



## BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### NEW NOVEMBER MIDWEEK CLASSES

#### RECYCLING 101

Wednesday, November 6th, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Canterbury classroom

Part of Casey Middlebrooks' Councilor Roundtable Education Initiative! Help us spread the word!

Come hear and meet Leigh Shaffer from Birmingham Recycling and Recovery, where your curbside recycling is taken, and get a definitive understanding of what can be recycled, what can't, and why it's so important to our pocketbooks as well as the environment to get this right! We'll learn other ways to make a difference, and make it fun with a Recycle Relay for kids.

#### ASK THE GARDENER

Wednesday, November 13th, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Canterbury classroom

Have questions on fall pruning, gardening or what to do with all those trimmings? Interested in Hoover's green space preservation? Our guest speaker, Hoover City Forester Colin Conner, is an expert in both! Plus our Green Team gardeners will be on hand with some fun takeaways and info on our Children's and Community gardens at Bluff Park UMC!

### WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION SAVE THE DATE!

The BPUMC Women's Retreat will take place Saturday, January 25th through Sunday, January 26th 2020 at Camp McDowell. The theme is "Rooted." Registration for the event will open on Sunday, November 3rd. Space is limited and we expect the event to fill up quickly, so make sure to register on the 3rd!

### Remembering Our Saints

Charles Cain  
Gene Brown  
Bill Campbell  
Dan Cartledge  
Lou Vaughan  
Bill Lawyer  
John Farmer, Sr.  
Peggy Crowley  
Robert Grindle  
William "Dutch" Green  
Gladys Gordon  
Carolyn Womack  
Bob Lewellyn  
Julia Hughes  
Durwood Freeman  
Robert (Bob) King  
Katie Cathers  
Robert (Bob) Zachow  
Betty Sinclair  
Kim Sisty

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 3, we remember the saints of Bluff Park in morning worship.

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

[www.BluffParkUMC.org](http://www.BluffParkUMC.org)

# Sunday Morning

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:30 am

THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK: 10:30 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15 am

Nursery care available all morning!

Care Contact Information  
205.533.9902 | care@bpumc.org

## Our Staff

PHONE: 205.822.0910

### PASTORS

Mike Holly

mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104

Angela Martin

amartin@bpumc.org, ext. 107

John Carl Hastings

jchastings@bpumc.org, ext. 120

MINISTER OF CARE: Wayne Williams

membercare@bpumc.org

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES:

J.T. Mercer

youthdirector@bpumc.org, ext. 105

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:

Stanley Davidson

sdavidson@bpumc.org, ext. 105

CHILDREN AND STUDENT MINISTRY PROGRAM

COORDINATOR: Melissa Hendon

mhendon@bpumc.org, ext. 103

ADULT MINISTRY PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Susan Reynolds

adultministry@bpumc.org, ext. 121

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Jason McCrory

jmccrory@bpumc.org, ext. 117

FINANCIAL MANAGER: Joe Pitard

jpitar@bpumc.org, ext. 101

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA:

Andrew Seltz

aseltz@bpumc.org, ext. 119

SECRETARY: Brenda Atkins

batkins@bpumc.org, ext. 111

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Art DeWeese

adeweese@bpumc.org

ORGANIST: Jay Tumminello

jtumminello@bpumc.org

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR: Tracy Estes

imagnations@bpumc.org

FACILITIES MANAGER: Chad Malcom

cmalcom@bpumc.org

Published monthly by  
Bluff Park United Methodist Church  
733 Valley Street, Hoover, AL 35226

Article deadline 2nd Tuesday monthly

Editor, Andrew Seltz

newsletter@bpumc.org

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 spent the majority of the early months of this fall discussing how to grow fruitful lives. Of course, just like any fruit-bearing plant, our lives need strong roots (a deep relationship with God) as well as plenty of nourishment. Our church family provides ways for you to develop deep roots through various experiences and environments.

Bluff Park United Methodist Church focuses upon six core environments and experiences in our life together as a church family:



**WORSHIP WITH OTHERS** - grow with others as we worship God through Scripture, prayer, music and Sacrament in Traditional Worship and The Gathering.

**PERSONAL DEVOTION** - grow in faith and in prayer as you participate in personal devotion through LifeTrack or other devotional practices.

