



## BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Worship In August

#### Worship Online

On every Sunday in August, we will continue to offer two online worship services at 10:30am. 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](http://bluffparkumc.org) and looking for “Livestream” on the top menu on the right. There will be links to the online worship services 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.

#### Worship In-Person

Our gradual return to in-person worship services continues. At each service we’ve held our church members have shown such love and respect for one another as they enter the Narthex, remain distant from one another, wear their face masks, and wave hello to one another. We plan to follow the same pattern in August as we did during the month of July with an in-person traditional service every other week starting on August 9th. We ask that you register either on our Realm online database or by calling the main office at (205) 822-0910. Announcements will go out by email, on Facebook, and through Realm when registration opens for each service. Please only register those that live in your household. Information about our safeguards will be emailed to you prior to attending the worship service. Each of these 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 continues to assist members of our church and community.

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 to continue financially supporting the Food Pantry and Diaper Ministry (see page 7.) To make a donation online visit: [BluffParkUMC.org/give](http://BluffParkUMC.org/give)

The second opportunity is supporting our Children's Ministry family mission project. They will be collecting school supplies. More details are available on page 3.

*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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Editor, Andrew Seltz

[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

Eagle-eyed church members have noticed that our online worship service is not happening "live." We made the decision early on to record our worship service so that we could provide you with the best possible worship service. We mean this both visually (as we are able to place the camera in the middle of the Sanctuary) as well as logistically (so that if our internet connection were to suddenly slow down or drop



you would still be able to see the video). It was also a strategic decision because we were worried in the early days of the pandemic that our staff might become infected or ill and not be able to show up on a Sunday morning. We typically film the worship services on Wednesdays or Thursdays. If you have participated in online worship, I know you are thankful that our choir members and staff are coming in and sharing their gifts with us!

We have now had three in-person worship services and all have gone very well. I am so very proud and thankful that members of our church have followed all of the safeguards and have worn face masks during the worship service. For a few months, we heard of a few people who became slightly ill with COVID-19. We even had a few members of our church test positive. Now, however, we are hearing about members of our church family losing family members to COVID-19. I urge you to continue to practice good hygiene and social safety as well as to pray for all of those on the front lines as well as all of those affected both in their health and in their situation in life.

As we look forward to a very different fall at Bluff Park UMC, I want to tell you how very important it is for you to be in a supportive and caring community like a Sunday school class or Common Table. Members of classes and small groups report a greater sense of connection to God and the church as well as having a circle of friends that care for one another. Rev. Angela Martin has been working to help people connect to a group or class through Zoom or Google Meet. If you are interested in joining a supportive and caring community at BPUMC, please contact the church office and ask for one of the pastors!

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



## FAMILY MISSION PROJECT!

Every year in August the children pack 50 backpacks with school supplies that they bought on an annual field trip, and give them to organizations that serve children in need. Well, thanks to the "C" word.. we are doing it differently!

We are asking families to commit to buying a few basic school supplies that we will give out during our September Food Pantry distribution. We will need a total of 200 packs! We estimate that each pack will cost about \$5 or less.

These are not intended to be school supplies but rather homework supplies. Each pack will also have a note of encouragement and love from all of us at BPUMC!

If your family would like to participate please use the link below to register and let us know how many kits you would like to provide.

<http://bluffparkumc.org/>

If your family would like to help by making a contribution and we will pick up the supplies, there is a link for that as well!

<http://bluffparkumc.org/backpackdonation>

### Items needed:

- 1-24 pack crayons [\$.50 each]
- 1-10 pack markers [\$1 each]
- 1 Small pack of blue or black pens (10-12) [\$1 each]
- 1 Small pack of pencil (10-12) [\$1 each]
- 1 Pencil sharpener [\$.50 each]
- 1 pack of wide ruled paper [\$1 each]



## Pandemic Ministry

Children and Youth Ministry plans for summer 2020 have been completely turned upside down, but Stanley and J.T. are working hard to find ways to connect with kids and families while keeping everyone safe. First came Zoom meetings and Virtual VBS. Then, came Frisbee golf and drive-in Holy Ground Worship.

As we move into the month of August and look toward fall, they continue looking for new ways to reconnect. They've devised a plan for a movie night and another round of Frisbee golf is coming!

