



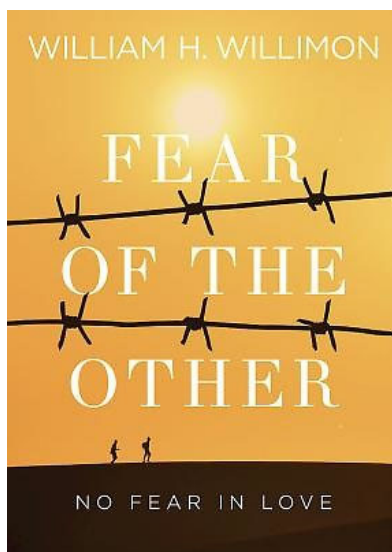
BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Beginning a New Year of Ministry

As Christmas and New Year come to a close we look ahead to a new year of ministry in Bluff Park. On Wednesday, January 9th, MidWeek Meetup returns for the Winter/Spring semester. We have a number of new learning opportunities on Wednesdays. You can see them listed on page 3. God's blessings to you in the New Year!

“Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love” Book Study

A five-week roundtable discussion starts on January 9th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. After the MidWeek Meetup dinner, we will gather around to talk about the book “Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love,” by William H. Willimon. In this no-nonsense book, reliable spiritual guide, Will Willimon, invites readers to consider the gospel command to love (and not merely tolerate) those considered to be “Other” or outside mainstream Christian culture. He identifies and offers people of faith concrete, everyday ways persons can welcome others without annihilating their differences. Please contact Charles Prueter at charles.prueter@gmail.com or 205-792-2639 if you would like a copy of the book. For e-readers, the Kindle Edition is also available on Amazon.



Winter/Spring Calendar

JANUARY

- 6 The Gathering 1 Year Anniversary Celebration
- 9 Restart of Midweek Meetup
- 13 Strengths-Based Parenting Night 5-7pm
- 20 Skate Night
- 27 Chili/Cornbread/Cookie Cook-off

FEBRUARY

- 8-9 Bargains on the Bluff
- 10 Scout Sunday
- 17 Strengths-Based Marriage Night 5-7pm
- 22-24 Youth Discovery Weekend

MARCH

- 1 Silent Auction
- 5 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 6 Ash Wednesday Service/Lent Begins
- 7 Lenten Morning Prayer begins
- 24 Blood Drive
- 27 Spring Break No MidWeek

APRIL

- 13 Easter Egg Hunt
- 14 Palm Sunday
- 18 Maundy Thursday
- 19 Good Friday
- 21 Easter Sunday
- 28 Confirmation Sunday

MAY

- 5 HS Graduate Strengths Workshop
- 8 Final Midweek Meetup
- 12 Mother's Day

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

It seems like it was only a year or so ago that we started this decade. Now we are about to begin on the final year of the 2010s. This has been a decade of dramatic shifts in culture and technology. At the same time, we still face age-old human issues. For the past two months, the men's study that I am a part of has been studying 1 and 2 Kings from the Old Testament. Over and over again, we read about how the kings of Israel and Judah forgot about their primary roles and began to operate in opposition to God. You see, the kings were to lead the people towards God and they were to shepherd the people. Instead, other gods were worshipped and money was redirected from the poor to those in power. They forgot about God to the point at which they even misplaced the Scriptures!

Once they found the Scriptures, they slowly began to make a new start together as a people. A new year is a good time for a new start, isn't it? We attempt it every year with a resolution or a promise to ourselves. When it comes to our faith journey, we can make several decisions to start the year off on the right foot:

1) We can read the Bible more frequently. Sign up for the LifeTrack daily devotional readings or join the Bishop of the North Alabama Conference in reading through the Bible in one year.

2) We can commit to staying in love with God through our habits and practices. During the months of January and February, we will be highlighting the Means of Grace which not only help us connect with God and His grace, but they also keep God in our vision so that we are less likely to go astray. We will discuss a different means of grace in Traditional Worship and there is even a study available for Sunday School classes or for a Midweek Meetup class.

So, how are you going to make a commitment to start 2019 off on the right foot? Don't forget to get an accountability partner who can lovingly remind you of your commitment!



Mike

We believe that to grow toward becoming fully-formed disciples of Christ, we must be life-long learners. The opportunities listed here offer us the chance to learn about God and each other through holistic study and fellowship. By learning together, we grow together as a community and we grow stronger in our relationship with and understanding of God.