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** - grow with others as you participate in fellowship and group learning through a Sunday school class, Common Table or other Grow Group.

**GROW EVENTS** - grow in life and health as you learn from experts or just have fun together with friends at the church.

**LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS** - grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ as you discover your unique and God-given strengths with which you can make a difference.

**SERVICE AND MISSION** - serve and bless others either personally or as a group of empowered disciples of Jesus Christ!

How many of these environments are you participating in?

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, our Sanctuary Choir concert, 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. Our Sanctuary Choir Director, Art DeWeese, will lead the choir in a Christmas Concert on December 8th. We have also moved the Lessons and Carols service later in the month to December 22nd.

## Kids Christmas @ Bluff Park

Christmas activities in our children's area take place early in the advent season. On December 4th the Annual Advent Wreath Workshop takes place. On Saturday, December 7th, 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 1st.



## Christmas Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship  
10:30am

Sanctuary Choir Christmas Concert  
Sunday, December 8th @ 6:00pm

Lessons and Carols  
Sunday, December 22nd @ 10:30am

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 5th at 7:30am. This is a service of Prayer, Scripture and Holy Communion. The service will be held on each Thursday morning of Advent (December 5, 12 and 19). 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 our 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 these 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.

Then, during the month of December we will be teaching the children of our church the true meaning of Christmas and how they can celebrate that in their lives. Along these lines, the children of our church will be presenting their annual Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 1st. 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! In addition, on Wednesday, December 4th, 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!



## STUDENT MINISTRY

We are excited for our busy November! November 1-3 we are going on fall retreat to Springville Camp and Conference Center. Pray that we would have safety on our trip and that we would encounter God in a powerful and moving way!

We are also getting excited for One Night for the Homeless on November 10th. This year we are very excited to have Lisa Pierce of Alabama Rural Ministry (ARM) come speak to us about homelessness in our state and what we can be doing to help. We have a list of items that we are asking for people to bring to donate to the homeless organizations in our city. We will also include a list of donations that ARM is asking for so they can continue the great work that they do! Drop-off for items will begin at 6:00 on November 10th!

### Upcoming Events!

Fall Retreat Nov 1-3  
Holy Ground Nov 6  
One Night for the Homeless  
Nov 10-11  
Holy Ground Nov 13  
Sunday Night Activities Nov 17  
Holy Ground Nov 20  
No Youth Nov 24th, Nov 27th

#### LIST OF DONATIONS FOR ONE NIGHT FOR THE HOMELESS

Toothbrush/toothpaste  
NEW men's Socks, underwear,  
New (and gently used) twin sheets  
Pillows  
1-subject notebooks, pens, teen and adult paperbacks.

#### DONATIONS FOR ARM (NEW OR GENTLY USED)

Box cutters and blades  
25' tape measures  
Tie down ratchet straps

Assorted hand tools: Wrenches, screw drivers (Phillips/and flathead),  
pliers  
Wonder bar  
Medium size tool boxes with top tray (heavy duty plastic or metal)  
Chalk lines  
Speed square (the triangle)  
Levels (any size)  
Bungee cords  
Cans of WD40  
Landscaping tools: Loppers, hedgecutters  
Roofing shovels



# ADULT MINISTRY

## UPCOMING MISSION PROJECTS



### Eleventh Annual Wreaths Across America UPDATE Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo

We are partnering with The Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc., to provide Maine Balsam Wreaths for each Veteran's grave in the Alabama National Cemetery in Montevallo. The cost to sponsor a wreath is \$15. We are pleased to announce that as of October 15 we have raised enough money to purchase 115 wreaths. Please make your donation by November 1 to help us increase this number.

The 2019 Remembrance Ceremony will be held at 11am on December 14, 2019. All wreath sponsors as well as family members of those buried within ALNC are invited and strongly encouraged to attend and participate in the wreath-laying ceremony. We have both church buses reserved for this day and if you would like to ride the bus please contact Sylvia Sumners, [ssumners@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssumners@bellsouth.net)

### Christmas Gifts for Pantry on the Bluff

This year we want to give each family we serve through our food pantry a \$20 gift certificate that each can use to purchase something extra for Christmas. These gifts will be distributed on Wednesday, December 4th. You or your Sunday School class can help by either making a financial donation to the Food pantry and submit to the church office or you can purchase a \$20 gift certificate, put it in a Christmas card and submit it to the church office. We suggest gift certificates from Piggly Wiggly, Publix, Walmart or Target. Make the "Spirit of Christmas" real for a family this year. We need the gift cards by November 27th.