## MOVIE NIGHT!!!

Sunday August 2nd 4pm-6pm. This is a drop off event (wahoo!) ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER THROUGH REALM AND ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK (ALL AGES.) We can only allow 20 kids to participate in each group so sign up ASAP! To register your kiddo(s) click the correct link below. Be sure to unclick your name and click your child(ren)'s name. Drop off and pick up info along with the movie title will be emailed to you prior to the event.

### Rising Kindergarten through 5th register here:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/childrensmovienight>

### Rising 6th through 8th register here:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/middleschoolmovienight>

### Rising 9th through 12th register here:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/highschoolmovienight>

## FRISBEE GOLF IS BACK!!

JT and MR Stanley will be hosting another round of Frisbee Golf August 4th, 5th and 6th. This time in the evenings 6pm-7:30pm. MASK ARE REQUIRED BY ALL!

- Rising 4th and 5th graders will play on August 4th.
- Rising 6th-8th graders will play on August 5th.
- Rising 9th through 12th graders will play on August 6th.

### To register your student for Frisbee Golf, Click here:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/frisbeegolf>

## BACK TO SCHOOL LOVE PACKS FOR RISING 3K THROUGH FIFTH GRADE!

We will be giving away 100 backpacks filled with a few things to let your kiddos know we love them and are thinking about them this school year. These drawstring back packs are perfect for library books, extra clothes, bibles etc.. They are not full sized back packs. Rev Mike and Rev Stanley will bless them and they will be untouched for four days prior to distribution. Pick up day will be Sunday August 16th 11am-1pm drive thru style at the playground entrance.

<http://bluffparkumc.org/backpacks>



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

When Vacation Bible School's all over Alabama began to be canceled in late Spring, a group of around 15 UMC churches, including Bluff Park UMC, worked together to offer a virtual VBS for children throughout the North Alabama Conference! Altogether, almost 1600 children participated in this virtual Vacation Bible School, and members of our church helped make it possible for 50 children to attend! Due to donations from our members, Sunday School classes, and other groups, we were able to create 50 boxes full of VBS supplies for families who could not afford the supplies, overwhelmed families in this stressful time, and/or families of healthcare workers! So to everyone who donated, helped pack supply boxes, helped deliver boxes, or helped in any other way, **THANK YOU SO MUCH!** I am so proud to serve and be a part of such a loving and giving church!

**LITTLE BUGS**  
**BIG IMPACT**  
**BIG AND SMALL GOD USES US ALL**



## STUDENT MINISTRY

### Announcing Movie Night

We will have a Movie Night on Sunday August 2nd 4pm-6pm. **ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER THROUGH REALM AND ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK!!** No just showing up to this one guys!

The Middle School and High School kids will be separated for this event but will meet at the same time in different locations at the church. Only 20 participants will be allowed at each event. You must register your middle school and high school kids separately. When you register, you will un-check your name and check your students name. Drop-Off and Pick-Up info along with the movie titles will be emailed to you prior to the event.

To register your students use the links below or call the church and we can help you get registered!

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/middleschoolmovienight>

#### HIGH SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/highschoolmovienight>

### Frisbee Golf Is Back!!!

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**To register your student for Frisbee Golf, Click here:**

<http://bluffparkumc.org/frisbeegolf>

### Wednesday Worship!

As of right now every other week we are planning to meet online for worship via our instagram @bpumc\_students. But the other weeks will be meeting in the parking lot for worship! Make sure to stay up to date with what weeks we are meeting outside the church via our instagram/ facebook/ weekly newsletter!

**Contacts:** [youthdirector@bpumc.org](mailto:youthdirector@bpumc.org) or [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org)





## Weekly Church Updates via Email

Are you receiving a weekly church update each Friday by email? It contains everything you need to stay in-touch in-between the BPUMC monthly newsletters. Do you miss reading the church bulletin each week? The email weekly church update contains the information typically found in the bulletin and more. At the beginning of each month, it also contains a link to the on-line version of the church Newsletter. Don't miss out!

To receive the Weekly Email Newsletter, visit [bluffparkumc.org/newsletter](http://bluffparkumc.org/newsletter) to sign up online. If you need help, please call the church office at 205-822-0910.

## Adult Ministry Puzzle Challenge

Are you feeling boxed in and bored – but don't want to risk getting the virus? Then take our puzzle challenge. Each week we will provide a puzzle to help you learn more about BPUMC and more about the United Methodist Church. Watch for the puzzles in the Weekly Email Update each Friday and in the Digital Bulletin each Sunday. Complete the puzzle and you will be entered into a monthly drawing for a gift card to Wild Roast Coffee!

