



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Mission Updates...

The past month has marked an extremely busy season of missions here at Bluff Park UMC. In the late summer we gathered shoeboxes for Christmas to be delivered to children in South and Central America during the holidays. It takes several months for the boxes to reach their final destinations before Christmas. Those boxes were delivered to the UMCOR warehouse in Decatur for shipping just as hurricane season began to accelerate.

Two major hurricanes made landfall so far this year and Bluff Park has responded. We gathered a special offering of over \$10,400 to distribute to UMCOR and also put boots on the ground to help. A team of volunteers traveled to the UMCOR warehouse in Decatur to help prepare flood buckets for delivery to hurricane victims. Another team of nine people traveled to Wilmington, NC to prepare and serve meals to people relocated after Hurricane Florence destroyed their homes.

October was also a big month for us to gather resources to share during the winter here in the greater Birmingham area. When the weather turns cold, the homeless need help staying warm and dry. We have been gathering socks and blankets to share through local homeless missions. We had a Blessing of the Blankets in worship on October 27th and they will be distributed in the coming weeks.

As needs arise, the members of Bluff Park United Methodist Church continue to respond and provide food, water, and shelter in the name of Jesus Christ!

Remembering Our Saints

Walter (Ken) Adams
Linda Bailey
John David Baird
Leland Brown
Annis Cammack
Ed Cox
Johnnie Drennen
Geoff Huddleston
Sarah Laughlin
Reginald LeCren
George Nash
Elmer Palm
Bill Rabb
Carolyn Schaefer
Marianna Sturdivant
Mary Frances Westwater
Jim Wible
Brett Wood

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On the same day in 1788, he writes, "I always find this a comfortable day."

Sunday, November 4, we remember the saints of Bluff Park in morning worship.

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

As we move into the month of November, we have many things to be thankful for as a church family. Our new building addition is up and running and the youth have begun worshipping in their new space! Even a few basketball teams have begun playing in the new gymnasium. We also have had a wonderful response in missions and outreach as a church family with generous offerings to hurricane relief and blankets for the homeless here in Birmingham.



At the same time, we have experienced a lot of changes to our staff this past month. I do want to share with you the good news that our church family has found a wonderful interim choir director for our Traditional Worship services. Mr. Art DeWeese retired as a church choir director in Paducah, Kentucky, and moved to Birmingham to be closer to his grandchildren. We are so very blessed to have found an interim director with his experience and expertise! We hope to be able to announce more about our Student Ministry by next week.

One new thing we are doing this year is a Veterans Day Weekend lunch in the Fellowship Hall on November 11. We will have an all-American menu and welcome all ages to come for fun, fellowship and patriotic music offered by our very own Men's Chorus and the Hoover High School Jazz Band - First Edition. Join us for a family-friendly event where we will honor our veterans!

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



Christmas @ Bluff Park

The Advent and Christmas season is an important and cherished time in the life of the church. We prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child throughout the season of Advent with prayer services, a special Advent Sunday sermon series, and special holiday worship services.

During the Christmas season, we also make time for mission activities like the Festival of the Three Kings, food pantry distributions, and the distribution of socks and blankets to the homeless that were collected in October. Our children bring the Christmas story to life with their annual pageant, and we gather on Christmas Eve for a moving candlelight worship service welcoming the Christ child in traditional worship and The Gathering.

We have made a few changes to our Christmas schedule this holiday season. First, we have adjusted the worship times on Christmas Eve to 3:00 and 5:00 pm. And, as we are still in the search for a new choir director, there will not be a Christmas choir concert this year.

Kids Christmas @ Bluff Park

Christmas activities in our children's area take place early in the advent season. On November 25th the Annual Advent Wreath Workshop takes place in the old gym. On Saturday, December 1st, the children will take part in the Bluff Park Christmas Parade representing our church during this community celebration. And, the annual Christmas Pageant and church-wide Christmas Party take place on December 2nd.