For more information on each project contact Sylvia Sumners, [ssumners@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssumners@bellsouth.net) or 205-482-5680.

### Open Door Café Special Lunch and Program

**Thursday, November 21, 10:30–11:30am with lunch at 11:30am**

Plan to join us as we celebrate Thanksgiving with a Southern Thanksgiving Lunch and the program "Southern Sayings" presented by Jim Langley. Jim is a storyteller, artist and published author. His interest in collecting southern sayings started a few years ago and his book *Delmont's Slang Blade*, contains a portion of his collection. Jim is a resident of Ross Bridge and was originally from Vernon, Alabama, in Lamar County.

Please RSVP for lunch to Sylvia Sumners: [ssumners@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssumners@bellsouth.net)

## 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!

### November 7

*Bluff Park Community Garden*  
Jan Rogers

### November 14

*Take a Trip to Israel*  
Carol Westbrook

### November 21

*Southern Sayings With A  
Southern Thanksgiving Lunch*  
Jim Langley

### November 28

*Closed for Thanksgiving*



## Veteran's Day Celebration

On Sunday, November 10th @ 11:00am, we will have a very special Veteran's Day Celebration. We'll start things off with a delicious lunch. There will be music by the Hoover High School Jazz Band, and our veterans will be recognized. This is a family-friendly event. There is no cost, but donations 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 17 and Sunday, November 24. Sign up lists are in each Sunday School Class and at the Narthex Welcome Center. 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.



## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, November 24 at 5:00 pm  
Shades Crest Baptist Church

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.

## Member Updates

### NEW MEMBERS

- Chase and Grace Bottcher, Adele—10/13/19

### BAPTISMS

- Benjamin Bell—10/13/19

### SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Betty Harding who passed away on October 10th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