Wednesdays

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Renovate: Building a Life with God
4:30-5:30 pm—Starting January 9th
Parlor

RICK AND TINA HARDY BIBLE STUDY

6:30-7:30 pm—Starting January 9th
Room 265 (Seekers Classroom)

THE FIVE MEANS OF GRACE

6:30-7:30 pm—Starting January 30th

WHAT ABOUT OUR MONEY? A FAITH RESPONSE (UMW MISSION STUDY)

6:30-7:30 pm—January 9th-23rd
Led by Leonette Slay, Rev. Angela Martin and others

LIFEPATH: LIVING IN MINISTRY

6:30 pm—Starting January 16th
Led by Mike Holly

LIFEPATH: LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS

6:30 pm—Starting January 16th

Other Weekdays

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

7:30-8:00 pm—starting March 7th
Sanctuary

SIMON PETER BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Mornings
9:30-11:00 am—Starting January 8th
Led by Becky Walker
Fellowship Hall

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Monday Mornings
10:00 am-12:00 pm
Room 371

SEWING CLASS

9:30am-12:00 pm
Led by Pam Bray
Room 265 (Seekers Classroom)
Participants must bring their own sewing machine and projects.

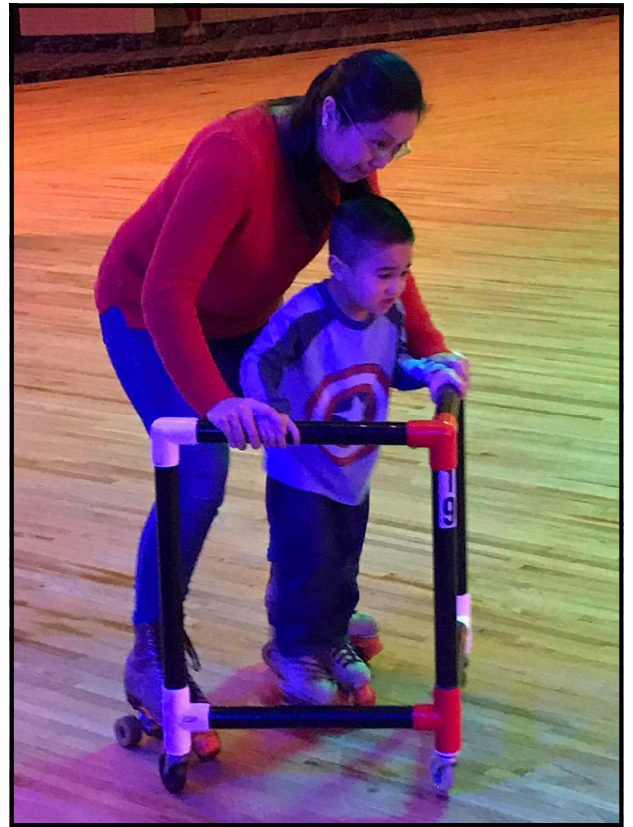


**LEARNING &
GROWING TOGETHER**

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We in the Children's Ministry hope and pray that everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! As we begin 2019, I would love to invite each of you to join the Children's Ministry staff in praying for the children of our church and the children of our community throughout this new year. We believe in the power of prayer, and we would love it if as many people as possible would pray that every child that comes into contact with our church this year in any capacity would learn who God is, how much God loves them, how they can have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, how they can grow in that relationship, and/or how they can share the love of God with others! Further, we would love it if you would join us in praying for all of our wonderful teachers: that God would give them a strong passion and love for our children, as well as wisdom and insight into how best to teach our children about the love of Jesus Christ! Would you commit to praying for all of our children and teachers this year?

Two additional things we want to let you know about this month are the annual church wide skate party and our weekly email. First, we would like to invite everyone to a skate party at Roller Motion on Sunday, January 20th from 5:00-7:00. Skate rentals and food are free, and all are welcome, so please feel free to invite friends! Secondly, the Children's Ministry sends out an email every Monday throughout the year that details all of the upcoming events, Sunday school/children church lessons, important information, etc. It is the best way to keep up with what is going on in the children's ministry! If you would like to be added to this weekly children's email, please email Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org! We are excited for the new year, and cannot wait to see what God has in store for our children this year!



STUDENT MINISTRY

January Series: Big Changes

We all know that the new year is a time to make new year's resolutions in our lives. What we also know that is that the vast majority of our new year's resolutions fail by 6 weeks into the year. What would happen if we stopped trying to make new year's resolutions and started to be open to God making Big Changes in our lives. In this series we will explore 4 Biblical Characters who had God sized changes made in their lives and how it changed themselves and the world. Join us at Holy Ground starting January 9 for this new and exciting series!

January Events

January 13- The student ministry believes in the importance of serving others the way Jesus served his community. To that end we will begin our Serve Nights back with a service project this January 13!

January 20- Each year the children and youth ministries join together to have a Bluff Park Family Skate Night! This year we will have the event at Roller Motion in Bessemer. Food will be provided and all activities are free. So come out and join us whether it is your whole family or just yourself we will all have a great time! (Drop off and pick up at Roller Motion)

January 27- We are excited to announce a brand new monthly event starting this January...Mystery Nights! Mystery Nights are a fun and exciting night to come and bring a friend to. Mystery Nights! Mystery Nights are fun filled nights with a mystery theme and activity planned each time. These are secret destination nights where the youth will not know what we are doing until we have arrived at our mystery destination. Each mystery night is a flat \$10 and that covers food, transportation and the activity for that night. These are going to be so much fun!