Christmas Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship
8:45am and 11:00am

Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 2nd 8:45am and 11:00am

Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
December 24th @ 3:00pm and 5:00pm

The Gathering Christmas Eve Service
December 24th @ 5:00pm

Advent Morning Prayer

Advent Morning Prayer will begin on Thursday, December 6th at 7:30 AM in the sanctuary. This is a service of Prayer, Scripture and Holy Communion. The service will be held on each Thursday morning of Advent (December 6, 13 and 20). The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

As we approach the holidays, we have a number of great things going on in the Children's Ministry at BPUMC! To begin with, during the month of November, we will continue to teach children the importance of sharing the love of Jesus Christ with others and treating our neighbors as ourselves by sponsoring three children from the Festival of Three Kings ministry, and taking the children of our church to help shop for Christmas gifts for these three children. Along the same lines, the children of our church will spend this month making Christmas cards for our church's Food Pantry and for our church's shut-ins.

In addition, we will be focusing during the month of November and December on teaching the children of our church the true meaning of Christmas and how they can celebrate that in their lives. On November 25th, we will have our annual Advent Wreath Workshop for families of our church and community. Families that attend will create an advent wreath, eat dinner together, and receive an advent wreath devotional book that they will be encouraged to use during the month of December to help remind them of the true meaning of Christmas! Additionally, the children of our church will be presenting their annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 2nd. As they perform the Christmas story and sing Christmas hymns together that night, it is our hope and prayer that they, as well as all the people who attend (everyone is welcome!), will be reminded of what Christmas is all about!



STUDENT MINISTRY

Sunday Evenings

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

BLUFF PARK STUDENTS

Nov 16-18
Fall Retreat

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

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

55+ MINISTRY

Dinner Dance

"WOW! What a wonderful event!" "I can't believe how much fun we have had!" "Is it okay to have this much laughter, music and dancing at the church?" All of these comments and many more were heard this past summer at the BPUMC Summer Dinner Dance. The rocking and tuneful instruments of "Pocket Change" filled the hall. Vocalist sang out favorite hits from the 1960's to the present era. Light from beautiful hurricane lanterns swirled in the glass, a cold punch was sampled. Soon to be seen were couples dancing, line dancing and the formation of the dancing train - members held on to each other and danced around the room.

The unparalleled dinner was a smash hit. Rosemary Dallum created the most incredibly delicious meal: Roasted Salmon or Chicken Core Don Blue. What a joy it was!

At the end of the evening someone remarked, "The 55+ events of the year, and especially this one, has reached a group that has never been targeted before! Thank you so very much for reaching out to us and the many accomplishments." Doxology!

BPUMC Reading Tutors

Did you know that by helping a student to read well you are helping a child become a successful person? If a child cannot read well it cannot understand math instruction, science or history. A child's ability to read and comprehend meaning from print is the pathway to a better life.

Bluff Park Elementary School has invited Bluff Park UMC members to read with elementary children during each weekday. Becky Blankenship founded "A Time to Read" in 2017 by offering tutoring at our church. After discussion with the reading tutors this June it was decided to move the program to Bluff Park Elementary. Becky and her team were connected to the school through the help of Julie Adams and the reading specialist at Bluff Park. These reports were heard from the Tutors: "Sometimes I just listen to what my pupil needs to talk about." "My child was so excited to read with me." "Smiles and enjoyment are the highlights of each session." If you would like to join the tutoring ministry please contact Becky Blankenship. You may select your own day and time.

Congregational Care Team

For quite a while Ellen Finley has been collecting the flowers from worship and transforming them into individual arrangements. The arrangements are then delivered to someone who is sick or shut in. The flower delivery turns into a connection with a BPUMC member. Those who are going through a difficult time in life receive encouragement! If you have experienced sickness, job loss, death of a loved one, divorce or any kind of difficulty you know how much you appreciate someone visiting, calling or writing to you to know that you are not alone. The Congregational Care Team is making a difference - because they express their care. Thank you Team!!!!!!

"Home for the Holidays"

Enjoy the supreme delight of listening to the Alabama Symphony and Extraordinary Vocalist perform the spectacular music of Christmas. Travel with Bluff Park UMC Friends to the Wright Center at SU on Friday, December 7 th . Performance at 7 PM ~ Tickets \$49 ~ Contact fgatch@bpumc.org.

