



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

What If...

Sunday, October 7th, is Commitment Sunday. Each and every household will have the opportunity to come forward and pledge our financial support for the 2019 church budget so that our church leadership and committees may begin planning for a new year of ministry.

What if each and every household turned in a 2019 Ministry Budget Pledge Card?

Here are some of the ideas our church leaders and staff have prayerfully offered up to our church family for the coming year:

- ◇ Providing meaningful programming for and increase the number of senior adults attending the Open Door Cafe on Thursdays (formerly the Shepherd's Center).
- ◇ Provide more exciting programming at the church such as yoga classes and marriage retreats.
- ◇ Provide a free Summer Camp on the Bluff to children in our church and community as well as expanding Vacation Bible School.
- ◇ Provide the initial funds to begin an after-school program in our new Youth Ministry and Community Ministry building.
- ◇ Provide families within the church with Neighbor Engagement funds to get to know your neighbors and invite them to worship in the Sanctuary or in the Gathering in the Chapel.
- ◇ Expand our mission and service programs into Bluff Park and our surrounding communities.
- ◇ And many other ideas and dreams!!!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST 5 YEARS

- Renovations throughout our current buildings and the new youth ministry and community ministries building is nearing completion. The Parlor, Bride's Room, Children's Ministry area, Chapel, and third floor of the education building have all been renovated.
- Vacation Bible School has grown from 100 children in 2014 to 263 children in 2018. The children raised \$1375 dollars at VBS to benefit Room 35226.
- The Youth Ministry has seen an increase in the Middle School group thanks to the growth in the children's ministry!
- The Student Ministry has launched two new service and missions initiatives. "One Night For The Homeless & Veterans" collects items for area shelters while educating students. Room 35226 collects and distributes needed supplies to area K-8th graders.
- An onboarding process has been developed and implemented for providing rising 6th graders with a smoother transition from the children's ministry. New coed, girls, and boys small groups have launched.
- The Gathering at Bluff Park, our new contemporary worship service, has started and it has an average attendance of around 50 people. They also have attracted 4 of the 36 new members in 2018!
- Young adults, as a part of The Gathering, have formed two different small groups called Common Tables that meet in members' homes, share a meal, and discuss Scripture, faith, and life. Between the two groups, there are around 25 members that attend at least once a month. Another Common Table, formed of members in their 30s and 40s, has three families that meet each week as well.
- About 98 people have participated in the LifePath Strengths Course.
- And many more highlights than space will allow. God is Good!

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!

Our Staff

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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

We have been told that the only thing that is constant is change. And part of thriving in life is to learn how to adapt to change. Sometimes change leads to something better. Of course, sometimes change leads to loss.

We announced earlier this summer that Lonnie Parsons, our Director of Worship Music, was moving to Las Vegas.

Lonnie has settled into life in Las Vegas and is doing good work in helping other people! We will miss Lonnie and we are working diligently to hire an interim choir director to take over until we find a new permanent director of worship music.

Another change that is coming this month is the departure of Bart Styes, our Director of Student Ministries. Bart has led our student ministry for almost seven years and is going to help our students move into their new building this fall. Then, Bart and his family will be starting a local business in the Bluff Park area.

Change also brings new people into our midst as well. You may notice a new face on Sundays at Bluff Park UMC. Officer Vaughn of the Hoover Police Department will be with us each and every Sunday morning. Officer Vaughn is a public servant who is committed to serve and protect. While he is with us on Sundays, Officer Vaughn will be there to help with any emergency need that might arise. When you get the chance, please thank Officer Vaughn for his service!

Also, Noah Glover will be returning to BPUMC this fall. Noah is a senior at Birmingham-Southern College and worked with us last year mainly shadowing our pastors. This year, we have asked Noah to focus upon the offering of the blankets during the month of October as well as all of our other mission endeavors as a congregation. He will be available to teach Sunday school as well!

In the midst of all of the change - let us stay committed to the goal of our life together. For we are still the church that is focused on helping all people find life!



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike".

Connecting With Our Neighbors

October is a big month in the life of our church for reaching out to our neighbors. Our Block Party, Fun Run, and Halloween Carnival create a fun casual opportunity to invite people to our church. We are able to build personal relationships and extend a personal invitation to people in our community to join us for worship as we enter the Christmas holiday season.

We need everyone in the church to help make these events a success. Contact the church office to get flyers or posters to pass out around town. Visit the church's Facebook page and like and share the event pages. Also, make sure to click the 'Going' link for each event to let us know who is coming!

Make plans to join us and invite someone new to Bluff Park United Methodist Church.