### The Open Door Café

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



## Under the Bridge

The Under the Bridge food ministry was back in action on July 28th preparing dinner for 80 people. Things were a bit different thanks to pandemic precautions. The volunteers prepared the food at the church which was then picked up for delivery by food truck. Marvin Broome made all of the arrangements for this successful mission project.

# How To Worship Online

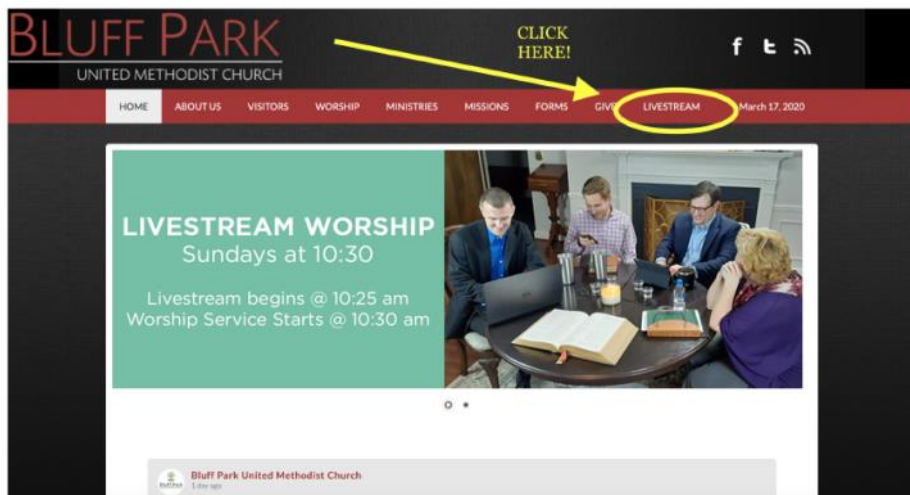
On Sunday mornings the weekly worship Livestream can be found on our Facebook Pages. If you aren't a Facebook user, there is also a dedicated page on our website where you can tune in live each week. The link to the livestream page is on the upper right of the website homepage and will take you to the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

## SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE AUGUST 10, 2020.

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATIONS ARE DUE AUGUST 14, 2020.

Both forms are on the church website.

Now more than ever, your donations to the scholarship fund are needed to help students as they endeavor in higher education during a global pandemic. Financial gifts can be made to Bluff Park UMC with the notation: "Scholarship Fund."



[bluffparkumc.org/forms/](http://bluffparkumc.org/forms/)

## Member Updates

### CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Mary and Steven Guy on the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Jane on June 5th.

Congratulations to Chari and John Zeiss on the birth of a son, Concord Boadri Cole on June 6th.

Congratulations to Morgan and Taylor Stanfield on the birth of sons, Owen and Reid on June 11th.

Congratulations to Stephanie and Clay Woodall on the birth of a daughter, Savannah James on June 15th.

Congratulations to Kristen and Andy West on the birth of a daughter, June Olivia on July 16th.

### SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Cary Moore in her passing on Thursday, July 2nd. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

