



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



FALL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 8 ECOFair
- 14-15 Bargains on the Bluff
- 25 55+ Welcome Fall Luncheon

OCTOBER

- Offering of Blankets Begins
- 7 Commitment Sunday (Turn in Pledge Cards)
- Block Party
- Neverthirst Fun Run
- 21 Blood Drive
- 24 Halloween Carnival

NOVEMBER

- 4 All Saints' Day @ Morning Worship
- 11 Veteran's Day Church-Wide Luncheon
- Student Ministry One Night for the Homeless and Veterans
- 16-18 Student Ministry Fall Retreat
- 25 Advent Wreath Family Night
- 30 Preschool Christmas Storytime

DECEMBER

- 2 Service of Lessons and Carols @ Morning Worship
- Children's Christmas Pageant
- 6 Advent Morning Prayer
- 13 Advent Morning Prayer
- 20 Advent Morning Prayer
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services

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

This is such a wonderful time of year. Football is back and we are finally getting used to our new rhythms and schedules. While it is an exciting time, there is also a lot to accomplish.

I found this information very helpful when I read it and I hope it is helpful to you!

What can you do to find the balance between what you need to do and what you would like to do? How do you deal with those moments where you feel overwhelmed?

I will confess to you that I do not have it all figured out. But I do have a few things to suggest that might be helpful.

1. You do not have to do it all - You and your family will not be scarred for life if you do not get to do it all. You will not be missing out if you do not have everything that the neighbor down the street has either. When a new year starts, one of the best things you can do is to set realistic expectations and learn to have a strategic "no" ready to go.

2. Take some time for yourself - It's not selfish to take some time for yourself every now and then. After all, there's a reason that they tell you to put on your oxygen mask before you help someone else with their mask. If you're out of control, you will not be in a position to help anyone else. So do not be afraid to schedule time to focus on your relationship with God and time for you to rest and recharge as well. Put it on the calendar and treat it like a meeting you cannot cancel.

3. Remember the point - September is a time for getting back into a good rhythm. October is a good time to plan for the end of the year. November is a good time for giving thanks. December is a good time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each of these seasons has a point or an important opportunity for you and for others. Don't miss the point by focusing on too many things at once. If you feel like you have forgotten the point ~ press the pause button of life and think about why you are doing what you are doing.

I hope that this e-mail will encourage you at the start of this new and busy season!!



Mike

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

COMMUNITY ECOFAIR

"Caring for Creation"

Please join us for our very first EcoFair on Saturday September 8th from 9 a.m. to noon in the sanctuary side parking lot (or fellowship hall in case of rain)! Drive-thru service in the construction side parking lot!

Our church has such a strong emphasis of reaching out to our community to serve in many different ways – that is at the heart of our newest event – our Community EcoFair. Partnering with a number of leading environmental agencies in the Birmingham area, our "Caring for Creation" event will educate on the many ways we can reduce, reuse and recycle – and resources that are available. We'll highlight our Gardens on the Bluff, have kid's crafts and a poster contest, offer door prizes and even pet adoption by Greater Birmingham Humane Society! You can drop off towels and bedding for the shelter, eye glasses for a mission trip, and jar lids for a mosaic art project at a local school!

We will also provide convenient drive-thru service for paper shredding and recycling electronics, courtesy of United Ability's Gone for Good (donations requested to cover costs). Plus used cooking oil to go to our fire department down the street.

You can find all the details about the event and poster contest on flyers available throughout the church, or by visiting our website/Facebook at <http://bluffparkumc.org/ecofair>. We look forward to seeing you there! BPUMC Green Team

POSTER CONTEST

ATTENTION RISING 4K TO FIFTH GRADERS! Join our CONTEST! We want to see your ideas on how to make a difference for our environment! Posters will be displayed at our EcoFair on September 8th!

