



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Database Update Project

One of the boring but necessary aspects of church life is record keeping. The staff at Bluff Park UMC is in the process of changing the software that we use to manage all the records we keep for our membership.

This transition creates a perfect opportunity for us to review our existing records and correct any missing or outdated information before entering it into our new system.

We need your help. We are asking each household in the church to provide us with current information.

Over the past few weeks we have been sending copies of our current records to members through their Sunday School classes where they can be reviewed, corrected, and returned to the office. Check with your class leader if you haven't received a copy of your records to review.

We have also created an online membership update form. If you prefer, you can fill out this form and provide us with current information about all the members of your household in one place. The form has space to capture all of the needed information for head of household, spouse, children, and other adults living in the household.

We are working hard to make sure that the information we enter into our new church management software is as accurate as possible and appreciate your help in correcting any inaccuracies before we migrate to the new system.

You can access the online form here:

BluffParkUMC.org/member-update

A Prayer for Independence Day

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.
Inspire the minds of all women and men to whom you have committed
the responsibility of government and leadership
in the nations of the world.

Give to them the vision of truth and justice,
that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together.

Give to the people of our country
zeal for justice and strength of forbearance,
that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.

Forgive our shortcomings as a nation;
purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
We pray all these things through Jesus Christ. Amen.

(ANDY LANGFORD, U.S.A., 20TH CENT.)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The deadline for scholarship applications for the 2019-20 school year is August 1st. 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/

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Sunday Morning

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:00 am

THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK: 10:00 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00 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

At Annual Conference at the beginning of June, we heard from Bishop Farr from Missouri talk about the importance of reaching new people for Christ. Too often, churches exist for the members. This way of thinking comes from the idea that the church belongs to the members themselves. But we were told to remember that the church belongs to God. God instructs His Church to open wide and to invite more people to find life in Him.



But church leaders around the country remind us that simply being welcoming and inviting people is not enough. In order to reach new people for Christ, we must take Christ to the world. The church is not meant to exist at a fixed point under a steeple. The church is meant to be the people. The people gather for worship and fellowship and then the people scatter into the world where they take Christ to their neighbors.

This summer, we want to challenge you to take Christ to your world. It might be in your office or in your neighborhood. It might be on your vacation or to your family gatherings. Take Christ into these places and bless people in the name of Christ. Share your story and reflect the love of God to others before you ever invite them to church. Who knows, maybe in blessing others in the world you just might help them take a step towards being a part of a church one day!

A handwritten signature of Mike Holly in black ink.





The summer break from school gives our students an opportunity to take part in more ambitious mission projects. June 30th marks the twelfth year that Bluff Park Students have set out on

the Appalachia Service Project. That's over a decade of building ramps, fixing leaky roofs, winterizing walls, repairing flood damage, and building relationships and memories that will last a lifetime. Our group of students and adults will be serving this summer in Scott County, Tennessee. We are grateful for all the prayers and support that our church provides that make this service opportunity possible for our students.



Bundles of Hope

The month of July is Bluff Park's annual diaper drive for Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank!

We will be collecting both diapers and monetary donations to benefit Bundles throughout the month. We have the opportunity to again be able to cover the cost of shipping for a truckload donation from Huggies. We need to raise \$5000 to cover that cost!

The Bluff Park Food Pantry has partnered with Bundles for over 4 years. In that time we have distributed over 300,000 diapers and remain the largest distribution site for Bundles.

Donations allow us to help families that are struggling to make ends meet. With the tariffs being discussed, the price of diapers will be rising. Through our membership in the National Diaper Bank, Bundles can make your money go farther! Checks can be made to the church and noted for Bundles.

If you would prefer to donate actual diapers, sizes 4, 5, and 6 are the most popular as well as any size Pull-up. Bins are located throughout the church.

Have questions? Contact Betsy Guy at betsydguy@att.net.



Delivery of the Oreos for Soldiers

Packages of Oreo Cookies donated in 2018 will be added to care packages and then be sent out to active duty soldiers! A special thank you goes out to super volunteer Jan Harris who brought our donation to First United Methodist Church in Alpharetta, GA who will be managing the distribution process for this ministry.



Christmas Shoe Boxes!

In the heat of summer, Christmas seems a long way away. But, during the month of July, we are putting together Christmas Shoe Boxes to be distributed to children throughout Latin America at Christmas time. The Boxes have small items that the children our missionaries work with have a hard time getting. The list of needed materials is provided to you when you pick up a box. We provide the boxes and you can get them in the Narthex on Sunday



mornings. This is a project in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief and our United Methodist missionaries working in the region. Work starts so early in the year because it can take months for these shipments to reach their final destinations in time for the Christmas holiday.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! We had 300 children register for Vacation Bible School in 2018, and we are expecting at least that many again this year! While we know that many of the children who attend our VBS have a church family, we also know that for some of these children, VBS is one of the few times throughout the year that they are able to learn about and experience the love of Jesus Christ. We take that responsibility seriously, and we strive to make our Vacation Bible School at BPUMC an unforgettable week filled with excitement, fun, love, learning, and transformation, all centered around Jesus Christ.

