 22-24** “**Tour the Ark and Creation Museums**” Travel to beautiful Lexington, Kentucky and Visit The Ark and The Creation Museums.

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!

August 2

“*The Vigneulle Brothers Dance Band*” — Rick & Mick Vigneulle — Fellowship Hall

August 9

Writer Ellen Seltz Presents “*Visual Presentation of Current Research*”

August 16

Mayor of Hoover, Frank Brocato

August 23

“*Alabama Football: Teams and Coaches*” — Gary Sanders, UAB Broadcast Journalist

August 30

“*Fall Fashion Show*” — Presented by Vestavia Hills Stein Mart



MEETUP

WEDNESDAYS 5-7 PM | BluffParkUMC.org

Midweek Meetups return on August 15th. Wednesdays are an important time at Bluff Park United Methodist Church. It's family time (church family)!

We meet up around the dinner table to connect with each other. The midweek meal is served each Wednesday evening in the fellowship hall from 5:00–6:30pm. The menu for each week is published in the church bulletin and the weekly email. Takeout orders are available.

Meal prices are \$7 for adults, \$2 for kids 6-12, and kids under 6 eat for free. There is a \$20 maximum for families.

After mealtime, there are a wide range of activities and study opportunities for children, youth, and adults.

Special Events

MIDWEEK CLASS SIGNUP DAY

Learn more about the classes available this fall and sign up! August 15th.

VBS REUNION/SCIENCE EXPERIMENT SHOW

from 6:30-7:30pm August 22nd.

SOCIAL MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY, AND KIDS!

Special guest speaker Dr. Dale Wisely joins us from 6:30-7:30pm August 22nd.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

from 6:00–8:00pm on October 24th.



Meet the Staff

NAME: Rev. John Carl Hastings

JOB TITLE: Associate Pastor

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

Here at BPUMC, I am in charge of the new worship service The Gathering at Bluff Park. In addition to preaching and planning worship each week, I am also involved in supervising our worship leaders and volunteers. Outside the service, I work with our young adults (generally folks younger than 40) and have begun small groups that meet off-site called Common Tables. We have four groups currently meeting semi-regularly and are having a great time gathering people into community!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR ROLE?

I arrived at BPUMC in June of 2016 and am beginning my third year here.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

So far, my favorite part of my job has been seeing young folks get energized about reaching new people for Jesus through the dreaming, creation, launch, and execution of our new worship service, The Gathering at Bluff Park.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:

I've been married to my wife, Tori, for 7 years now. She is an associate pastor at Canterbury UMC in Mountain Brook. Together, we have Brooks, age 3, and Eliza, age 1 as well as our long-time friend and perpetual troublemaker Gracie, a 9-year old long-haired dachshund. I grew up in Oneonta where my dad was a veterinarian and mom taught high school Spanish. I've got two siblings - Mitchell, an attorney in Birmingham and Meredith, a marketing/communications specialist for a non-profit in Seattle, WA.

FAVORITE THING TO DO AWAY FROM WORK?

When I'm not at work, you'll probably find me reading, playing music, exercising, or reading, watching, and/or complaining about Auburn sports.

Member Updates

NEW MEMBERS IN JULY

- Benlee and Mary Huguley – 7/15/18
- Jason and Elizabeth Wood, Isaac and Matthew – 7/8/18
- John and Gwynne Mountz, Alex – 7/8/18

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Clare and John Huddleston on the birth of a son, Andrew Edwin Huddleston on July 5th.

Congratulations to Lauren and Chris Hearn on the birth of a daughter, Hudson Nicole Hearn on July 9th.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Nancy Knowles Davies who passed away on July 1st. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Sharon Palm whose husband Elmer passed away on July 7th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

