



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Worship In July

Worship Online

On every Sunday in July, we will continue to offer two worship services online at 10:30 am. These worship services are recorded and edited together so that you feel as though you are right there in the room with us in the Sanctuary or in the Chapel. You can find the worship services on our website by navigating to bluffparkumc.org and look for "Livestream" on the top menu on the right. There will be links to the worship services online for both Traditional Worship as well as The Gathering. The best way to interact with both services is through Facebook Live where our pastors participate in the comments section each Sunday. If you have any issues with the worship service freezing up, we recommend pausing the video and waiting for a few moments or even tuning in around 11:30 am or later.

Worship In-Person

On the final Sunday of June, our church held a trial Traditional Worship service in the Sanctuary. It was a successful start to worship and we heard very positive feedback from the few people that attended the service. Our church members showed such love and respect for one another as they entered the Narthex, remained distant from one another, wore their face masks, and as they waved to one another. One person in worship at our trial service said that the Sanctuary and Narthex seemed to be cleaner than most grocery stores and businesses that they had visited during the pandemic! We will offer another trial worship service on July 12th, and we ask that you register either on our Realm online database or by calling the main office at (205) 822-0910. Please only register those that live in your household. Information about our safeguards will be emailed to you prior to attending the trial worship service. Each of these trial services is another step further down the road to being in worship together!

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.
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 to continue financially supporting the Food Pantry and Diaper Ministry. To make a donation online visit: BluffParkUMC.org/give

The second opportunity is supporting our 2020 Virtual VBS. Kids will be participating in VBS from home and we are providing supply boxes for people needing assistance with the required materials. To make a donation visit: bluffparkumc.org/supportvbs

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Sunday Morning

WORSHIP LIVESTREAM 10:30 am

Watch on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/bluffparkumc

Watch on our website:
bluffparkumc.org/livestream

Care Contact Information
205.533.9902 | care@bpumc.org

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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

One afternoon, I was walking through the church during a howling storm outside. Thunder and lighting accompanied the wind and rain. These kinds of storms happen often during the hot and humid summer up on the bluff. But I am often in my office when a storm like this passes over us. I happened to be walking through the Nar-



thex and kept going into the Sanctuary. Inside the Sanctuary, I could still hear the rain and thunder and I could see the lightning. However, I had a sense of calm and a sense that God was present with me in this holy place. I don't know if our beautiful stained glass windows filtered out the view of the storm or if it was the nature of a Sanctuary like ours that provided me with a sense of calm. But I felt a sense of peace even during the storm outside as well as the storms we have faced during this pandemic.

I am not sure what storms you are facing, but I do know that God is present just as much as He was in that moment in the Sanctuary. For God is not bound by the walls of a church. God is with us where we are. His Spirit dwells with us as we live our lives. Sanctuary can literally be wherever you are! Think about how even your home has been a place where you could practice spiritual disciplines or view worship online. God has been with you all along.

I hope that you will continue to join us as we worship online or as we begin to open up our Sanctuary and Chapel for physically-distanced worship. And I hope that you will continue to reach out to our pastoral team and your friends at church so that we can remain together as God's family here on the bluff even during this long stormy season. The bonds between Christians are strong. We may not be related by blood, but we are, thanks to God, bound together by the waters of our baptism. We are knit together by water and Spirit and we are better together than we ever are apart.

May God continue to bless you and may God continue to help us through the storms of life.

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

Gardens on the Bluff Community Garden

Gardens on the Bluff (GOTB) provides a place, training and assistance for BPUMC members and members of the community to grow a garden. Each gardener pays \$20 per year for the year round use of one raised (4' X 8' x 10" deep) bed. Compost, aged manure, topsoil and water are available for each gardener. Green Team members lead by Jan Rogers also provide some seeds, fertilizer and ties as well as year around assistance, training and resources for new and experienced gardeners. Otis Bibb designed and build most of the beds and helps to maintain the gardens, pathways and compost bins.