**Block
Party**
October 7th
4:00-6:00pm

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**HALLOWEEN
CARNIVAL**

OCTOBER 24 • 6:00pm-8:00pm

**"There will be carnival games,
prizes, a haunted house,
inflatables, a cake walk, food
and more."**

Come in costume and celebrate with your friends and neighbors in Bluff Park

**Carnival-wide passes \$8 -- Free access and food for parents.
All proceeds support the children's ministry at the church.**



Neverthirst Fun Run

The mission goals of Bluff Park UMC are to provide food, water, and shelter. The New Light Sunday School class has been working to raise money for Neverthirst, an organization dedicated to bringing clean and Living water to the poor through partnerships with local churches in India, Sudan and the Central African Republic. Access to clean drinking water is a major concern in many parts of the world. The Annual Fun Run is a major part of our efforts, as a church, to meet this critical need.

The New Light class and BPUMC Mission Fund have already sponsored the drilling of 2 wells. The first, in Kako, India, serves 32 families who previously used water from an open well which was often contaminated with stormwater run off. The second, in Anlong Kramoun, Cambodia, serves 20 families who previously gathered water from a local stream. 52 families no longer have to worry about finding clean water to drink.

Join us on October 7th to have a little fun and raise money for a new well for a community struggling with access to clean water. Sign-in, t-shirt pick-up and on-site registration will take place in the church parking lot at 4:00pm, and the run starts at 5:30pm. Register online at bluffparkumc.org/funrun



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The school year has begun, and we have a number of great things planned in the Children's Ministry this Fall! One of our goals for the children of our church is that they would learn how they can share the love of God with others during their time in the Children's Ministry, and that they would be given opportunities to do so! Along these lines, we will be taking children on two mission trip/field trips this Fall, in which we pair a fun activity with a mission project which allows the children to share the love of Jesus to people in our church, community and/or the world. This Fall, we will be taking the children to shop for blankets for the homeless, food to be distributed in our Food Pantry, and Christmas gifts for children in our community to be distributed through Festival of the Three Kings. Our hope and prayer is that through these trips the children of our church will learn the importance of truly "loving your neighbor as yourself."



We are also providing a fun way for the children of our church and our community, along with their families, to share the love of God with people around the world. At our annual Halloween Carnival on Wednesday, October 24th from 6:00-8:00, we will be raising money to benefit an organization called NeverThirst, which provides clean drinking water to people around the world by building wells in communities in need of clean water. And because we are the Children's Ministry at Bluff Park, we are planning on raising this money in a crazy fun way! We will have a Dunk Tank at this year's carnival, and for \$1 a throw, you will be able to help raise money for NeverThirst, as well as make some popular people in our church very wet (please check our church's Facebook page in the coming weeks for an announcement on the Dunk Tank participants!). We hope your family will join us for a fun-filled night at the Halloween Carnival, and that you would consider dunking someone for a great cause!

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

Nov 16-18
Fall Retreat

Big Events:
One Night for
the Homeless
Nov 11-12 & Veterans

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

CHANGES HAPPENING THIS FALL

As autumn approaches we have so many new things happening at Bluff Park UMC for those 55 and Up! A group is heading for Kentucky on Monday, October 21. We will be enjoying the exquisite fall leaves and some cool air. Staying at Boone Tavern in Berea, Kentucky we will visit The Ark Museum and the Creation Museum. Students at Berea College will sing for us as they serve our meals.

In September, Mike Holly did a tremendous job of teaching "Living Your Strengths". Mike is not only a most excellent preacher of the gospel but he made every aspect of the teaching vivid, engaging and exciting. If you haven't taken this course yet - there will be other classes you may explore.

What a tremendous day of inspiration was enjoyed by those who attended the "Welcome Fall" Luncheon. Delightful vocal pieces presented by Kristi Tingle Higginbotham and Jan Hunter were thrilling and raised the spirits of all! Roasted turkey and cornbread dressing, sweet potatoe casserole and apple pie were a real hit. Shopping at the Autumn Shop was fun and a new twist!

The new Open Door Café' hosted The Mayor of Vestavia, Ashley Curry and he was such a hit. His knowledge is vast and he was a tremendous speaker. In October we will have special quest speakers from our own congregation, Rev. Phil Cartrette 10-4-18 and Becky Walker 10-11-18.

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!

