



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Bibles and Backpacks

August 11th will be a special day in worship at Bluff Park UMC. The kids in our community will be back in school (hard to believe) and many of us will be shifting out of 'vacation mode' as we head into the fall. There will be two special events taking place during worship that morning. We will be presenting Bibles to all of our 3rd grade students and blessing the backpacks for all of our students. The students will each receive a special backpack tag that reminds them that God loves them and our church loves them too! We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and renewed on August 11th as we begin a new season of ministry here at Bluff Park UMC.

Common Tables: Not Just for The Gathering!

Common Tables are small groups at BPUMC that gather friends around a table with food, fellowship, and conversation. While the idea for Common Tables started with BPUMC members who attend The Gathering, many others have found this model of Christian discipleship to be fulfilling and transformational. This past summer, several different Common Tables gathered around a variety of topics, combining people from both Traditional Worship and The Gathering with great success! This fall, it is our hope that even more friends from all **across** BPUMC will join a Common Table to grow deeper in faith, make new friends, and experience the life-changing transformation found in community. Sign-ups will start in mid-August and new Tables will start after Labor Day. We'll see you around the table!

2019 Fall Calendar

AUGUST

- 7 Choir Rehearsals Resume
- 11 Blessing of the Backpacks
Third Graders Receive Bibles
- 14 Midweek Meetup Returns
- 21 VBS Reunion Night

SEPTEMBER

- 13-14 Bargains on the Bluff
- 29 Fall Block Party

OCTOBER

- Offering of Blankets Begins
- 12 Serve Day
- 13 Blood Drive
- 14 Children's Ministry Field/Mission Trip
- 23 Halloween Carnival

NOVEMBER

- 1-3 Student Ministry Fall Retreat
- 3 All Saints' Day @ Morning Worship
- 10 Veteran's Day Celebration
- 10-11 Student Ministry One Night for the Homeless and Veterans
- 11 Children's Ministries Field/Mission Trip

DECEMBER

- 1 Children's Christmas Pageant and Church-wide Christmas Party
- 4 Advent Wreath Family Night
- 6 Preschool Christmas Storytime
- 5 Advent Morning Prayer
- 8 Sanctuary Choir Christmas Concert
- 11 Student Ministry Christmas Party
- 12 Advent Morning Prayer
- 14 Children's Ministry Parents Night Out
- 19 Advent Morning Prayer
- 22 Service of Lessons and Carols
Children's Ministry Sunday School
Christmas Party/Breakfast
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services
- 29 Blood Drive

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

As we start a new school year, we all have the opportunity to set a pattern to how we will live our lives as well as to live out our faith. Certainly, families will begin working on a carpool schedule or they will begin to populate their calendars with the details of school events or extracurricular activities. Others will begin to plan out Saturday trips to Tuscaloosa or Auburn. All of us should put just as much thought and attention to our spiritual calendars and our opportunities for faith formation as well. The beginning of a new school year is a great opportunity to set a pattern for your faith life.



Choose to attend worship regularly! Attend The Gathering or Traditional Worship for the entire month and see how your relationship with God is strengthened!

Choose to attend a small group! Make a point to attend your Sunday School Class or Common Table weekly for an entire month. If you do not have a group, we can help you find a great group of folks to connect with!

Choose your spiritual disciplines! Reading the Bible, spending time in prayer, practicing generosity, serving others, the list goes on! Spiritual disciplines are practices or patterns that help us become rooted in faith as well as to help us grow in grace!

Discover your path! Finally, talk with one of our pastors about taking the Living Your Strengths course or learning about the Enneagram. We can help you discover how God uniquely knit you together so that you can discover the best way for you to serve God and others.

Sit down before the fall calendar gets filled up so that you are not trying to squeeze God into your life. Start with the kind of spiritual foundation that you need in your life and then build your calendar upon that right foundation! You might find that everything fits more neatly together. You might even find it easier to discern what you need to say "no" to in your life. Start with the right foundation for a great start to the fall of 2019!

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



Senior Grocery Program

The food pantry program at Bluff Park UMC continues to expand to meet the current needs of our community. We partnered with Bundles of Hope to include diapers in our monthly food distributions here at the church. Now, the program is providing distribution of food to seniors in our community living in AHEPA Homes. AHEPA provides affordable apartments for seniors.