Veteran's Day Lunch

On Sunday, November 11th @ noon, we will have a very special Veteran's Day lunch. We'll have an All-American menu featuring fried chicken. There will be music by the BPUMC Men's Chorus and the Hoover High School Jazz Band. Veterans will be recognized and we will collect packages of Oreos for currently deployed service members. This is a family-friendly event. There is no cost, but donations are welcome. Register online: bluffparkumc.org/veteranslunch



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!

The Festival of Three Kings

Help others experience the joy of Christmas by providing gifts to children. When you sponsor a child, you will receive a "wish list" to assist you in shopping. You may sponsor a child individually or as a Sunday School class, family or other group. Each sponsor is asked to spend no more than \$100 per child. If you prefer, you can sponsor a child with a contribution by bringing a check marked 'Festival of Three Kings' to the church office and leave the shopping to us. Gifts are due back to Bluff Park UMC between Sunday, November 18 and Sunday, November 25. Sign up lists are in each Sunday School Class and at the Narthex Welcome Center. Wish lists will be available October 21. Please call Debi Whitcomb (979-7626) if you have any questions. The Festival of Three Kings is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

White Christmas Offering

Each Advent, our church takes up the White Christmas Offering in support of the United Methodist Children's Home. Their mission is to heal children, unite families, and change lives in northern Alabama. Through your support, children are placed in safe and loving foster homes and are able to continue to be cared for in college as they transition into independent adulthood. Simply assign checks or envelopes to "White Christmas Offering" in morning worship throughout Advent, or by dropping off your gift in our Financial Office. The Festival of Three Kings is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.



Member Updates

NEW MEMBERS

- John and Chari Zeiss – 9/30/18

BAPTISMS

- Charlie Jackson Detlaff Johnston – 9/30/18
- Ozzie Robert William Mikol – 10/14/18

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Heather and Greg Skaggs on the birth of a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Skaggs on October 2nd.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Margery "Dodie" LeCren on the passing of her husband Reginald on October 5th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Amy Baird on the passing of her husband John on October 21st. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Patty Cain on the passing of her husband Charles. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