<http://bluffparkumc.org/ecofair>

HOW TO JOIN OUR CONTEST:

- Create a poster BEFORE SEPTEMBER 8th that shows how to "Care for Creation". Draw a picture of something we can do to take care of our planet, show the science behind renewable energy or other eco-ideas, or even do the math on how we make a difference by recycling! Here's some topic ideas (or you can pick your own):

- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!
- Keep our lakes and oceans clean!
- Five ways to save water at home!
- What can recycled plastic bottles become?
- No more plastic straws or plastic bags!
- Gardening is great!
- What are different sources of energy?

- Bring it to Bluff Park UMC – BE SURE TO PUT YOUR NAME AND AGE ON IT! You can drop it off at our Welcome Center on Sunday (Aug 26 or Sept 2), bring by the church office Sept 5-7 between 9 am and 4 pm, or bring it to the event by 9:30 a.m. *Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m.*

- Come to the EcoFair to see your poster on display and for contest results!



HELP NEEDED FOR BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF

Attention Moms, Dads, Grandmas, Grandpas and youth who need service hours.

The Bargains on the Bluff consignment sale needs your help and there are lots of ways to get involved! Volunteer to work a shift (or 2) and shop before the public sale! All shifts are 3 hours. Visit www.bargainsonthebluff.com or email bargainsonthebluff@gmail.com to volunteer!

The public sale takes place Friday, September 14th, from 9am-6pm and Saturday, September 15th, from 9am-2pm.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We had an amazing summer in the Children's Ministry at Bluff Park UMC: we had over 100 children attend Camp on the Bluff and over 260 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!

We also could not have kept Camp on the Bluff and Vacation Bible School free for the children of our church and the children of our community 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, which helps us fund these two summer ministries, and ensures that any child that wants to attend Camp on the Bluff and VBS are able to attend these free events. Because of this, I would love to invite you to help Bargains on the Bluff in two ways. First, please consider shopping at their Fall sale on September 14th and 15th! 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. 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

Sunday Evenings

Fall 2018

Aug 5 Pool Party Birchtree	Sept 9 Tribes Football	Oct 7 Block Party	Nov 4 Tribes Kingpin
Aug 12 Tribes Soccer	Sept 16 Serve: Reconciler	Oct 14 Tribes Volleyball	Nov 11 Serve: One Night
Aug 19 HS/MS Split	Sept 23 HS/MS Split	Oct 21 Carnival Setup	Nov 18 Fall Retreat
Aug 26 Serve & Mentoring	Sept 30 Free Space Night	Oct 28 Serve: TBA	Dec 16 Christmas Party

Wednesdays

After School - Hang Out

4:30pm - HG Rehearsal

5:00pm - Eat Dinner

6:00pm - Small Groups

6:30pm - Holy Ground

Big Events:

Nov 16-18
Fall Retreat

 Nov 11-12
One Night for
the Homeless
& Veterans

Stay Connected

IG: @bpumc_youth FB: @BluffParkStudents
 Contact mbolan@bpumc.org
 to receive texts & email
 updates & reminders.

BLUFF PARK STUDENTS

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:

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.

The Open Door Café

Meet & Greet—10 AM—Programs
– 10:30 AM – Lunch—11:30
AM—Games & Exercise—
12:30pm

Thursdays In The Fireside
Room
All are Welcome!

September 6

Layla Hadley ~ Violinist

September 13

Gideon's

Youth Building Open House

Sunday, September 16th @ 10:30 am

Construction on the new Youth Building and Gym is rapidly coming to a close. Stop by and see the amazing new space.





Meet the Staff

NAME: Brenda Atkins

JOB TITLE: Church Secretary

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR JOB

As the church secretary, I am here to serve the church in any way that I can. My main duties are to answer the phone, greet people, maintain the church calendar and the membership database.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR ROLE?

I have been working at BPUMC for almost a year. I have served as a church secretary for 23 years in previous churches.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

Helping people!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:

I am married to Mike Atkins and we have three children: twin daughters, Abrea and Michaela, who are seniors at the University of Montevallo; and our son, Logan, who is a junior at Pelham High School. We also have Luke, our German Shepherd.