Since it began in 2017, the number of 4' x 8' by 10" deep raised garden beds has grown to 25. All are being used this year and there is a waiting list for 2021.



Kaiden (age 5) has had a garden at Gardens on the Bluff for four years. According to his Mom, "His first daily request is usually, 'Can we go to our garden and have a picnic today?' He loves it there. It is like a treasure hunt when we pick our veggies. And it motivates him to eat the veggies -- he's grown! He has met lots of people in the garden and we've learned a lot. This is our best season yet!"

Children's Garden

A children's garden located near the community gardens teaches children to how to plant, grow and harvest fruits and vegetables. In doing so, each step is related to Biblical practices or verses. Currently the Children's Garden has 10 raised beds and fruit trees. Since the project began in 2013, groups that utilize the Children's Garden have included those who attend a summer garden camp, children from the Riley Center that come each Tuesday during the summer and BPUMC children who visit the garden one Sunday a month from April through September. Julie Adams leads (lead), Olivia Howard and Amy Montz work with other Green Team volunteers on this project. Funding for the Children's Garden comes from a plant sale that is held each spring.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We hope that everyone is enjoying their summer so far! As we continue to explore creative ways to offer Children's Ministry in this season of social distancing, we want to let you know what's going on in the month of July! To begin with, we will continue to offer a Children's Church video each Sunday! This will be posted on our BPUMC Kids! Facebook page each Sunday morning, and then Miss Melissa will send an email with a link to Children's Church at the beginning of each week. In addition, we hope you will mark your calendars for a Children's Zoom Game Night on Wednesday, July 22nd (be on the lookout for more information soon!). Also, be on the lookout for videos, both serious and goofy, on our Facebook page and via email throughout the month: we will be filming videos on Spiritual Disciplines for Children, a video of Mr. Stanley and JT eating the hottest chip and hottest gummy bear in the world, and more fun videos for the children of our church!

Finally, though we are incredibly sad that we were not able to offer Vacation Bible School on our church campus this year, we have teamed up with several local UMC churches in the area to create a virtual VBS for the children of North Alabama! The theme of this Vacation Bible School is Little Bugs, Big Impact: Big and Small, God Uses Us All. This Vacation Bible School will premiere on the week of July 13th, but can be done any time after that! If you are interested in learning how a Virtual VBS will work or in signing you kids up for this new type of Vacation Bible School, please visit the following links:

<https://na-reg.brtapp.com/2020VirtualVBS>

<https://www.umcna.org/virtual-vbs-how-it-works>

Please know that the Children's Ministry team misses, loves, and are praying for you all!



STUDENT MINISTRY

Frisbee Golf For Rising 4th-12th Graders!

JT and Stanley have created a Frisbee Golf Course at the church, and want you to come try it out on July 7-9 (Tuesday-Thursday) 10:00am-12:00pm! The Grade/Days are as follows:

- Tuesday, July 7: Rising 4th and 5th Grade
- Wednesday, July 8: Rising 6th-8th Grade
- Thursday, July 9: Rising 9th-12th Grade

The following precautions for the participants will be strictly enforced:

They will be outside the entire time. They will be given their own Frisbee that only they will touch (or they can bring their own Frisbee from home) The frisbees the kids will use will be sterilized at the end of each day. They will be required to stay six feet away from each other. Cold new water bottles will be provided for each participant (no water fountains or coolers.)

If your student would like to attend, please register them at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0B48A9A928ABF85-frisbee>



ADULT MINISTRY

Now is the perfect time to build some new Spiritual Growth Habits. We have several resources available for you to engage scripture every day.

- **LifeTrack:Daily Email:** BluffParkUMC.org/lifetrackdaily
- **Upper Room Devotionals:** www.upperroom.org/devotionals
- **Steps to Wisdom Devotional:** This is a physical resource. You can pickup a copy from the main office during business hours.