## LIFETRACK

### November 1

Ephesians 1:11-23 | Psalm 111

### November 2

John 8:39-47 | Psalm 139

### November 3

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12  
Psalm 24

### November 4

1 Corinthians 5:9-13 | Psalm 57

### November 5

Jude 5-21 | Psalm 62

### November 6

Habakkuk 3:17-19 | Psalm 72

### November 7

Zechariah 1:1-6 | Psalm 71

### November 8

Acts 24:10-23 | Psalm 73

### November 9

Haggai 1 | Psalm 75

### November 10

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17  
Psalm 34

### November 11

2 Peter 1:16-21 | Psalm 77

### November 12

2 John | Psalm 78:1-39

### November 13

2 Corinthians 9:1-15 | Psalm 81

### November 14

Isaiah 57:14-21 | Psalm 83

### November 15

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 | Psalm 88

### November 16

Luke 17:20-37 | Psalm 90

### November 17

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 | Psalm 67

### November 18

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 | Psalm 89:1-8

### November 19

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1  
Psalm 99

### November 20

Matthew 23:37-24:14 | Psalm 101

### November 21

Hebrews 9:23-28 | Psalm 105:1-22

### November 22

1 Peter 1:3-9 | Psalm 102

### November 23

Luke 1:68-79 | Psalm 33

### November 24

Jeremiah 23:1-6 | Psalm 145

### November 25

Revelation 21:5-8  
Psalm 106:1-18

### November 26

Revelation 22:8-21 | Psalm 122

### November 27

Jeremiah 31:1-6 | Psalm 129

### November 28

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 | Psalm 147

### November 29

Genesis 6:1-10 | Psalm 142

### November 30

Genesis 6:11-22 | Psalm 34



# Monthly Calendar for November 2019

<b>Friday, November 1</b>	9:00 am	Becky Walker's Bible Study	10:00 am	The Open Door Café
Youth Fall Retreat	6:00 pm	Under the Bridge	6:00 pm	Senior High Boys Small Group
<b>Saturday, November 2</b>	<b>Wednesday, November 13</b>			
Youth Fall Retreat	4:30 pm	"Forward" with Mike & Angela	7:00 pm	Book Cub
<b>Sunday, November 3</b>			<b>Sunday, November 24</b>	
Youth Fall Retreat	5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup	9:15 am	Sunday School
9:15 am	5:15 pm	Wesley Covenant Group	10:30 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:30 am	5:30 pm	Student Ministry	10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service
10:30 am	5:30 pm	Men's Chorus	3:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
11:30 am	6:00 pm	Children's Activities	5:00 pm	Community Thanksgiving Service
<b>Monday, November 4</b>	6:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal		Student Ministry
10:00 am	6:00 pm	Reconciler Group	5:30 pm	
5:30 pm	6:15 pm	"Crazy Love" with Rick and Tina Hardy	<b>Monday, November 25</b>	
<b>Tuesday, November 5</b>		Choir	10:00 am	UMW Joy Circle
9:00 am	6:30 pm	Eco Classes	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl
<b>Wednesday, November 6</b>	6:30 pm	"Living Your Strengths" with Angela Martin	5:30 pm	Dance Lessons
9:00 am	6:30 pm	Walking Group	<b>Tuesday, November 26</b>	
4:30 pm			9:00 am	Becky Walker's Bible Study
			<b>Thursday, November 28—Thanksgiving Day</b>	
5:00 pm	<b>Thursday, November 14</b>		<b>Office Closed</b>	
5:15 pm	9:30 am	Sewing Group		
5:30 pm	10:00 am	The Open Door Café	<b>Friday, November 29</b>	
5:30 pm	6:00 pm	Senior High Boys Small Group	<b>Office Closed</b>	
6:00 pm				
6:00 pm	<b>Sunday, November 17</b>			
6:15 pm	9:15 am	Sunday School		
	10:30 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park		
6:30 pm	10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service		
6:30 pm	11:30 am	Children's Council Meeting		
6:30 pm	5:30 pm	Student Ministry		
	<b>Monday, November 18</b>			
6:30 pm	10:00 am	Prayer Shawl		
<b>Thursday, November 7</b>	5:30 pm	Dance Lessons		
9:30 am	<b>Tuesday, November 19</b>			
10:00 am	9:00 am	Becky Walker's Bible Study		
6:00 pm	6:00 pm	Under the Bridge		
	<b>Wednesday, November 20</b>			
<b>Friday, November 8</b>	4:30 pm	"Forward" with Mike & Angela		
12:00 pm				
<b>Sunday, November 10</b>				
9:15 am	5:00 pm	Midweek Meetup		
10:30 am	5:15 pm	Wesley Covenant Group		
10:30 am	5:30 pm	Student Ministry		
10:30 am	5:30 pm	Men's Chorus		
11:30 am	6:00 pm	Pageant Rehearsal		
4:30 pm	6:00 pm	Children's Activities		
	6:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal		
<b>Monday, November 11—Veteran's Day</b>	6:15 pm	"Crazy Love" with Rick and Tina Hardy		
<b>Office Closed</b>		Choir		
7:30 am	6:30 pm	Walking Group		
10:00 am	6:30 pm			
5:30 pm	<b>Thursday, November 21</b>			
5:30 pm	9:30 am	Sewing Group		
<b>Tuesday, November 12</b>				
8:30 am				
Maintenance				



## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

### In Memory of...

#### GENERAL OPERATING FUND

**Betty Sinclair**, by Opportunity Class

**Past Sunday School Teachers**, by Opportunity Class

#### FOOD PANTRY

**Bob Zachow**, by John and Sylvia Sumners

#### VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP

**Katie Cathers**, UAB Freestanding ER, UAB Highlands ER Staff

**Robert McClure**, by Brannon and Elizabeth Brooks

### In Honor of...

#### GENERAL OPERATING FUND

**Past Sunday School Teachers**, by Opportunity Class

#### PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

**Donna Gippins**, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

**Wayne and Jackie Walton**, by Curtis and Paula Thompson

#### FOOD PANTRY

**Pat Reese**, by James and Sara Perry

#### LANDSCAPE FUND

**Julie Adams**, by Art and Debbie DeWeese

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

X



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

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

X



*follow us*



X

*Start a New Tradition*

[ChristmasInBluffPark.com](http://ChristmasInBluffPark.com)