The food pantry team picks up 1500 pounds of food each month to distribute to residents of 2 AHEPA facilities in Hoover.

The July distribution was an eventful experience. After loading up the bed of a pickup truck with bags of food to be delivered, our volunteers encountered a sudden unexpected rain shower on the drive that soaked all of the grocery sacks. They returned to the church, repacked the food in dry bags, and set out again to deliver the much needed food. We are happy to report that the residents at both facilities received and enjoyed their 4th of July cakes.

Special thanks to our food pantry volunteers for taking on this important new project. If you would like to volunteer, contact the church office for more details.

Riley Kids

Throughout the summer months the Green Team has hosted kids from the Riley Center here at Bluff Park UMC as part of their Summer Garden Program. We had 23 Riley Kids this summer from grades K–7. The kids and the Green Team had a blast picking and eating veggies, playing games, creating bird nests and bee hotels and so much more. Thanks to the generosity of the Seekers Sunday School class, we were able to celebrate these kids, who are so precious to us and to their families, by gifting them with new backpacks and supplies for school. This may not seem like much, but the impact is tremendous!



**Kairos Prison Ministry
International**

The Fall Kairos weekend for Donaldson Correctional Facility near Birmingham is October 17-20. We are looking for volunteers from Bluff Park. Prior to the weekend we have a series of training classes to prepare the volunteers for the weekend. These trainings sessions are going to be held in our Church Fellowship Hall. Classes meet on Monday evenings beginning August 26th. Each class will run from 6:00 to approximately 8:30. If you have questions or think you might want to serve, please contact Rick Hardy at 205-937-0149 or rick.hardy@flocorp.com.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry has had an amazing summer! Between Camp on the Bluff and Vacation Bible School, we were able to host over 350 children at Bluff Park UMC over two weeks. Together, these children learned that God is Good, God created them, God loves them, Jesus rescues them, and that they can share the love of God with others in their family, their community, and the world! Further, our children at Vacation Bible School raised \$1275 for Room 35226, a ministry of our church that provides school supplies, clothes, and food for students in many of our local schools who are in need of these items. All of these children and their parents will be invited back to our church on Wednesday, August 21st, for a VBS/Camp on the Bluff Reunion Night, and our hope and prayer is that some of these families who do not have a church home would consider becoming a part of our great church!

Vacation Bible School and Camp on the Bluff would not have been possible without the love and support of everyone at Bluff Park who prayed for these events, volunteered at these events, and/or helped prepare for and clean up after these events. From the bottom of our hearts and on behalf of all of the children: Thank You! We are proud to serve at such a loving, caring, and giving church!

We now turn our attention to the beginning of the new school year! During the month of August, we will be encouraging our children to start their school year off right with prayer, love, and encouragement through a blessing of the backpacks ceremony on Sunday, August 11th. Further, we will be providing our rising 3rd graders with their very own Bible, geared towards them at their age level, on the same day. Finally, Midweek Meetup will return on Wednesday, August 14th! Our Midweek Meetup Children's Programs allow children from 2 years old-5th Grade to spend each Wednesday night throughout the school year growing in their relationship with God through Bible studies, games, music, Bible memory verses challenges (with great prizes!), and more! We hope to see you at all of these great events in August!



STUDENT MINISTRY

What a summer it has been!! We have had a summer full of worship, fun, and mission. We spent a week of our summer serving in the mountains of Tennessee in Scott County with the Appalachia Service Project. Our high school students worked to build ramps for two different homes, put up vinyl siding, and worked on the inside of another family's home. Through our hard work four homes now are in better shape and we were able to grow closer to the families we were serving and the people we were serving alongside. It was an incredible time to be together as a group and to serve, laugh, and live together for a week! It was a small reminder of what community is supposed to look like and how we are called to serve our neighbor.

I am very excited for this upcoming fall! We have some awesome events coming up like our Fall Retreat (Nov 1-3) and One Night For The Homeless (Nov 10-11), alongside our regular Wednesday Night and Sunday programming. Big things are happening at Bluff Park UMC in our Student Ministry so I'd ask even as you read this to be in prayer for us as we begin another awesome year! To pray for our students as they tackle all the obstacles that can come with academics and everyday life and to pray for our ministry as we help students grow in their faith and make a difference in the lives of the people around them!!