The Open Door Café

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

Our Green Team in Action

Have you wondered who the raised garden beds located by the back corner of the church parking lot belong to and what they are used for? The gardens (called "Gardens on the Bluff") are one of four mission outreach programs run by BPUMC church's Green Team. Green Team volunteers work with the following programs:

Gardens On The Bluff Community Garden - See Page 3
Children's Garden - See Page 3

Church Planting and Landscape

Green Team volunteers order and plant colorful annual plants twice a year at the church entryways. In addition to weeding and maintaining the plantings, the team also organizes and recruits volunteers to clean-up the flower beds and other church landscaping two Saturdays a year.

Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Awareness project provides recycling opportunities and training. Started in 2010, this Green Team program is currently headed by Jennifer McEuen.

You can Help!

Want to become involved? Volunteers are needed to help with: clean-up activities, environmental events, the Children's Garden, plant sales, path maintenance, and summer garden camps. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to donate supplies or funds, please contact Jan Rogers at 205-307-9733 or at jan2rogers@gmail.com. For the Children's Garden, contact Julie Adams at 205-936-8149 or juliead40@gmail.com. For Environmental Awareness, contact Jennifer McEuen at 205-410-1244 or jenniferceuen@gmail.com.

Note that some Green Team activities have been cancelled for this summer due to COVID-19.

How To Worship Online

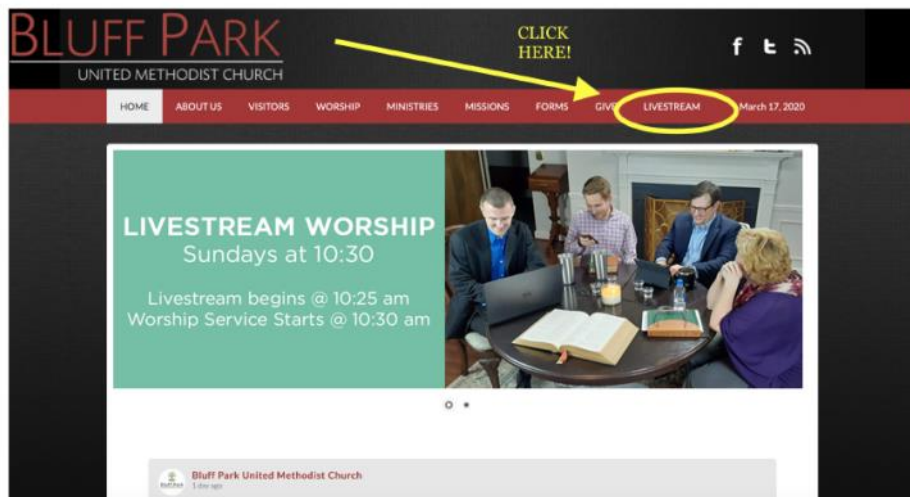
On Sunday mornings the weekly worship Livestream can be found on our Facebook Pages. If you aren't a Facebook user, there is also a dedicated page on our website where you can tune in live each week. The link to the livestream page is on the upper right of the website homepage and will take you to the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

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.

From the Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee approved a plan to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program put into place by the CARES Act during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our church was able to apply and did receive funds from the federal government to ensure that our staff continued to remain employed through the Spring. The financial staff of the church ensured that there is a transparent audit trail to track that the funds were appropriately allocated according to the specific expenditure requirements of the Paycheck Protection Program. We ask that you would continue to faithfully support our church with your pledges and tithes as the faithful ministries and missions of our church continue throughout the summer! God is calling our church into a new season of ministry as we return to in-person worship over the next few months and your support will ensure that we will hit the ground running for Christ!