August 1

Mark 6:35-44 | Psalm 71

August 2

1 Corinthians 11:17-22 | Psalm 72

August 3

1 Corinthians 11:23-34 | Psalm 73

August 4

Matthew 16:5-12 | Psalm 23

August 5

Exodus 16:2-15 | Psalm 24

August 6

Ephesians 4:17-24 | Psalm 78:1-31

August 7

1 Corinthians 12:27-31 | Psalm 81

August 8

Isaiah 55:1-9 | Psalm 145

August 9

Romans 15:1-6 | Psalm 91

August 10

Galatians 6:1-10 | Psalm 136

August 11

Matthew 7:7-11 | Psalm 19

August 12

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 | Psalm 87

August 13

Ephesians 5:3-14 | Psalm 89:1-29

August 14

2 Peter 3:14-18 | Psalm 99

August 15

John 6:35-40 | Psalm 115

August 16

Acts 6:8-15 | Psalm 105

August 17

Romans 16:17-20

Psalm 107:1-32

August 18

John 4:7-26 | Psalm 107:33-43

August 19

Ephesians 5:15-20 | Psalm 118

August 20

Acts 6:1-7 | Psalm 106

August 21

Genesis 45:1-15 | Psalm 120

August 22

Mark 8:14-21 | Psalm 128

August 23

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

August 24

Psalm 132

1 Kings 4:29-34 | Psalm 86

August 25

Luke 11:5-13 | Psalm 144

August 26

Ephesians 6:10-20 | Psalm 111

August 27

Nehemiah 9:1-15 | Psalm 3

August 28

1 Kings 6:1-14 | Psalm 10

August 29

1 Kings 6:23-38 | Psalm 13

August 30

James 1:1-8 | Psalm 18:1-20

August 31

James 1:9-16 | Psalm 16

Monthly Calendar for August 2018

Wednesday, August 1	6:00 pm Under the Bridge	11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
7:30 am Children's Field Trip	Wednesday, August 15	Monday, August 27
9:00 am Food Pantry	4:00 pm Student Ministry	9:30 am UMW Hope-Love Circles
4:00 pm Student Ministry	5:00 pm Midweek Meetup	10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
5:30 pm Men's Chorus	5:30 pm Men's Chorus	10:00 am Prayer Shawl
6:30 pm Choir	6:30 pm Choir	Wednesday, August 29
Thursday, August 2	Thursday, August 16	4:00 pm Student Ministry
9:30 am Sewing Group	9:30 am Sewing Group	4:30 pm LifePath Strengths Course
10:00 am Shepherd's Center	10:00 am Shepherd's Center	5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
6:00 pm LifePath Strengths Course	Sunday, August 19	5:30 pm Men's Chorus
Sunday, August 5	8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	6:30 pm Choir
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	9:45 am Sunday School	Thursday, August 30
9:45 am Sunday School	11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	9:30 am Sewing Group
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	10:00 am Shepherd's Center
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	Monday, August 20	6:00 pm LifePath - Strengths Course
Monday, August 6	10:00 am Prayer Shawl	
10:00 am Prayer Shawl	Tuesday, August 21	
6:00 pm LifePath Strengths Course	5:00 pm Preschool Parent Orientation	
Wednesday, August 8	6:00 pm Under the Bridge	
4:00 pm Student Ministry	Wednesday, August 22	
5:30 pm Men's Chorus	9:00 am Preschool Meet the Teacher	
6:30 pm Choir	4:00 pm Student Ministry	
Thursday, August 9	4:30 pm LifePath Strengths Course	
9:30 am Sewing Group	5:00 pm Midweek Meetup	
10:00 am Shepherd's Center	5:30 pm Men's Chorus	
6:00 pm LifePath Strengths Course	6:30 pm VBS Reunion.	
Friday, August 10	6:30 pm Social Media, Technology, and Kids!	
12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon	6:30 pm Choir	
Sunday, August 12	Thursday, August 23	
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	9:30 am Sewing Group	
9:45 am Sunday School	9:30 am UMW Friendship Circle	
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	10:00 am Shepherd's Center	
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	6:30 pm Finance Committee	
12:30 pm Youth Council Meeting	7:00 pm Book Club	
4:00 pm Methodism in 2020	Friday, August 24	
Monday, August 13	5:00 pm Fisherman Class Social	
8:00 am UMW Executive Committee	Sunday, August 26	
10:00 am Prayer Shawl	8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	
6:00 pm LifePath - Strengths Course	9:45 am Sunday School	
Tuesday, August 14	11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	
8:30 am Maintenance		



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The deadline for scholarship applications for the 2018-19 school year is August 12th. All Bluff

Park United Methodist college students who would like to apply must have their forms submitted to the church office by the deadline. Application forms are available on the forms page of the church website, or in the church office.

bluffparkumc.org/forms/

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Ken Adams, by Ron and Carole Roegner

Ed Cox, by Otis and Temmie Bibb

Nancy Davies, by Jo Ann White

Elmer Palm, by Gary and Carlene Adams, Fishermen Class, Curtis and Marie Gwathney, James and Carol Newton

BUILDING FUND

James Wible, by Bob and Ann Nelson

FOOD PANTRY

Ken Adams, by Terry and Ann Bice, Nathan and Alice Chase, Ray and Mary Jane Faircloth, Sula Hicks

Elmer Palm, by Elizabeth Davis

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Ed Cox, by Curtis and Paula Thompson,

Bill Rabb, by Bob and Pan Cahoon

Jim Wible, by the US Secret Service Birmingham Field Office, J. B. and Frankie Thrasher

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

Buddy Harper, by Pony Green

CHILDREN'S FUND

Jim Wible, by John Bates, Sara Bradley, Nicholas Hare, Tejal Wible

MUSIC FUND

Jane Robinson, by John and Debra Cotney

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Ken Adams, by Kathy Minor

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Jim Wible, by Otis and Temmie Bibb, Chapel Creek Home and Garden Club, Nathan and Alice Chase, Dr. Ann Mitchell, Mark and Pam Torres

In Honor of...

BUILDING FUND

Davis Holly, by James and Charlotte Holly

BUNDLES OF HOPE

Lily Kate Guy, by Pat and Carole Westbrook

MUSIC FUND

Bill Pearson, by Kyle and Tami Puchta

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Bob and Becky Walker, by John McCrary

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

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**BACK TO
CHURCH
SUNDAY**
August 12, 2018

Bluff Park United Methodist Church



**August School
Supply Drive**

Help kids in our
local schools!

Supply List Online

THE RETURN OF THE

**BPUMC
Midweek**

MEETUP

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15TH | 5-7 PM