



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 8th, MidWeek Meetup returns for the Winter/Spring semester. There will be a special presentation that night from members of our Chile Mission Team. We have a number of new learning opportunities on Wednesdays starting on the 15th. You can see them listed on page 3. God's blessings to you in the New Year!



Celebrating 2 Years of Ministry

This January in the Gathering as we celebrate two years of life and ministry in Bluff Park! We'll have a special worship service celebrating our 2-Year Anniversary on January 5th including the beginning of our new sermon series "Resolutions." This four week series will explore many of the common New Years' resolutions that people make and as how they might intersect with our desire to follow Jesus faithfully in 2020. Join us for any of all the four weeks as we explore "Be Present," "Get Moving," "Eat Better," and "Quit That." We'll see you around the table in The Gathering!

Winter/Spring Calendar

JANUARY

- 8 Restart of Midweek Meetup
- 19 Skate Night
- 25-26 Women's Retreat
- 31-2/2 Youth Discovery Weekend

FEBRUARY

- 9 Scout Sunday
- 26 Ash Wednesday Service/Lent Begins
- 28-29 Bargains on the Bluff

MARCH

- 1 Chili Cook-Off
- 5 Lenten Morning Prayer begins
- 6 Silent Auction
- 23 Spring Break No MidWeek

APRIL

- 4 Easter Egg Hunt
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 19 Confirmation Sunday
- 29 Final Midweek Meetup Until Fall

MAY

- 3 Block Party
- 10 Mother's Day

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

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!

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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 begin a new decade together as a church family, consider for a moment how God has moved in and through the ages. From the very creation of the world to the many times that God has led people to where they needed to go. God delivered his people from slavery and into a land of promise; but God also made a covenant and established a mission



for that very people. Prophets came to help them "course-correct" to get back on track with that very mission. And consider how God ultimately came to be with us and lead us Himself. We just celebrated this in-breaking of God's presence in the arrival of the Christ Child.

God promises to be a) Present With His People, but He expects them to b) Carry Out His Mission. As we enter the 2020's together, it is time to re-center our lives and our church in these two areas. We must center our hearts, faith, thoughts, and actions on God's presence in our lives and in the world. And we must stay focused upon the mission that God has given to us. This mission is given corporately as a Church family (meaning that together we carry out the major work of Christ's continuing ministry) and individually (meaning that we minister with the various gifts and strengths that have been given to us).

If you have not had a chance to center your life in God's presence through a daily devotional or Scripture reading, I hope you will make an effort to utilize the LifeTrack:Daily readings and devotional. Or you may choose from a wide variety of wonderful options at Cokesbury.com. If you have not had a chance to discover your own gifts and strengths, look for options this Winter and Spring at Bluff Park UMC to take the Living Your Strengths course or similar courses.

We want to help you seek God, lose yourself and find life now more than ever! I pray that you start off 2020 centered upon Christ and energized for ministry!

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

Wednesdays

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Short Stories by Jesus

4:30-5:30 pm—Starting January 15th
Parlor

RICK AND TINA HARDY BIBLE STUDY

6:30-7:30 pm—Starting January 15th
Room 265 (Seekers Classroom)

LIFEPATH: LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS

6:30 pm—Starting January 15th
Led by Angela Martin



Other Weekdays

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

7:30-8:00 pm—starting March 5th
Sanctuary

CREED BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Mornings

9:30-11:00 am—Starting January 7th
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 Sharon Putman

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 2020, 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 continue to 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 19th from 5:00-7:00. We are asking that each person bring a \$5 donation (with a \$20 Family Max) to cover the cost of skate rentals and food. We encourage you to attend as a family and bring your 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

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Discovery Weekend is right around the corner!! January 31st-February 2nd will be our Discovery Weekend. We are very excited to be spending the weekend together as we play games, eat, and worship together. This year we will be talking about the Great Commission and how we are called to go and take this good news that we have received to others. The last day to register for Discovery is January 15th. We are very excited and we are asking for everyone to join together in prayer for our students during this special weekend!

HOLY GROUND

Holy Ground is our weekly youth led worship service that takes place from 5:30-7:30. There is dinner in the fellowship hall that starts at 5 and then we play games/ hang out until 6:20!

SUNDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

Sunday Night Activities alternate between mystery night, game night, and serve night. It takes place from 5:30-7:30 and includes a free dinner!

Upcoming Events

January 8
Holy Ground
January 12
Sunday Night Activities
January 15
Holy Ground
January 19
Family Skate Party
January 22
Holy Ground
January 26
Sunday Night Activity
January 29
Holy Ground
January 31– February 2
Discovery Weekend

ADULT MINISTRY

OPEN DOOR CAFÉ SPECIAL JANUARY PROGRAM

January 16

Being "The Best You" in 2020 - Physically, Mentally, Emotionally and Spiritually

Join us as JoAnn Huddleston, LPC, LCSW, D.Min. teaches us Cognitive Behavioral Therapy techniques to help us control our behaviors thoughts and feelings. Practicing these techniques with the help of the Holy Spirit allows us to accomplish our goals and be our better selves in 2020. JoAnn is a therapist at Pitts & Associates, a group of Psychologists in Homewood.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date! Valentine's Banquet

Mark your calendar for BPUMC's Valentine's dinner and entertainment on Sunday, February 9th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More information to come!

BPUMC Presents Washington, DC—Our Nation's Capital

March 26 – April 1, 2020. The trip will include two guided tours that visit: the WWII Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Smithsonian, the Lincoln Memorial and the New Museum of the Bible. There will also be a tram ride through Arlington National Cemetery and a tour of George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. Contact Ida Carroll at 205-329-3948 for more information.

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!

January 2

Closed

January 9

How BPUMC's New Realm Database Keeps Us Connected and Saves Everyone Time!

January 16

Being "The Best You" in 2020 ~ Physically, Mentally, Emotionally and Spiritually!

January 23

Making a Positive Impact on the Lives of Hoover Students

January 30

Mushrooms – To Eat or Not to Eat



SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, March 6th
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!



FREE FOOD AND SKATE RENTALS

January 19th

5:00-7:00pm

@Roller Motion

2474 Morgan Road, Bessemer, Alabama



Meet the Staff

NAME: Rev. Mike Holly

JOB TITLE: Senior Pastor

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR JOB

As senior pastor, my work is mainly focused on four primary areas: 1) administration, 2) vision and planning, 3) teaching and preaching, and 4) pastoral care. I also have roles within the Central District of the North Alabama Conference as well as at the Methodist Foundation.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR ROLE?

I have been working at BPUMC 6 1/2 years (since June 2013).

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

I really enjoy most of the work of being a pastor. What stands out each week includes 1) preparing and delivering sermons, 2) teaching, and 3) building relationships with others in the church family (including pastoral care).

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY:

I am married to Rev. Julie Holly, the Chaplain and Director of Religious Life at Birmingham-Southern College. We met at the Divinity School at Duke University in 2001 and were married in 2003. I am originally from South Carolina and Julie is from Madison, AL. We moved to Alabama in 2004 after graduating from seminary. We have two children active in our church family. Lena is in the 8th grade and Davis is in the 4th grade.

FAVORITE THING TO DO AWAY FROM WORK?

I enjoy hiking, reading and researching, playing racquetball, and spending time with my family. Like a lot of other parents, I spend a lot of time driving from one event to the other!

Member Updates

BAPTISMS

- Adele Bottcher - 11/24/19
- Wyatt Thomas Johnson - 12/22/19

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Kristen and Jonathan Face on the birth of a daughter, Audrey Ann on November 21st.