Member Updates

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Barry Lothar on the passing of his wife Sonja May 27th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Julia Dunne on the passing of her husband Terry on June 8th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Shirley Whitlock who passed away on June 9th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

July 1
Isaiah 51:1-3 | Psalm 129

July 2
Genesis 25:19-27 | Psalm 132

July 3
Genesis 27:1-17 | Psalm 141

July 4
Genesis 27:18-29 | Psalm 33

July 5
Romans 7:15-25a | Psalm 146

July 6
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Psalm 2

July 7
Genesis 29:1-14 | Psalm 5

July 8
Jeremiah 13:1-11 | Psalm 12

July 9
Isaiah 48:1-5 | Psalm 18:1-20

July 10
Romans 15:14-21 | Psalm 16

July 11
Isaiah 2:1-4 | Psalm 20

July 12
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 | Psalm 15

July 13
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 | Psalm 25

July 14
Ephesians 4:17-5:2 | Psalm 28

July 15
Matthew 13:10-17 | Psalm 38

July 16
Isaiah 44:1-5 | Psalm 37:1-18

July 17
Hebrews 6:13-20 | Psalm 35

July 18
Matthew 7:15-20 | Psalm 32

July 19
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Psalm 98

July 20
Nahum 1:1-13 | Psalm 44

July 21
Galatians 4:21-5:1 | Psalm 47

July 22
Daniel 12:1-13 | Psalm 116

July 23
1 Corinthians 4:14-20 | Psalm 59

July 24
Acts 7:44-53 | Psalm 51

July 25
Matthew 12:38-42 | Psalm 34

July 26
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Psalm 29

July 27
James 3:13-18 | Psalm 58

July 28
Ephesians 6:10-18 | Psalm 62

July 29
Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33 | Psalm 72

July 30
Proverbs 10:1-5 | Psalm 74

July 31
Isaiah 41:8-10 | Psalm 73

Food Pantry July Update

Families served from the church	179
AHEPA Residents	55
Total Families Served	219

Diapers Distributed 7025

Our congregation donated over 400 cans of chicken, so we have enough supply for the August pantry as well. The Community Food Bank gave us 20 bags of shredded cheese, 20 packs of sliced cheese and 20 individual pounds of butter and these were distributed to our clients. Also, a member of our congregation donated 36 big bottles of hand sanitizer which were also distributed. Our AHEPA residents also received a copy of the devotion book provided by the Seeker's Class.



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

BUILDING FUND

Pat Doran, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

Peggy Hill, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

John Whitcomb, by Roy and Bobbye Guyton

CHRISTIN CHROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP

Pat Doran, by James and Sara Perry

EASTER LOVE OFFERING

Terry Dunne, by Elizabeth Davis

FOOD PANTRY

Terry Dunne, by Carol Medders

Elsie and Johnny Medders, for their 14th "Flag Day" wedding anniversary by Carol Medders

MUSIC

John Whitcomb, by Annie Mahre

OPERATING FUND

Wendell Andrews, by Odessa Harbor

Pat Doran, by John and Patricia Baird

Terry Dunne, by Bob and Ann Nelson, James and Sara Perry

Sonja Lothar, by Bob and Ann Nelson

John Whitcomb, by Odessa Harbor

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Pat Doran, by Bobby and Patsy Cummings, Bob and Ann Nelson

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

John Whitcomb, by William and Harriet Anthony

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Terry Dunne, by Dyer and Rhonda Carlisle

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

John Whitcomb, by Joan Davis

In Honor of...

EASTER LOVE OFFERING

Bobbie Moore, by Elizabeth Davis

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

X



Bluff Park

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

— Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace —

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There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Bluff Park UMC gym on Sunday, July 12th, from 7:30am–12:30pm. Please make time to stop by and give the gift of life. Even during the Coronavirus crisis, delivering lifesaving blood products must not stop.

SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT IS CRITICAL!

Walk-ins can be worked in, but appointments are preferred to enable us to effectively implement social distancing.

To schedule your appointment to donate call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit their website at RedCrossBlood.org and use the keyword BPUMC.



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