UPCOMING EVENTS

AARP Smart Driving Course

August 16, 9-3 pm Fellowship Hall

You will Learn:

Defensive driving techniques

Proven safety strategies

New traffic laws and rules of the road

Plus, there are no tests to pass. You simply sign up and learn. Upon completion you could receive a multi-year discount on your car insurance.

\$15 for AARP members \$20 for non-members Lunch included

Make check payable to AARP

To register contact Sylvia Sumners, 205-482-5680,
ssumners@bellsouth.net

Sweet Home Alabama: Happy 200th Birthday!

August 29 Fellowship Hall 10:30 - 11:30

Presented by Niki Sepsas

Lunch available for \$5

A chronicling of the fascinating history of the State of Alabama, from the time that the indigenous people roamed its forests and farmed its fertile soil to the time the Europeans arrived in the 16th century and began planting the flags that would fly over the state. The presentation also focuses on how Alabama became the twenty-second star in the American flag, the first capital of the Confederate States of America, the cradle of the Civil Rights Movement, and its evolution as the nerve center of the race to put the first human on the moon.

To register contact Sylvia Sumners, 205-482-5680,
ssumners@bellsouth.net



The Open Door Café

Exercise—9:30 AM—Meet & Greet—
10 AM—Programs - 10:30 AM -
Lunch—11:30 AM—Games & Mov-
ies—12:30pm

Thursdays In The Fellowship Hall
All are Welcome!

August 1

Clear Captions

(Phones for adults w/hearing loss)
Greg Lawrence

August 8

Fighting Hunger in our Community
Nicole Standridge, Agency Rela-
tions Manager - Community Food
Bank of Central Alabama

August 15

*Healthy Eating for MS: The Role of
Nutrition in Treating Symptoms of MS*
Dr. Brooks Wingo, UAB Educa-
tion

August 22

Senior Ride & Travelers Aid
Mollie Hester, Travelers Aid of
Greater Birmingham

August 29

*Sweet Home Alabama: Happy 200th
Birthday!*
Niki Sepsas

Midweek Meetup Returns

Midweek Meetups return on August 14th. Wednesdays are an important time at Bluff Park United Methodist Church. It's family time (church family)! We meet up around the dinner table to connect with each other. The midweek meal is served each Wednesday evening in the fellowship hall from 5:00—6:30pm. The menu for each week is published in the church bulletin and the weekly email. Takeout orders are available. Meal prices are \$7 for adults, \$2 for kids 6-12, and kids under 6 eat for free. There is a \$20 maximum for families. After mealtime, there are a wide range of activities and study opportunities for children, youth, and adults.

Meet the Staff

NAME: Chad Malcom

JOB TITLE: Facilities Manager

BRIEF DESCRIBE YOUR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

Here at BPUMC I am responsible for overseeing the condition of the entire church property. I manage the setup and breakdown of rooms for special events and other church functions. I Supervise the work of the company that cleans the church and offer assistance to members and visitors as needed throughout the day.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR ROLE?

I joined the staff of BPUMC 10 years ago.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

My favorite part of my job is interacting with members and kids throughout the week. I love seeing the kids each day at Camp on the Bluff and VBS during the summer and the preschool kids during the school year.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY

I've been married to my wife Carlee for 2 years.

FAVORITE THING TO DO AWAY FROM WORK?

When I am not working I enjoy spending time with my family and cooking on the grill. Oh, and I almost forgot - Roll Tide!



