



## BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Worship In June

As we enter the month of June, we continue to worship online as a church. We anticipate returning to Sunday morning worship in the building sometime in late June, but no date has been set. Be prepared for a very different Sunday morning experience as we balance our desire to return to 'normal' with the need to protect the health and safety of everyone in our church community.

The safest choice is to continue to worship online. Even when we re-open worship, we encourage all of our older members and anyone with health issues to continue worshipping online.

When the church does re-open, our Sunday morning activities will be very limited. There will be no Sunday School. There will be no child care. There will be no valet service. Seating will be limited to every third pew to maintain proper social distancing and members from different households will need to maintain a 6 foot separation if they share a pew. Hymnals, Bibles, and pew cards will be removed from the pews. Singing will be limited, and everyone will be highly encouraged to wear a mask (if you need a mask, please contact the office.)

There will be other changes beyond those listed. To help everyone navigate this new Sunday morning routine, we will be training a group of volunteers to help guide and direct people through all the changes.

We are closely watching the number of active cases of COVID-19 in our area. We are also actively preparing to safely open our facilities. When a date is set to open the church for worship, we will communicate this information via email, on our website and Facebook page, and through Realm.

We truly appreciate everyone who has been helping us develop a plan to safely re-open the church.

### Find Help

We know that many people are struggling during this difficult time. Our church family has prepared to assist members of our church and community through their generosity and their sharing of supplies and resources.

1. If you are in need of a cloth mask, please contact the church's main office and we can make sure that one is provided for you.
2. If you are in need of food, please contact a pastor or the church's financial office staff. Your name and information will be held confidential within that circle of staff members.
3. If you are in need of financial assistance, please either contact or visit our church's financial office. They will ask you for the appropriate bills and information so that our pastors can then assist you. Your name and information will be held confidential within that circle of staff members as well as with our church treasurer.
4. If you are in need of prayer or pastoral care, please contact the pastors through the Pastoral Care Line at 205-533-9902 or by sending an email to [care@bpumc.org](mailto:care@bpumc.org).
5. BPUMC is connected to United Counseling which offers mental health telehealth services. You can obtain up to 3 free sessions by contacting a BPUMC pastor first.

### Help Others

There are two significant ways that you can help others right now. The first is providing cloth Face Masks to members of our community who need them. You can donate materials or make a financial contribution to this project. Visit [BluffParkUMC.org/face-masks](https://www.BluffParkUMC.org/face-masks) for details. We also need more people to sew masks. Call the office.

We are also continuing to accept donations of Kid-Friendly food pantry items for distribution through Urban Ministries.

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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

# Sunday Morning

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM 10:30 am

Watch on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/bluffparkumc](http://www.facebook.com/bluffparkumc)

Watch on our website:  
[bluffparkumc.org/livestream](http://bluffparkumc.org/livestream)

Care Contact Information  
205.533.9902 | [care@bpumc.org](mailto:care@bpumc.org)

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[newsletter@bpumc.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@bpumc.org)

## Message from the Pastor

Do you know what I have missed? I have missed seeing the faces of the wonderful people in our church family! We all have missed being together in person. We haven't stopped being a church. And we have not been separated from the grace of Jesus Christ and from the love of God. What we have sacrificed in the past two months has hopefully saved many lives.



I hope that you have been able to participate in our online worship services since Easter. We have looked at the struggles that we have all faced in this pandemic as well as in life in general. And we have been able to unite our staff and our two worship services into a combined service. I have so thoroughly enjoyed being a part of our wonderful staff lead in worship and share their gifts with you and the world through online worship!

During the month of June, we will be changing yet again with online worship. Our services will be geared towards offering familiar but inspiring worship services from both the Chapel and the Sanctuary. As we do, please know that we are moving closer to opening back up for worship on a Sunday morning in the safest way possible. The staff leadership and the Trustees of the church have put together a plan for preparing for holding Sunday morning services again.