Discovery 2019

February 22-24, 2019

Registration

January 1- February 11

Cost: \$75 for Jr. High and Sr. High

Discovery is our biggest treat of the year! It is a weekend of fun, worship, and spiritual growth, and it all happens here at Bluff Park UMC.

Discovery is unique because it is designed for Jr. High participants and Sr. High leaders. Sr. High leaders are required to attend 2 of the 3 trainings in order to participate, the training dates are February 3, 6, and 10. We will have a hard end to registration where NO REGISTRATIONS will be taken after February 11 so make sure to get your registration in ASAP! Registrations are online at www.bluffparkumc.org/ students starting January 1!

55+ MINISTRY

Bluff Park UMC has a wealth of ministry opportunities for people 55+ and their friends. Activities abound for those who are not yet ready to retire! Dancing, concerts, free movies, travel for learning and fun. In addition to fun social and learning opportunities, we serve the Bluff Park community by reading with elementary children, delivering flowers to the homebound, writing cards to the sick, and more. Join us for a new year of fun and service.

One of our favorite weekly activities is Conversation and Candlelight in the Faith Classroom on Wednesday nights from 5-6:30 pm. Everyone is invited. Pick up your food in the Fellowship Hall and join us for a time of relaxed fellowship. MidWeek activities resume on January 9th. We can't wait to see you there!



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!

January 10

Activities resume for the New
Year. Our theme for the month
is *New Year: New You!*



Silent Auction fundraiser

Friday, March 1st
6:30-10:30 pm
The Barn at Shady Lane
290 Sunbelt Parkway
Birmingham, AL 35022

Dinner, Dancing with Live Band, Games, Fellowship,
Live Auction and Silent Auction!

Tickets go on sale January 13th



FREE FOOD AND SKATE RENTALS

January 20th
5:00-7:00pm
@Roller Motion

2474 Morgan Road, Bessemer, Alabama

The Gathering at Bluff Park Celebrates One Year

On January 6th, 2019, The Gathering at Bluff Park will celebrate one year of ministry at BPUMC! It has been an incredible year of worship, friendship, music, events, and meeting new friends. We've welcomed new members, seen old friends return, and most importantly, proclaimed Christ each Sunday around the table! Our small groups, Common Tables, have seen exciting growth throughout this year. When the service began, we had one young adult small group meeting weekly in members' homes. This coming January, we will have three confirmed Common Tables with young adults aged 30 and under and another comprised of those around age 40. Almost all of these tables contain many people that weren't involved at BPUMC previously. God has truly blessed this ministry and we can't wait to see how it continues to grow.

At The Gathering, we think that one of God's favorite things to do is celebrate with us - in that spirit, we want to invite all of our BPUMC Family to celebrate a year of ministry in The Gathering. On January 6th during the Sunday school hour, we are inviting the entire church and community to a breakfast in the fellowship hall where you can hear music, share a meal, meet our new people, and hear a little bit more about where God is leading this exciting new ministry of our church. We hope you'll join us at 9:45 am on January 6th!



Member Updates

NEW MEMBERS

- Stephen and Jenny Bell – 12/16/18

BAPTISMS

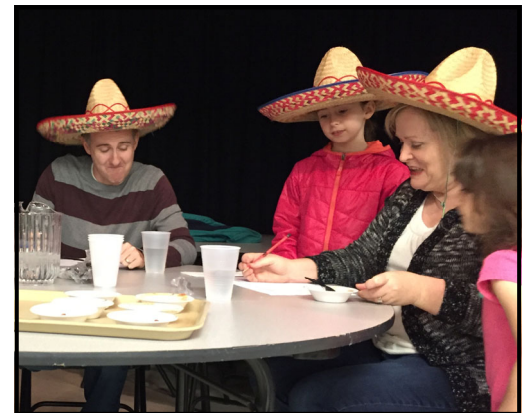
- William Ingram Worley (Graham) – 12/09/18