LIFETRACK

January 1

Ecclesiastes | 3:1-13 Psalm 20

January 2

Genesis 12:1-7 | Psalm 33

January 3

Genesis 28:10-22 | Psalm 72

January 4

Exodus 3:1-5 | Psalm 87

January 5

Ephesians 1:3-14 | Psalm 29

January 6

Matthew 2:1-12 | Psalm 97

January 7

Ephesians 3:14-21 | Psalm 103

January 8

Ephesians 4:7, 11-16 | Psalm 112

January 9

1 Samuel 3:1-9 | Psalm 122

January 10

Acts 9:1-9 | Psalm 147

January 11

Acts 9:10-19 | Psalm 104

January 12

Matthew 3:13-17 | Psalm 146

January 13

Genesis 35:1-15 | Psalm 2

January 14

Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Psalm 5

January 15

Matthew 12:15-21 | Psalm 14

January 16

Galatians 1:6-12 | Psalm 18:21-50

January 17

Acts 1:1-5 | Psalm 17

January 18

Luke 5:1-11 | Psalm 66

January 19

John 1:29-42 | Psalm 114

January 20

Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28 | Psalm 9

January 21

Hebrews 10:1-4 | Psalm 28

January 22

Matthew 9:14-17 | Psalm 38

January 23

Galatians 1:11-24

Psalm 37:19-42

January 24

Galatians 2:1-10 | Psalm 35

January 25

Luke 5:27-32 | Psalm 19

January 26

Matthew 4:12-23 | Psalm 98

January 27

Ephesians 5:6-14 | Psalm 41

January 28

Philippians 2:12-18 | Psalm 48

January 29

Luke 1:67-79 | Psalm 49

January 30

1 Peter 3:8-12 | Psalm 50

January 31

Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4

Psalm 51

Monthly Calendar for January 2020

Wednesday, January 1—New Year's Day

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 2

9:30 am Sewing Group
10:00 am The Open Door Café
6:00 pm Senior High Boys Small Group

Sunday, January 5

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:30 am Traditional Worship Service
11:30 am Children's Council

Monday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 7

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, January 8

9:00 am Food Pantry
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Chile Mission Trip Presentation

5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Reconciler Group
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Walking Group

Thursday, January 9

9:30 am Sewing Group
10:00 am The Open Door Café
6:00 pm Senior High Boys Small Group

Friday, January 10

12:00 am Friendship Class Luncheon

Sunday, January 12

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:30 am Traditional Worship Service

Monday, January 13

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

Tuesday, January 14

8:30 am Maintenance
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, January 15

4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Student Ministry
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Living Your Strengths
6:30 pm Walking Group

Thursday, January 16

9:30 am Sewing Group
10:00 am The Open Door Café
6:00 pm Senior High Boys Small Group
7:00 pm Book Cub

Sunday, January 19

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:30 am Traditional Worship Service
5:00 pm Church Wide Skate Party

Monday, January 20

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

Tuesday, January 21

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, January 22

4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Student Ministry
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Living Your Strengths
6:30 pm Walking Group

Thursday, January 23

9:30 am Sewing Group
10:00 am The Open Door Café
6:00 pm Senior High Boys Small Group
6:30 pm Finance Committee

Friday, January 24

5:00 pm Fisherman Class Social

Saturday, January 25

Women's Retreat

Sunday, January 26

Women's Retreat
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:30 am Traditional Worship Service
5:30 pm Student Ministry

Monday, January 27

10:00 am Prayer Shawl
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
5:30 pm Dance Lessons

Tuesday, January 28

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, January 29

4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Student Ministry
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Living Your Strengths
6:30 pm Walking Group

Thursday, January 30

9:30 am Sewing Group
10:00 am The Open Door Café
6:00 pm Senior High Boys Small Group

Friday, January 31

Youth Discovery Weekend



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Loy Jones, by Jim and Gail Garner, James and Jean Stephens

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Rev. Sammy Fitts, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

CHOIR FUND

Loy Jones, by Jim and Pam McIntosh

WHITE CHRISTMAS

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Abston, Sr., by Daniel and Jimmie Faye McFadden

FOOD PANTRY

Loy Jones, by Daniel and Jimmie Faye McFadden, Roy and Charlotte Shanlever

Mr. and Mrs. Emmet McFadden, by Daniel and Jimmie Faye McFadden

YOUTH

Margaret Dover, by David and Terri Glasgow, Jerry Hale,

Martha Hastings, Ronald Henderson, Matt, Amy, Sam and Kate Johnson, Phyllis Johnston, David and Aimie Marshall, Daniel and Jimmie Faye McFadden, Marsha and Lanny Peavy, Jim and Claudia Reed, Jim and Jan Scarbrough, Roy and Charlotte Shanlever, Mary Whitehead, Sandra Wilson,

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Donna Harris, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

In Honor of...

MUSIC PROGRAM

Glen and Paula McGarity, by George and Peggy Scott

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Wayne Williams, by the Fishermen Class Men's Bible Study

WHITE CHRISTMAS

Michael Thompson, 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.