As summer arrives in our communities, a new season is upon us. God has ushered us into a new season together as a church family, too. It is a season of life together where we see worship as even more precious. We understand the weight of loving and serving our neighbors. And we more fully feel the calling to be the kind of church that embodies the love of God for one another as well as the rest of the community. Let us continue to be a united people rooted in faith and growing in grace!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mike".



## OUR MISSION WORK IN CHILE

Bluff Park UMC has supported missionary John Elmore's work in Chile since 2007. We are one of about 65 United Methodist Churches throughout the U.S. that support him as Covenant Churches. To be in a Covenant Church relationship with a Methodist missionary requires three commitments: 1) to pray for our missionary and his work; 2) to contribute monetarily to his work; and 3) to send a team at least once a year to work alongside of him.

### MEET OUR MISSIONARY

John Elmore has done missionary work in Iquique, Arica, Talca, El Vergel and Angol (where he currently works). He is originally from Virginia but spent years in Tuscaloosa where he has strong ties with Forest Lake UMC. He met his wife, Cristina, while he was serving in northern Chile (her family lives in Arica). She is an English teacher in a secondary school and speaks fluent English. John was called to be a missionary when he was about 40 after spending years working in construction. His background allows him to ably supervise and work alongside mission teams doing construction work. He also sings and plays guitar and is a major part of the musical and liturgical programs at one of the three Methodist churches in Angol.

### BPUMC'S MISSION TEAMS TO CHILE

Since 2007, BPUMC has sent mission teams to Chile to work with John in the various towns where he has served. His assignment in Angol is to renovate and revitalize the only Methodist camp in Chile. It will be used for spiritual retreats, youth camps, and church meetings.

The rustic camp consists of bedrooms facing an indoor courtyard, a dining hall, and bathrooms. Outside are small, separate outdoor worship areas set among giant sequoias which have grown from seeds missionaries brought from California. The camp is also an easy walk to the Malleco River. One of John's visions is to develop ecological studies at the camp, incorporating hikes to the river and study of local vegetation.

BPUMC's September 2019 mission team to Chile painted all the bedrooms, repurposed old bunk beds into nightstands, painted out-buildings and fences, and landscaped the grounds. Due to COVID-19, we will send our next work team to Chile when it is safe to do so. If you're interested in participating in future Chile or U.S. mission trips, please contact Susan Reynolds-Porter at [misions@bpumc.org](mailto:misions@bpumc.org) or at the church 205-822-0910.

Greetings from our Missionary in Angol, Chile:

Our United Methodist missionary in Chile, John Elmore, and his wife Cristina send greetings from Angol, Chile, a city which until recently was under a strict governmental lockdown to slow COVID-19. Fortunately, Cristina's parents, from Arica in far northern Chile, were visiting when the lockdown was announced.

John is enjoying the BPUMC livestream services and uses his Methodist hymnal to sing along. One of the ads he is seeing on Chilean TV is "separamos pero conectamos" (separated but connected) -- a true feeling for our global community now.

As a U.S. Citizen, John received a \$1,200 stimulus check. Since he can't use the money to stimulate the U.S. economy, he and Cristina decided to purchase food staples for local families in-need. They packaged the foods for each family and included a Spanish-language Upper Room. This is another way that John and Cristian are making a difference in their community! Please continue to pray for John, his family, and our friends throughout Chile.



**VBS 2020 NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!** Since so many local churches have had to cancel VBS, a group of Children's Ministry leaders in the North Alabama Conference got together to produce a "virtual VBS." The result is *"Little Bugs Big Impact! Big and Small, God Uses Us All!"* This format uses original content designed to be used in private homes or for small groups. Families will be sent links to videos and a list of supplies needed each day. The supplies needed are things found around the house already or easily purchased from a discount store such as Wal-Mart or Dollar General. Unfortunately for some, these supplies are still out of reach. Bluff Park UMC will be providing all the supplies needed for 50 children to participate as well as any supplies needed to pack them (boxes, bags, containers, etc.) The estimated cost is \$40 per participant (based on our regular VBS costs.) If you would like to sponsor a child for \$40 or just donate to the overall cost of creating these supply boxes, please click here: [bluffparkumc.org/supportvbs](http://bluffparkumc.org/supportvbs)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### ANNOUNCING A FREE VIRTUAL VBS FOR EVERYBODY!