November 1

John 11:32-44 | Psalm 24

November 2

Ruth 1:11-18 | Psalm 54

November 3

Ruth 2:1-14 | Psalm 55

November 4

Mark 12:28-34 | Psalm 24

November 5

Romans 12:17-21 | Psalm 26

November 6

Acts 7:17-29 | Psalm 62

November 7

John 13:31-35 | Psalm 72

November 8

Romans 5:6-11 | Psalm 73

November 9

Hebrews 9:15-24 | Psalm 74

November 10

Mark 11:12-24 | Psalm 75

November 11

Mark 12:38-44 | Psalm 96

November 12

1 Timothy 5:1-8 | Psalm 77

November 13

1 Timothy 5:9-16 | Psalm 78:1-39

November 14

Luke 4:16-30 | Psalm 81

November 15

1 Timothy 6:11-21 | Psalm 83

November 16

Colossians 2:6-15 | Psalm 88

November 17

Mark 12:1-12 | Psalm 90

November 18

Mark 13:1-8 | Psalm 67

November 19

Hebrews 10:26-31 | Psalm 89:1-19

November 20

Deuteronomy 26:5-10 | Psalm 99

November 21

Mark 13:9-23 | Psalm 101

November 22

Acts 7:54-8:1 | Psalm 147

November 23

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Psalm 102

November 24

John 3:31-36 | Psalm 108

November 25

John 18:33-37 | Psalm 145

November 26

2 Kings 23:15-25 | Psalm 106:1-18

November 27

1 Samuel 17:55-18:5 | Psalm 120

November 28

John 16:25-33 | Psalm 129

November 29

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Psalm 132

November 30

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

Psalm 34

Monthly Calendar for November 2018

Thursday, November 1	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl	10:00 am	UMW Joy Circle
9:30 am	Sewing Group		10:00 am	Prayer Shawl
10:00 am	The Open Door Cafe	Tuesday, November 13	Tuesday, November 27	
Sunday, November 4—Daylight Saving Ends		8:30 am	8:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study
8:45 am	Traditional Worship Service	9:30 am	9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study
9:45 am	Sunday School	6:00 pm	Wednesday, November 28	
11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	Wednesday, November 14	4:00 pm	Student Ministry
11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service	Last Midweek of Semester	5:30 pm	Men's Chorus
4:30 pm	Children's Council	4:00 pm	6:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
6:00 pm	Church Council Meeting	4:30 pm	6:30 pm	Choir
Monday, November 5		5:00 pm	Thursday, November 29	
8:00 am	UMW Executive	5:00 pm	9:30 am	Sewing Group
	Committee	5:30 pm	10:00 am	The Open Door Cafe
10:00 am	Prayer Shawl	6:00 pm	Friday, November 30	
Tuesday, November 6—Election Day		6:30 pm	5:00 pm	Preschool Christmas Story
7:00 am	Statewide Election	6:30 pm		
9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study	6:30 pm		
Wednesday, November 7		Thursday, November 15		
9:00 am	Food Pantry	9:30 am		
4:00 pm	Student Ministry	10:00 am		
4:30 pm	Wiser Together	Sunday, November 18		
5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	8:45 am		
5:00 pm	55+ Conversation and	9:45 am		
	Candlelight	11:00 am		
5:30 pm	Men's Chorus	11:00 am		
6:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal	5:00 pm		
6:30 pm	Christianity and World			
	Religions	Monday, November 19		
6:30 pm	LifePath Strengths Course	10:00 am		
6:30 pm	Choir	Tuesday, November 20		
Thursday, November 8		9:30 am		
9:30 am	Sewing Group	6:00 pm		
10:00 am	The Open Door Cafe	Wednesday, November 21		
Friday, November 9		6:30 pm		
12:00 pm	Friendship Class Luncheon	Thursday, November 22—Thanksgiving Day		
Sunday, November 11		CHURCH CLOSED		
8:45 am	Traditional Worship Service	Friday, November 23rd		
9:30 am	UMW Coffee Social	CHURCH CLOSED		
9:45 am	Sunday School			
11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	Sunday, November 25		
11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service	8:45 am		
12:00 pm	Veteran's Day Lunch	9:45 am		
12:30 pm	Youth Council	11:00 am		
Monday, November 12—Veteran's Day		11:00 am		
CHURCH CLOSED		4:45 pm		
7:30 am	Children's Mission Field	Monday, November 26		
	Trip	9:30 am		



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS In Memory of...

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Linda Bailey, by MPT Operating Partnership

Johnnie Drennen, by Douglas and Debra Drennen, Nell Smith

Frances Westwater, by Tim and Ellen Finley

BUILDING FUND

Marilyn Klyce Cook, by the Vitality Class

Elmer Palm, by W. T. and Dot Shannon

Mary Frances Westwater, by Jack and Carole Armistead, Marvin and Diane Broome, Jean Glaze, William and Bonnie Hopper, Bob and Ann Nelson, Wilson and Martha Thomas, Wesley Forum Class

Howard and Elizabeth Whitcomb, by Robert and Martha McCrary

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Peggy Sizemore, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Robert McClure, by Bob and Betsy Brooks

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



Community Thanksgiving Service

Join us Sunday, November 18th at 5:00pm
Reception following the service

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 18
at 5:00 pm

Bluff Park UMC's main Sanctuary

This is a joint worship service with Shades Crest Baptist, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Church on the Bluff, and Bluff Park United Methodist Church.

X



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Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life!

Our Purpose

Bluff Park United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world around us. We seek to guide, develop and nurture persons to deepen their faith and service to God through vibrant worship and dynamic opportunities for learning, growth and life-giving mission.

Our Vision

Bluff Park United Methodist Church seeks to be a community creating relational experiences to help all people find life and know through a relationship with God: who they are, why they matter, and how they can serve the world in love.