In order to do this successfully, we need your help! It takes so many volunteers doing so many different things to run a successful Vacation Bible School for this many children! Our major need every year is Crew Leaders, and we are still in need of 5 Crew Leaders for this year's VBS! These are the key volunteers that really connect with our kids! They greet their assigned group of children each day, escort them from class to class, and join them in all the fun. Crew Leader volunteers have no prep work and no lessons to lead: they simply hang



out with and have fun with their group of children!

If you would like

to volunteer this year (July 15-19) as a Crew Leader or in any other way, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org and she will help find the perfect place for you to serve at VBS! I am proud to serve at such a loving and giving church, and I cannot wait to see and experience all the great things that are going to happen this year at Vacation Bible School! Will you join us?



STUDENT MINISTRY

Hello everyone! We are in the midst right now of gearing up for our Appalachian Service Project trip! We will be gone from June 30- July 6 with the Senior High and some awesome volunteers. We are asking that you please be in prayer for us as we are out serving and loving our neighbor just as Jesus calls us to do. We have a great relationship with ASP and we have been going for over a decade, so we know this is going to be a great trip!

We have also kicked off our summer schedule! Wednesday Nights During the summer are called Dinner, Worship, and Fun where 6-12th graders can come and get a free meal and enjoy a great time of worship together! We also have some AWESOME events planned on Sunday Nights throughout the year! Look below for our upcoming events and get excited for what's happening at Bluff Park UMC Students Ministries!



JULY ACTIVITIES

July 10
Dinner, Worship, Fun

July 14
VBS Training

July 15-19
VBS

July 21
Laser Tag

July 24
Dinner, Worship, Fun

July 28
Broomball

July 31
Dinner, Worship, Fun

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHURCH-WIDE SUMMER DANCE

Friday, July 26
6:30 – 9:30pm
In the 1st Floor Gym

Dance to the band “Pocket Change.” Songs by The Temptations, The Eagles, Garth Brooks, Rod Stewart, James Taylor, The Beatles. Songs from the past: Stand by Me, Proud Mar, Pretty Woman, My Girl, Margueritaville, and Mustang Sally.

Join us for Desserts and Fresh Brewed Wild Roast Coffee.
Donation of \$5.00 per person.

Prepare for the Dance with lessons by Bill & Paulette Pearson in the first floor gym 5:30–7:00 pm on Mondays July 15th and 22nd.

Learn the basic steps of East Coast Swing and Rumba.

To sign up for the lessons and/or the dance email Bill Pearson at bpwp@bellsouth.net

Sponsored by the Adult Ministry Council.

The Open Door Café

Exercise—9:30 AM—Meet & Greet—
10 AM—Programs – 10:30 AM –
Lunch—11:30 AM—Games & Movies—12:30pm

Thursdays In The Fellowship Hall
All are Welcome!

July 4
Closed for the Holiday

July 11
The World of the Masons
Presented by Cortez Bowlin,
Masonic Scholar

July 18
Closed for Vacation Bible School

July 25
Leanne Messer
Business Development Coordinator
Brookdale Senior Living

Worship Online Whenever You Are Away

Over the past few months we have put in a lot of work creating Livestreams of our Traditional Worship Service and The Gathering Worship Service each week. We installed new equipment, programmed the sound mixers, and more so you can stay connected even when you are away from home.

The weekly Livestreams can be found on our Facebook Pages and there is also a dedicated page on our website where you can tune in live each week. There is a link on the upper right of our website that will take you to the Livestream page.

If you are not able to tune in to the live broadcast, the full service recording is available immediately after the service on the website and Facebook.

In addition, the weekly sermon from the Traditional Service continues to be published on our website in both



audio and video format. You can also access the sermon audios as a podcast through Stitcher or iTunes.

No matter where life takes you, you can stay connected to worship with your church family here at Bluff Park.

Meet the Staff

NAME: Samuel J. (Jay) Tumminello

JOB TITLE: Organist/Pianist

BRIEF DESCRIBE YOUR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to playing the organ and piano, I get the privilege of working collaboratively with Art to create and shape the musical aspects of our worship each week. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented choir at Bluff Park, it's hard to think of my work as a job!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR ROLE?