Over the last month children's ministry leaders from all over the conference have banded together to create an original free virtual VBS! Little Bugs Big Impact will launch a synchronous week on July 13th-17th. A list of supplies needed will be sent ahead of time. Emails will be sent to all the participants each day with all of the videos and instructions you would need to have your own VBS at home! Families can choose to have their VBS experience during the synchronous week or have it at a time that works better for them! Little Bugs Big Impact will have crafts, music, snacks, games, science, storytelling and missions. To get more information or register go to <https://www.umcna.org/virtualvbs>. Registration is open now! Be sure to look out for Mr Stanley and Ms Betsy (Britain) in the Science videos!



## STUDENT MINISTRY

### STUDENT MINISTRY UPDATE

So we are still providing weekly digital programming for the Students of our church and our community! We have a weekly Zoom Meeting on Tuesday with our Jr. High and our Sr. High where we check in and talk about some scripture. On Wednesday nights we have an Instagram Live Worship that starts at 6:30 on the @bpumc\_students account. Then on Sunday Nights we have a Virtual Game Night over Zoom at 7:00! Make sure you are logged onto Zoom or Email [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org) to make sure you are getting our weekly newsletter with more information on how to join our Zoom meetings safely! (there are steps we take to make sure our meetings are safe for our students)

Our Student Ministry Staff is planning on creating ways for our students to meet when it is safe to do so. We still plan on making the summer as great as we can so make sure you are logged into Realm so you are getting more information as we can release it! We are excited for what God is going to do in this next stage of our ministry and we are hopeful we can meet again in person soon!





## ADULT MINISTRY

You might ask, "Are we looking after our members during this time of crisis?" The answer is yes! We have a team called the "Congregational Care Team" that leads the effort to make sure we are doing all we can to provide support to our members. This team was formally organized in 2018 under the direction of the Adult Ministry Council and our ministers. Included as part of congregational care are visits and calls by our ministers, flower ministry, card ministry and calls by church members as appropriate.

A major focus of the team is providing care for our members who are in senior living facilities or those members confined mostly to their homes. These are our TLC members, those in need of some extra tender loving care. The team also provides care and support for church members who are ill, have had a loved one pass away or who are celebrating a joy such as a new baby.

### THE FLOWER MINISTRY

The Flower Ministry at Bluff Park Methodist began more than eight years ago and is currently led by Ellen Finley. The 20 members of our flower team make numerous vases of flowers from the flowers used in our sanctuary and deliver them to those in need.

When our worship services at the church were suspended because of COVID-19, flower team members volunteered to call and check on members of our TLC group. They will continue this outreach until we are once again worshipping at church and have flowers to deliver.

## The Open Door Café

All Open Door Café weekly programming is cancelled until further notice.

### THE CARD MINISTRY

This past year we revived a card team which had been active in the past. The card team is now led by Sula Hicks. This team sends cards to our TLC list and to members of our congregation as directed by our ministerial staff. Birthday Cards, Holiday Cards, Sympathy Cards, Get Well Cards and Thinking of You Cards. A large group of volunteers happily assist with this ministry. Recently, the team sent cards to our graduating seniors.

Our youth also help with our card ministry. At Christmas and during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have sent homemade or handwritten cards to our TLC group.

### CALLS AND VISITS

Our Ministers, Mike, Angela and John Carl, visit members in the hospital and at home. Our Minister of Care, Wayne Williams, visits and calls our TLC members in facilities and at home on a regular basis. Our ministers are always available to help our members.