FAVORITE THING TO DO AWAY FROM WORK?

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.



Give Online With **easyTithe**

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has implemented a set of online giving tools, powered by easyTithe.com. This provides the ability to quickly and easily make pledges and donations on our website and through a convenient mobile app! You can make your pledge electronically and track your online giving throughout the year.

After creating an EasyTithe account, you're able to give directly or schedule a series of donations using your debit or

credit card.

To get started, visit the church website and select 'Donate Online' under the 'Give' link in the top menu. Step-by-step video tutorials are available on the main 'Give' landing page.

www.BluffParkUMC.org/give-online

LIFETRACK

September 1

John 18:28-32 | Psalm 15

September 2

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Psalm 150

September 3

1 Timothy 4:6-16 | Psalm 25

September 4

1 Peter 2:19-25 | Psalm 28

September 5

Mark 7:9-23 | Psalm 38

September 6

Proverbs 1:1-19 | Psalm 37:1-18

September 7

Proverbs 4:10-27 | Psalm 31

September 8

Matthew 15:21-31 | Psalm 32

September 9

James 2:1-17 | Psalm 63

September 10

Hebrews 11:29-12:2 | Psalm 52

September 11

Hebrews 12:3-13 | Psalm 45

September 12

Proverbs 14:1-9 | Psalm 53

September 13

Hebrews 11:17-22 | Psalm 87

September 14

James 2:17-26 | Psalm 66

September 15

Matthew 21:23-32 | Psalm 139

September 16

James 3:1-12 | Psalm 24

September 17

Proverbs 22:1-21 | Psalm 57

September 18

Colossians 3:1-11 | Psalm 62

September 19

John 7:25-36 | Psalm 72

September 20

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 | Psalm 71

September 21

Romans 11:25-32

Psalm 119:41-64

September 22

Ecclesiastes 1:1-18 | Psalm 76

September 23

James 3:13 - 4:3 | Psalm 96

September 24

James 4:8-17 | Psalm 79

September 25

Ecclesiastes 4:9-16 | Psalm 78:1-16

September 26

Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Psalm 81

September 27

Acts 4:13-31 | Psalm 85

September 28

Acts 12:20-25 | Psalm 88

September 29

Matthew 5:13-20 | Psalm 8

September 30

James 5:13-20 | Psalm 19

Monthly Calendar for September 2018

Sunday, September 2	5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	Friday, September 21
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	5:00 pm	55+ Conversation and Candlelight	5:00 pm Parent's Night Out
9:45 am Sunday School			Sunday, September 23
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	5:30 pm	Men's Chorus	8:45 am Traditional Worship Service
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	6:30 pm	A Crazy, Holy Grace Study	9:45 am Sunday School
Monday, September 3—Labor Day	6:30 pm	Christianity and World Religions	11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
OFFICE CLOSED			11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
Wednesday, September 5	6:30 pm	Living Your Strengths	Monday, September 24
9:00 am Food Pantry	6:30 pm	Choir	9:30 am UMW Hope-Love Circles
4:00 pm Student Ministry	Thursday, September 13		10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
4:30 pm 55+ Strengths Class	9:30 am Sewing Group		10:00 am Prayer Shawl
4:30 pm A Crazy, Holy Grace Study	10:00 am Coffee and Conversation		Tuesday, September 25
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup	Friday, September 14		9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
5:00 pm 55+ Conversation and Candlelight	12:00 pm Fisherman Class Social		12:00 pm 55+ Welcome Fall Luncheon
5:30 pm Men's Chorus	Sunday, September 16		Wednesday, September 26
6:30 pm Christianity and World Religions	8:45 am Traditional Worship Service		4:00 pm Student Ministry
6:30 pm Living Your Strengths	9:45 am Sunday School		4:30 pm A Crazy, Holy Grace Study
6:30 pm Choir	10:00 am Young Adult Breakfast		5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
Thursday, September 6	10:30 am Youth Building Open House		5:00 pm 55+ Conversation and Candlelight