LIFETRACK

August 1

Romans 11:33-36 | Psalm 70

August 2

Ephesians 4:17-24 | Psalm 73

August 3

Mark 10:17-22 | Psalm 76

August 4

Luke 12:13-21 | Psalm 34

August 5

Colossians 3:18-4:1 | Psalm 84

August 6

Colossians 4:2-6 | Psalm 24

August 7

Hosea 14:1-9 | Psalm 82

August 8

Romans 9:1-9 | Psalm 83

August 9

Acts 7:1-8 | Psalm 88

August 10

Matthew 6:19-24 | Psalm 90

August 11

Hebrews 11:1-16 | Psalm 19

August 12

Isaiah 2:1-4 | Psalm 89:1-18

August 13

Hebrews 11:17-28 | Psalm 99

August 14

Luke 12:41-48 | Psalm 101

August 15

Hebrews 10:26-31 | Psalm 115

August 16

Isaiah 3:1-17 | Psalm 102

August 17

Matthew 24:15-27 | Psalm 108

August 18

Luke 12:49-56 | Psalm 145

August 19

Isaiah 5:8-23 | Psalm 106:1-18

August 20

Acts 7:44-53 | Psalm 121

August 21

Luke 19:45-48 | Psalm 129

August 22

Hebrews 12:3-17 | Psalm 133

August 23

Acts 17:1-9 | Psalm 140

August 24

Luke 6:1-5 | Psalm 86

August 25

Luke 13:10-17 | Psalm 111

August 26

Hebrews 3:7-4:11 | Psalm 2

August 27

Jeremiah 7:16-26 | Psalm 6

August 28

Jeremiah 7:27-34 | Psalm 12

August 29

1 Peter 3:8-12 | Psalm 18:1-20

August 30

Jeremiah 12:1-13 | Psalm 17

August 31

Matthew 20:20-28 | Psalm 21



UMW Recognition Sunday

All the women of the Bluff Park United Methodist Church community are invited to a UMW Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 25th in the Parlor. Join us as we celebrate United Methodist Women Recognition Sunday. The UMW members want to meet you and share the story of their work. Make plans to drop by on your way to Sunday School, or go ahead and spend the whole hour with us. Coffee begins at 8:45 am and lasts through the Sunday School hour. We look forward to seeing you there!

Monthly Calendar for August 2019

Thursday, August 1

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

Saturday, August 3

7:30 am UMW District Mission U

Sunday, August 4

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
4:00 pm UMW Compassion Circle packing Pantry
Bags

5:00 pm Student Ministry

Monday, August 5

10:00 am Prayer Shawl

Wednesday, August 7

9:00 am Food Pantry
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, August 8

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

Friday, August 9

12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon

Sunday, August 11

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
12:00 pm Children's Council Meeting
5:00 pm Student Ministry

Monday, August 12

10:00 am Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, August 13

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

Wednesday, August 14

5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Student Ministry
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Children's Activities
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm "Mere Christianity" Rick and Tina Hardy
Bible Study

Thursday, August 15

9:30 am Sewing Group
10:00 am The Open Door Café
7:00 pm Book Club

Friday, August 16

9:00 am Adult Ministry AARP Driving School

Sunday, August 18

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
5:00 pm Student Ministry

Monday, August 19

10:00 am Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, August 20

6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, August 21

5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Student Ministry
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Children's Activities
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm "Mere Christianity" Rick and Tina Hardy
Bible Study

Thursday, August 22

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

Friday, August 23

5:00 pm Fishermen Class Social

Sunday, August 25

8:45 am UMW Coffee Hour
9:00 am Sunday School
10:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:00 am Traditional Worship Service
4:00 pm Seven Conversations about the Future of
BPUMC with Rev. Mike Holly
5:00 pm Student Ministry

Monday, August 26

10:00 am Prayer Shawl
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle

Wednesday, August 28

5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Student Ministry
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Children's Activities
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm "Mere Christianity" Rick and Tina Hardy
Bible Study

Thursday, August 29

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

Saturday, August 31

4:00 pm Covenant Class Party

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Dutch Green, by Steven and Natalie Frost
Julia Hughes, by Greg and Donna Crabb, Frank and
Madge Gregg, Bill and Paulette Pearson

MUSIC FUND

Julia Hughes, by Debra McCallum, Susan Vogt

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Buddy Harper, by Pony Green

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Gene Brown, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

ORGAN FUND

Julia Hughes, by Steve and Nancy Piros

In Honor of...

GARDENS ON THE BLUFF

Otis Bibb, by Jim and Cathy Braswell

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Butch and Bonnie Hopper, by the Wesley Forum Class

Charlotte Word, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

CHOIR FUND

Debi Whitcomb, by Janet Haynes

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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.