In addition to the members of the flower ministry, additional volunteers have continuously called our Open Door Café and TLC members to check on them.

# How To Worship Online

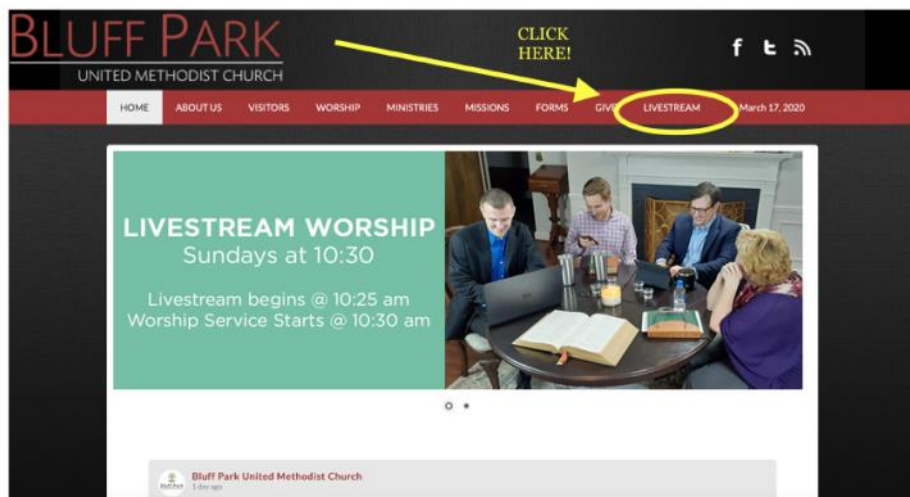
On Sunday mornings the weekly worship Livestream can be found on our Facebook Pages. If you aren't a Facebook user, there is also a dedicated page on our website where you can tune in live each week. The link to the livestream page is on the upper right of the website homepage and will take you to the 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 Livestream page and on Facebook.

Even when we are able to return to our normal worship schedule, our Livestream is available every week. No matter what happens in the coming weeks, you can stay connected and worship with your church family here at Bluff Park.

Step 1: Visit [www.bluffparkumc.org](http://www.bluffparkumc.org)

Step 2: Click "Livestream" in the top ribbon





Realm is an online ministry tool designed for real-time connection. It helps members of our church family connect with each other and with our staff. Realm allows you to manage your personal information and who is allowed to see it, control your giving, and keep in touch with the ministry groups that matter to you.

Realm is not like a social network that's open to everyone. It's only made up of the people in your church. Realm gives you control over what information you share and who can see it.

You can access Realm on the web or through a free app on your phone.

If you have not setup your Realm account yet, contact Jason McCrory in the church office and request an invitation to join.

Let's get connected.

### Giving Update

In the midst of quarantine and social distancing, the work of ministry and mission at Bluff Park United Methodist Church continues. Your giving is needed now more than ever. By financially supporting the church you are witnessing to your faith that God is at work even in difficult times. Your generosity funds our church's mission even as we have cut back on non-essential expenses and invest more heavily in staying connected to our church family and in serving the needs of our community.

Remember, God calls us to be generous with what we have. Maybe what you have now is a little different from what you had a month ago. But what you have can still be used to make a difference in our community!

You can give by: 1) mailing in a check, 2) setting up a recurring gift with your bank, 3) using an online application such as Realm or EasyTithe, or 4) coming to the church office during our revised business hours and dropping off your donation!