9:30 am Sewing Group	11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park		5:30 pm Men's Chorus
10:00 am Coffee and Conversation	11:00 am Traditional Worship Service		6:30 pm A Crazy, Holy Grace Study
Saturday, September 8	3:00 pm The Gathering Tailgating		6:30 pm Christianity and World Religions
9:00 am Community ECO Fair	Monday, September 17		6:30 pm Living Your Strengths
Sunday, September 9	10:00 am Prayer Shawl		6:30 pm Choir
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	Tuesday, September 18		Thursday, September 27
9:45 am Sunday School	9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study		9:30 am Sewing Group
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	6:00 pm Under the Bridge		9:30 am UMW Friendship Circle
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	Wednesday, September 19		10:00 am Coffee and Conversation
12:30 pm Youth Council Meeting	4:00 pm Student Ministry		6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
4:30 pm Children's Council	4:30 pm 55+ Strengths Class		7:00 pm Book Club
Monday, September 10	4:30 pm A Crazy, Holy Grace Study		Friday, September 28
8:00 am UMW Executive Committee	5:00 pm Midweek Meetup		5:00 pm Fisherman Class Social
10:00 am Prayer Shawl	5:00 pm 55+ Conversation and Candlelight		Sunday, September 30
Tuesday, September 11	5:30 pm Men's Chorus		8:45 am Traditional Worship Service
8:30 am Maintenance	6:30 pm A Crazy, Holy Grace Study		9:45 am Sunday School
9:30 am Beck Walker Bible Study	6:30 pm Christianity and World Religions		11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
6:00 pm Under the Bridge	6:30 pm Living Your Strengths		11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
Wednesday, September 12	6:30 pm Choir		
4:00 pm Student Ministry	Thursday, September 20		
4:30 pm 55+ Strengths Class	9:30 am Sewing Group		
4:30 pm A Crazy, Holy Grace Study	10:00 am Coffee and Conversation		

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Elmer Palm, by Otis and Temmie Bibb, Todd and Deb Dressman, Phyllis Johnston, George and Peggy Scott

BUILDING FUND

Elmer Palm, by John and Sylvia Sumners

James Wible, by Preston and Jo Ann Huddleston

FOOD PANTRY

Ken Adams, by James and Erin Adams, Ronald Adams, David and Jeannie Jenkins, Roy and Charlotte Shanlever

Annis Cammack, by David and Jeannie Jenkins

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Leland Brown, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

Orrin Wandsnider, by J. B. and Frankie Thrasher

James Wible, by Jack and Carole Armistead

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

Robert McClure, by David and Jeannie Jenkins

CRISTIN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Elmer Palm, by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hill

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Derek Carlington, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

In Honor of...

CHURCH LIFE

Spring Clean Day, by Glynda Culver

OPERATING FUND

Steve Copper, by Mike and Julie Holly

Lonnie Parsons, by Jan Harris

BUILDING FUND

Joan Dunn, by Lynn Jackson

Bob Walker, by Lynn Jackson

PRAYER SHAWL

Gaile Ketchersid, by Jack and Carole Armistead

FOOD PANTRY

Pat and Carol Westbrook, by Elizabeth Davis

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

Judy Gibson, by Pony Green

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

X



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follow us



Bluff Park United Methodist Church
COMMUNITY ECOFAIR
"Caring for Creation"

Saturday, September 8 from 9 AM - 12 PM

"Welcome Fall Luncheon"

Tuesday, September 25th @ Noon
in the Fellowship Hall
Decorations, Catered Lunch ~ Live entertainment by ~ Kristie Tingle Higginbotham, Jan Hunter

BLUFF PARK UMC PRESENTS

BO+TB

BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF

A MOM and ME Consignment Sale Event

THURSDay, September 13th 2-7 PM
Preview Sale - Consignors & Volunteers only

FRIDay, September 14th 9-6 PM, PUBLIC Sale

***SATURDay, September 15th 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