October 11

"Living Your Strengths" with
Becky Walker, BPUMC Lay
Leader and Bible Teacher

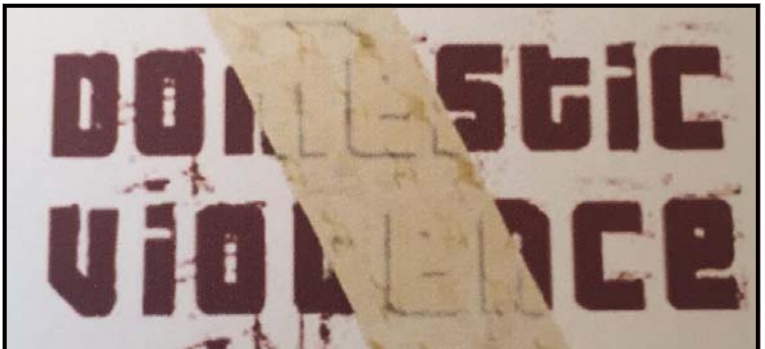
October 18

All Hallows Speaker and Hal-
loween Theme



Ready, Set, Bake!

The Bluff Park United Methodist Women will be selling baked goods, on October 6th, at The Bluff Park Art Show to raise money for local mission projects. You can help by providing baked goods (cakes, cookies, brownies, and cupcakes) to sell. Please package items for individual sale, label them, and note whether they contain nuts. Drop off your goodies in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 5th, before noon.



Thriving After Abuse

Monday, October 8th @ 10am

The United Methodist Women of Bluff Park are hosting a special presentation on domestic abuse. Come hear Kay Simmons share her personal struggles with domestic violence and abuse. She has created a non-profit organization that helps women, Women in the Greater Birmingham area, find faith, build career skills, and find a new way of life.

www.facebook.com/bluffparkumw



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.

EasyTithe allows you to make a Pledge online and track your progress meeting your pledge through the year. If you choose to make a pledge online we ask that you still fill out a Pledge Card and indicate that you placed a pledge online.

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

2018-2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Benjamin Cathers—Christin Crockett Scholarship
Matthew Cook—Christin Crockett Scholarship
Cameron Doran—Victor Harbor Scholarship
Sarah Jewell Doran—Victor Harbor Scholarship
Jacob Elliott—Bluff Park United Methodist Church General Scholarship
Corey Hart Ferguson—Clinton Scholarship
Emma Haynes—James Michael Grissom Scholarship
Tanner McReynolds—Victor Harbor Scholarship
William Treadway North—Bluff Park United Methodist Church General Scholarship
Samantha Ward—Bluff Park United Methodist Church General Scholarship

Member Updates

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Hayden and Andrea Powers in the passing of her mother, Linda Bailey on August 31st. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Johnnie Drennen who passed away on September 5th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Anne Foote and her family on the passing of her mother, Frances Westwater on Thursday, September 20th. Ms. Westwater passed just three weeks before her 100th birthday. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