### Member Updates

#### SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Tom Doran and his family on the passing of his wife, Patsy Ruth Doran, on Thursday, May 7, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

### LIFETRACK

#### June 1

Romans 8:18-24 | Psalm 41

#### June 2

Romans 8:26-27 | Psalm 45

#### June 3

John 7:37-39 | Psalm 49

#### June 4

2 Timothy 1:8-14 | Psalm 50

#### June 5

Joel 2:18-29 | Psalm 51

#### June 6

2 Corinthians 13:11-13  
Psalm 104

#### June 7

Matthew. 28:16-20 | Psalm 146

#### June 8

1 Corinthians 12:1-13 Psalm 56

#### June 9

Genesis 21:1-7 | Psalm 62

#### June 10

Genesis 24:1-9 | Psalm 72

#### June 11

Exodus 4:18-23 | Psalm 67

#### June 12

Exodus 4:27-31 | Psalm 69:1-23

#### June 13

Mark 7:1-13 | Psalm 75

#### June 14

Matthew 9:35-10:8 | Psalm 96

#### June 15

1 Thessalonians 3:1-5  
Psalm 78:40-72

#### June 16

Joshua 1:1-11 | Psalm 81

#### June 17

Luke 6:12-19 | Psalm 83

#### June 18

Hebrews 2:5-9 | Psalm 88

#### June 19

Acts 5:17-26 | Psalm 90

#### June 20

Luke 11:53-12:3 | Psalm 91

#### June 21

Matthew 10:24-39 | Psalm 67

#### June 22

Genesis 16:1-15 | Psalm 89:19-52

#### June 23

Genesis 25:12-18 | Psalm 103

#### June 24

Matthew 10:5-23 | Psalm 98

#### June 25

Micah 7:18-20 | Psalm 105:1-22

#### June 26

Galatians 5:7-12 | Psalm 102

#### June 27

Luke 17:1-4 | Psalm 33

#### June 28

Romans 6:12-23 | Psalm 66

#### June 29

1 Kings 21:1-16 | Psalm 121

#### June 30

1 John 4:1-6 | Psalm 122





Class of 2020



Christopher Barefield

Ethan Caraway

Alyssa Chavez

Austin Coley

Lydia Coltrane

Madison Dabney\*

Mollie Edwards

Keegan Ferguson

Hannah Lagan

Rachel Martin

Sophie McLemore

Katie Norris

Jack Shelton

Barrett Stahr

John Michael Williamson

Anne Hale Winter

Olivia Woodruff

*\*Photo Unavailable*

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

### In Memory of...

#### GENERAL OPERATING FUND

**Pat Doran**, by Julia Dunne, Chris Letchman, Lipford Home Care LLC, Jack Truitt, Sue and Stanley Vircigilo

#### FOOD PANTRY

**Charles Arthur**, by Kay Adams, Martha Nelson

**Pat Doran**, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

#### BUILDING FUND

**John Whitcomb**, by Jo Ann Huddleston

#### CHRISTIN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP

**Pat Doran**, by John and Cathy Brown, Harry Hill

#### PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

**Coach J.T. Haywood**, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

**Edward G. Lothar**, by Vitality Class

**John Whitcomb**, by Kay Adams, Bob and Ann Nelson

#### PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

**John Whitcomb**, by Jim and Gail Garner, Ed and Nan Thomas

#### MUSIC MINISTRY

**Pat Doran**, by Bob and Pan Cahoon

**John Whitcomb**, by Ronald and Bonnie Payne

#### UNDER THE BRIDGE

**Peggy Hayden Nix**, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

**John Whitcomb**, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

#### YOUTH FUND

**Margaret Dover**, by Jo Ann Huddleston

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

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# Bluff Park

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

—Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace—

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## LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

Sundays at 10:30

Livestream begins @ 10:25 am  
Worship Service Starts @ 10:30 am



## VBS Goes Virtual

July 13th-17th

Over the last month children's ministry leaders from all over the conference have banded together to create an original *free* virtual VBS for our kids! Emails will be sent to all the participants each day with all of the videos and instructions you will need to have VBS right in your own home! Families can choose to have their VBS experience during the synchronous week or at any time that works best for them! Little Bugs Big Impact will have crafts, music, snacks, games, science, storytelling and missions.

**Join The Fun: [www.umcna.org/virtualvbs](http://www.umcna.org/virtualvbs)**