## LIFETRACK

### August 1

Matthew 7:7-11 | Psalm 75

### August 2

Romans 9:1-5 | Psalm 96

### August 3

Deuteronomy 8:1-10 | Psalm 80

### August 4

Acts 2:37-47 | Psalm 78:40-72

### August 5

Isaiah 43:1-7 | Psalm 84

### August 6

Acts 17:10-15 | Psalm 24

### August 7

Acts 18:24-28 | Psalm 90

### August 8

Genesis 37:5-11 | Psalm 91

### August 9

Matthew 14:22-33 | Psalm 19

### August 10

Genesis 37:29-36 | Psalm 89:1-18

### August 11

Genesis 39:1-23 | Psalm 97

### August 12

Matthew 8:23-27 | Psalm 109:1-30

### August 13

Genesis 41:14-36 | Psalm 105:1-22

### August 14

Acts 14:19-28 | Psalm 107:1-32

### August 15

Genesis 42:1-28 | Psalm 115

### August 16

Matthew 15:10-28 | Psalm 118

### August 17

Acts 15:1-21 | Psalm 106:1-18

### August 18

Romans 11:13-29 | Psalm 121

### August 19

Matthew 8:1-13 | Psalm 122

### August 20

1 Corinthians 6:1-11 | Psalm 132

### August 21

2 Corinthians 10:12-18

### August 22

Psalm 140

Genesis 50:15-26 | Psalm 144

### August 23

Romans 12:1-8 | Psalm 146

### August 24

Romans 2:1-11 | Psalm 86

### August 25

Exodus 2:11-15 | Psalm 10

### August 26

Exodus 2:15-24 | Psalm 12

### August 27

Ephesians 5:1-6 | Psalm 14

### August 28

Exodus 3:1-22 | Psalm 16

### August 29

Exodus 4:1-9 | Psalm 20

### August 30

Romans 12:9-21 | Psalm 149

### August 31

Exodus 4:10-17 | Psalm 9

## Bundles of Hope Diaper Ministry

Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank began in October 2014 when women from Mountain Chapel UMC made a commitment to help Birmingham-area residents who had to choose between buying food for their families or diapers for their infants and toddlers. The mission of the group is to raise community awareness and provide families experiencing financial hardship with an adequate and reliable supply of diapers free of charge.

In May of 2015, BPUMC's United Methodist Women (UMW) hosted a program about Bundles of Hope. The women were so impressed that they voted to become a host site for the ministry, with Betsy Guy taking the leadership role. In July 2015, BPUMC held its first diaper distribution in conjunction with our Food Pantry. Betsy and her volunteers have continued to host and grow the program since that time. A dozen volunteers are involved in the pick-up and distribution of diapers. Both the Children's and Youth programs have helped put together the bundles of 25 diapers that are distributed at the BPUMC Food Pantry.

### How Bundles of Hope Works

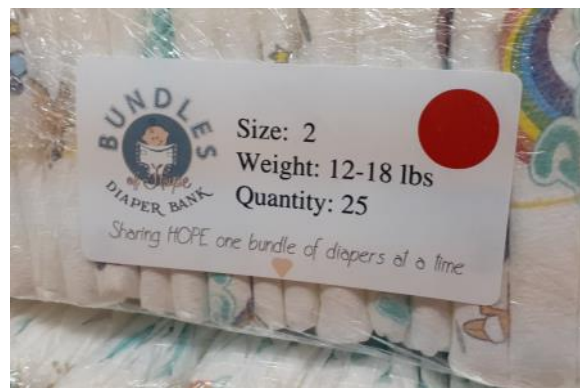
Families (or individuals) desiring free diapers come to the pantry and must provide the following information – zip code, child's birthdate, and confirmation that they are the parent or guardian of the child. Once approved, the family or individual receives one week's worth of diapers which is two bundles or 50 diapers per child. A family can receive help for up to three children.

### The Need

The need for free diapers for families facing financial difficulties is increasing dramatically. It took Bundles of Hope about 4 years to reach 1 million diapers distributed (October 2019). Bundles of Hope just passed 2 million in June 2020.

Historically, as many as 7,000 diapers have been given out in a month here at the BPUMC Food Pantry. The monthly average for 2020 is 5,200 diapers and 200 pull-ups given out each month. The pull-up number would be 300-350 per month if we had a steady supply. There are some months that none are available for distribution.

Bundles of Hope has been very much in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has distributed diapers every month during the pandemic and was able to continue to offer diapers the month that the pantry was unable to distribute food. The first month numbers were down, but since then, there has been a steady increase until we returned to normal distribution numbers in July.



### Testimonial:

"I'm in a very rough spot right now. I lost my job and I am looking for employment. I came to Bluff Park UMC for help and they were able to help me with diapers for my infant and food to help my family of 6. I am incredibly thankful this church is here for anyone in need. At your lowest moments, God will supply. Thank you Bluff Park UMC for listening to a calling." - Kasandra

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

### In Memory of...

#### FOOD PANTRY

**Terry Dunne**, by Kay Adams

#### HANDBELL FUND

**Cary Moore**, by Jim and Gaile Ketchersid

#### MUSIC FUND

**Charles Arthur**, by Jim and Gaile Ketchersid

**John Whitcomb**, by Jim and Gaile Ketchersid

#### OPERATING FUND

**Terry Dunne**, by Wilson and Martha Thomas, J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

**Yvonne Embry**, by Wilson and Martha Thomas

**Cary Moore**, by Bill Adair

#### PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

**Orrin Wandsnider**, by Nancy Wandsnider

### In Honor of...

#### OPERATING FUND

**J.B. and Frankie Thrasher** in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary

*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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*follow us*



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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.

## **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.