LIFETRACK

- January 1
Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 | Psalm 148
- January 2
James 3:13-18 | Psalm 34
- January 3
Luke 8:16-21 | Psalm 72
- January 4
Acts 7:44-53 | Psalm 85
- January 5
John 1:10-18 | Psalm 98
- January 6
Matthew 2:1-12 | Psalm 97
- January 7
Ephesians 4:17-5:1 | Psalm 115
- January 8
Ephesians 5:15-20 | Psalm 112
- January 9
Numbers 24:15-19 | Psalm 122
- January 10
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 | Psalm 139
- January 11
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 | Psalm 92
- January 12
1 Corinthians 2:11-16
Psalm 104:1-18
- January 13
Luke 3:15-22 | Psalm 147
- January 14
Ephesians 6:10-17 | Psalm 2
- January 15
1 John 5:13-21 | Psalm 3
- January 16
Luke 11:33-36 | Psalm 4
- January 17
Jeremiah 3:1-5 | Psalm 6
- January 18
Jeremiah 3:19-25 | Psalm 67
- January 19
Jeremiah 4:1-4 | Psalm 110
- January 20
John 2:1-11 | Psalm 149
- January 21
Romans 12:9-21 | Psalm 9
- January 22
1 Corinthians 1:3-17 | Psalm 28
- January 23
Luke 5:33-39 | Psalm 38
- January 24
Romans 7:1-6 | Psalm 37:1-18
- January 25
Romans 12:1-8 | Psalm 19
- January 26
Luke 2:39-52 | Psalm 30
- January 27
Luke 4:14-21 | Psalm 63
- January 28
1 Corinthians 14:1-12 | Psalm 52
- January 29
Jeremiah 36:11-26 | Psalm 47
- January 30
Luke 4:38-44 | Psalm 53
- January 31
Acts 10:44-48 | Psalm 60

Monthly Calendar for January 2019

Tuesday, January 1—New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	7:00 pm	Book Club
Wednesday, January 2	5:00 pm	55+ Conversation and Candlelight	Friday, January 25	
5:30 pm Men's Chorus	5:30 pm	Men's Chorus	5:00 pm	Fishermen Class Social
6:30 pm Choir	6:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal	Sunday, January 27	
Sunday, January 6	6:30 pm	Choir	8:45 am	Traditional Worship Service
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	6:30 pm	Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love Book Study	9:45 am	Sunday School
9:45 am Sunday School		Rick and Tina Hardy Bible Study	11:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	6:30 pm	LifePath: Living In Ministry	11:00 am	Traditional Worship Service
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service		What About Our Money? A Faith Response	Monday, January 28	
Monday, January 7	6:30 pm	LifePath: Living Your Strengths	9:30 am	UMW Hope-Love Circles
10:00 am Prayer Shawl		LifePath: Living In Ministry	10:00 am	UMW Joy Circle
Tuesday, January 8	6:30 pm	Thursday, January 17	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl
8:30 am Maintenance		10:00 am The Open Door Cafe	Tuesday, January 29	
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study	6:30 pm	Sunday, January 20	9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm Under the Bridge		8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	Wednesday, January 30	
Wednesday, January 9		9:45 am Sunday School	4:00 pm	Student Ministry
4:00 pm Student Ministry	10:00 am	11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	4:30 pm	Pastors' Bible Study
4:30 pm Pastors' Bible Study	Sunday, January 20	Traditional Worship Service	5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup	8:45 am	Church-wide Skate Party	5:00 pm	55+ Conversation and Candlelight
5:00 pm 55+ Conversation and Candlelight	9:45 am			Men's Chorus
5:30 pm Men's Chorus	11:00 am		5:30 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir	5:00 pm		6:00 pm	Choir
6:30 pm Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love Book Study	Monday, January 21		6:30 pm	Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love Book Study
6:30 pm Rick and Tina Hardy Bible Study	10:00 am		6:30 pm	The Five Means of Grace
6:30 pm What About Our Money? A Faith Response	Tuesday, January 22		6:30 pm	Rick and Tina Hardy Bible Study
Thursday, January 10	9:30 am			LifePath: Living Your Strengths
10:00 am The Open Door Cafe	Wednesday, January 23			LifePath: Living In Ministry
Friday, January 11	4:00 pm		6:30 pm	
12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon	4:30 pm		Thursday, January 31	
Sunday, January 13	5:00 pm		10:00 am	The Open Door Cafe
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service	5:00 pm			
9:45 am Sunday School	5:30 pm			
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park	6:00 pm			
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service	6:30 pm			
Monday, January 14	6:30 pm			
8:00 am UMW Executive Committee	6:30 pm			
10:00 am Prayer Shawl	6:30 pm			
Tuesday, January 15	6:30 pm			
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study	6:30 pm			
6:00 pm Under the Bridge	6:30 pm			
Wednesday, January 16	Thursday, January 24			
4:00 pm Student Ministry	9:30 am			
4:30 pm Pastors' Bible Study	6:30 pm			



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Gene Brown, by Bennett and Schroder Families, Ray and Joyce Crum, Emily Warnberg

N. Hahamis Family, by Xanthi Hahamis

Geoff Huddleston, by Mike and Beth Bennett

WHITE CHRISTMAS

John Baird, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

Tom Finley, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

Michael Thompson, by Pony Green

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Gene Brown, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

In Honor of...

55+ MINISTRY FUND

Jim and Sara Perry, by Pony Green

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

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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.