October 1

1 Peter 1:3-9 | Psalm 89:1-18

October 2

1 John 2:18-25 | Psalm 100

October 3

Matthew 18:6-9 | Psalm 101

October 4

Galatians 3:23-29

Psalm 105:1-22

October 5

Romans 8:1-11 | Psalm 107:1-32

October 6

Luke 16:14-18 | Psalm 33

October 7

Isaiah 54:1-4a | Psalm 118

October 8

1 Corinthians 7:1-9

Psalm 106:1-18

October 9

1 Corinthians 7:10-16 | Psalm 120

October 10

Matthew 5:27-36 | Psalm 128

October 11

Hebrews 3:7-19 | Psalm 132

October 12

Hebrews 4:1-11 | Psalm 142

October 13

Matthew 15:1-9 | Psalm 144

October 14

Mark 10:17-31 | Psalm 147

October 15

Revelation 7:9-17 | Psalm 4

October 16

Revelation 8:1-5 | Psalm 5

October 17

Luke 16:19-31 | Psalm 12

October 18

Romans 15:7-13 | Psalm 103

October 19

Isaiah 47:1-9 | Psalm 17

October 20

Luke 22:24-30 | Psalm 21

October 21

Mark 10:35-45 | Psalm 115

October 22

Hebrews 6:1-12 | Psalm 25

October 23

Hebrews 6:13-20 | Psalm 125

October 24

John 13:1-17 | Psalm 37

October 25

Hebrews 7:1-10 | Psalm 38

October 26

Hebrews 7:11-22 | Psalm 31

October 27

Mark 8:22-26 | Psalm 42

October 28

Mark 10:46-52 | Psalm 66

October 29

1 Peter 2:1-10 | Psalm 41

October 30

Matthew 20:29-34 | Psalm 47

October 31

Ezekiel 37:1-14 | Psalm 34

Monthly Calendar for October 2018

Monday, October 1 10:00 am Prayer Shawl	10:00 am The Open Door Cafe	Thursday, October 25 9:30 am Sewing Group
Tuesday, October 2 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study	Friday, October 12 12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon	9:30 am UMW Friendship Circle
Wednesday, October 3 9:00 am Food Pantry	Sunday, October 14 8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	10:00 am The Open Door Cafe
4:00 pm Student Ministry	9:45 am Sunday School	6:30 pm Finance Committee
4:30 pm Wiser Together	11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	Meeting
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup	12:30 pm Traditional Worship Service	Book Club
5:00 pm 55+ Conversation and Candlelight	4:30 pm Youth Council	
5:30 pm Men's Chorus	Monday, October 15 10:00 am Prayer Shawl	Sunday, October 28 8:45 am Traditional Worship Service
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal	Tuesday, October 16 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study	9:45 am Sunday School
6:30 pm Christianity and World Religions	6:00 pm Under the Bridge	11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
6:30 pm A Crazy, Holy Grace	Wednesday, October 17 4:00 pm Student Ministry	11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
6:30 pm Choir	4:30 pm Wiser Together	Monday, October 29 10:00 am Prayer Shawl
Thursday, October 4 9:30 am Sewing Group	5:00 pm Midweek Meetup	Tuesday, October 30 9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
10:00 am The Open Door Cafe	5:00 pm 55+ Conversation and Candlelight	
Sunday, October 7—Commitment Sunday 8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	5:30 pm Men's Chorus	
9:45 am Sunday School	6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal	
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	6:30 pm Christianity and World Religions	
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	6:30 pm Choir	
4:00 pm Block Party	Thursday, October 18 9:30 am Sewing Group	
5:00 pm Neverthirst Fun Run	10:00 am The Open Door Cafe	
Monday, October 8 7:30 am Children's Mission Field Trip	Sunday, October 21 7:30 am Red Cross Blood Drive	
8:00 am UMW Executive Committee	8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	
10:00 am Prayer Shawl	9:45 am Sunday School	
Tuesday, October 9 8:30 am Maintenance	11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	
9:30 am Beck Walker Bible Study	11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	
6:00 pm Under the Bridge	Monday, October 22 55+ Tour of the Ark and Creation Museums	
Wednesday, October 10 4:00 pm Student Ministry	9:30 am UMW Hope-Love Circles	
4:30 pm Wiser Together	10:00 am UMW Joy Circle	
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup	10:00 am Prayer Shawl	
5:00 pm 55+ Conversation and Candlelight	Tuesday, October 23 55+ Tour of the Ark and Creation Museums	
5:30 pm Men's Chorus	9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study	
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal	Wednesday, October 24 55+ Tour of the Ark and Creation Museums	
6:30 pm Christianity and World Religions	4:30 pm Wiser Together	
6:30 pm Choir	6:00 pm Halloween Carnival	
Thursday, October 11 9:30 am Sewing Group		



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Linda Bailey, by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Birdsong, June Dodson, Chris and Ann Henderson, Phyllis Weaver

Johnnie Drennen, by Gene and Jean Brown, Allen and Diana White, Joseph and Ellen Williams

Elmer Palm, by Charlie and Jan Holliday, Mo and Pam Powers

BUILDING FUND

Elmer Palm, by Charles and Esther Stephens

Jim Wible, by Lynn Jackson, Art Moorehead

FOOD PANTRY

Ken Adams, by Ron and Loy Jones, Neal and Jeanne Matthews, Jim and Rebecca MCrary

Linda Bailey, by Janet Harris

CRISTIN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Marilyn Cook, by Harry and Peggy Hill
ROOM 35226

Tom Lyle, by Pony Green

In Honor of...

YOUTH MINISTRY

Bill Garwick, by Joe and Ellen Kerns

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Lisa Avant, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Bob Walker, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

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

X



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
(205) 822-0910

X

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816**

follow us



Block Party

**October 7th
4:00-6:00pm**

Free hotdogs, chips and drinks;
carnival games and prizes,
inflatables, climbing wall, trackless
train, music, and facepainting.

A Free Neighborhood Event
www.BluffParkUMC.org

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 24 • 6:00pm-8:00pm

**"There will be carnival games,
prizes, a haunted house,
inflatables, a cake walk, food
and more."**

Come in costume and celebrate with your friends and neighbors in Bluff Park
Carnival-wide passes \$8 -- Free access and food for parents.
All proceeds support the children's ministry at the church.



NEVERTHIRST FUN RUN

Put on your running shoes and help provide clean water to people who need it.

On Sunday, October 7th, we are holding a one-mile Fun Run here in Bluff Park. This fun event is open for the whole family – all ages can join in! The registration fee is \$20. You can register online and on the day of the event. Extra T-Shirts will be available at the event but we can not guarantee sizes.

Sign-in, t-shirt pick-up and on-site registration will take place in the church parking lot at 4:00pm, and the run starts at 5:30pm.

REGISTER TODAY!
BluffParkUMC.org/funrun