I joined the music staff almost three years ago, and the privilege of working with Lonnie the last two years of his service at Bluff Park. Prior to working at Bluff Park, I was the organist at the national cathedral of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in New York City. In earlier years, I worked in Huntsville at Holmes Street UMC, and then Epworth UMC while Dr. Andy Wolfe was serving that congregation.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

The absolute favorite part of my job is getting to spend time with the wonderful folks in our choir. There is great chemistry and camaraderie in that room each Wednesday and Sunday. You can't help but to enjoy making music together!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I enjoy the company of some fine friends, and Maxine -my 3 year old shih tzu- is always happy to have me at home after long days of rehearsal and music direction with Birmingham Southern College and UAB.

FAVORITE THING TO DO AWAY FROM WORK?

You would think I would want to take a break from music, but started playing accordion 2 years ago, and really enjoy practicing and learning to master that instrument. I also enjoy walking, reading, and good conversation!



Member Updates

NEW MEMBERS IN JUNE

- Art and Debbie DeWeese—6/2/19
- Mac and Andrea Martin, Addie, and Stella—6/2/19

BAPTISMS IN JUNE

- Harriet Jane Smyth—6/23/19

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Bob Lewellyn who passed away on May 30th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Dan Hughes on the passing of his wife Julia on June 23rd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

	July 1
1 John 2:7-11	Psalm 106:1-18
	July 2
Ephesians 5:6-20	Psalm 123
	July 3
2 Kings 4:1-7	Psalm 129
	July 4
Romans 7:14-25	Psalm 33
	July 5
2 Corinthians 8:1-7	Psalm 142
	July 6
Luke 9:1-6	Psalm 144
	July 7
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Psalm 146
	July 8
Acts 19:21-27	Psalm 4
	July 9
Acts 19:28-41	Psalm 10
	July 10
Luke 10:13-16	Psalm 12
	July 11
James 2:14-26	Psalm 18:1-20
	July 12
Amos 2:4-11	Psalm 17
	July 13
John 3:16-21	Psalm 20
	July 14
Luke 10:25-37	Psalm 148
	July 15
James 2:1-7	Psalm 25
	July 16
1 John 3:11-17	Psalm 26
	July 17
Amos 5:1-9	Psalm 38
	July 18
Hebrews 5:1-6	Psalm 37:1-18
	July 19
Ephesians 3:14-21	Psalm 35
	July 20
Luke 8:4-10	Psalm 32
	July 21
Luke 10:38-42	Psalm 98
	July 22
Colossians 1:27-2:7	Psalm 116
	July 23
1 John 2:1-6	Psalm 47
	July 24
John 6:41-51	Psalm 49
	July 25
Acts 1:15-20	Psalm 34
	July 26
Acts 2:22-36	Psalm 54
	July 27
Luke 8:22-25	Psalm 55
	July 28
Colossians 2:6-15	Psalm 24
	July 29
Colossians 2:16-3:1	Psalm 56
	July 30
Hosea 6:1-10	Psalm 62
	July 31
Matthews 5:43-48	Psalm 72

Monthly Calendar for July 2019

Monday, July 1

10:00 am Prayer Shawl
5:30 pm Dance Lessons

Wednesday, July 3

9:00 am Food Pantry

Thursday, July 4

Church Closed for Holiday

Sunday, July 7

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service

Monday, July 8

10:00 am Prayer Shawl
5:30 pm Dance Lessons

Tuesday, July 9

8:30 am Maintenance
6:00 pm Under The Bridge

Thursday, July 11

9:30 am Sewing Group
10:00 am The Open Door Café

Friday, July 12

12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon

Sunday, July 14

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service

Monday, July 15

8:30 am VBS
10:00 am Prayer Shawl
5:30 pm Dance Lessons

Tuesday, July 16

8:30 am VBS
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, July 17

8:30 am VBS

Thursday, July 18

8:30 am VBS
9:30 am Sewing Group
7:00 pm Book Club

Friday, July 19

8:30 am VBS

Sunday, July 21

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
5:00 pm Youth Lazer Tag

Monday, July 22

10:00 am Prayer Shawl
5:30 pm Dance Lessons

Wednesday, July 24

5:00 pm Student Ministry

Thursday, July 25

9:30 am Sewing Group
10:00 am The Open Door Café
6:30 am Finance Committee

Friday, July 26

6:00 pm Adult Ministry Summer Dance

Sunday, July 28

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
5:00 pm Youth Broom Ball

Monday, July 29

10:00 am Prayer Shawl
5:30 pm Dance Lessons

Wednesday, July 31

7:30 am Children's Ministry Mission/Field Trip
5:00 pm Student Ministry

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

CHILDREN'S FUND

Michael Thompson, by Pony Green

FOOD PANTRY

Carolyn Womack, by John and Sue Irwin

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Dan Cartledge, by Charles and Esther Stephens

BUILDING FUND

Pat Adair, by William Adair

VICTOR HARBOR Scholarship Fund

June Howe, by Pony Green

In Honor of...

CHOIR FUND

Ann Bice, by Canterbury Class

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Bill and Donna Jones, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Evelyn Harper, by Pony Green

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

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follow us



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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.