



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Worship In September

Traditional Worship

On every Sunday in September, we will offer an Online Traditional Worship Service at 10:30 am as well as in-person physically-distanced worship in our Sanctuary at 10:00 am. In order to attend the in-person physically-distanced worship services in our Sanctuary, you will need to register for worship either through our Realm membership database online or by calling the main office at 205-822-0910. Visitors are welcome, but they need to register through the main office. Please only register members of your household. The online Traditional Worship service will continue to be premiered at 10:30 am on Facebook as well as on our website. Remember that once it has finished, it is available all week long.

The Gathering

The Gathering will be offering a mix of online modern worship as well as in-person outdoor worship services in the coming weeks. To find out the schedule, please contact the main office at 205-822-0910 or connect with the Gathering at Bluff Park on Facebook or Instagram.



Get Connected This Fall

CONNECT WITH GOD: Over five months ago, our physical distancing began in Alabama as the coronavirus spread through our communities. This disruption has moved many of us into online worship and video conference Sunday school classes and small groups. While many of these practices will have to continue for the time being, our church family is going to offer more ways to connect with God this fall:

Rooted in Faith - Weekly Worship online and weekly in-person Traditional Worship with safeguards starting September! Join the LifeTrack:Daily devotional and make reading Scripture and prayer a part of your daily routine!

Growing in Grace - New regular podcast with a roundtable of our pastors discussing faith and life. New weekly Bible study videos for individual or group studies.

CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER: Physical distancing disrupted some of the ways that our church family operates, but groups were able to stay connected by phone, email, and weekly video conferenced gatherings. Members of these Sunday school classes and Common Tables report that these connections have helped sustain them during this pandemic! We want to help you connect with others this Fall!

For Children's Ministries - Wednesday afternoon Zoom Gatherings and Sunday Children's Church

For Student Ministries - Outdoor small group gatherings and Wednesday evening worship as well as worship on Instagram Live.

For Adult Ministries - join a Sunday school class or Common Table. Many classes are meeting online and we can help connect you with a group who will encourage you and check in on you! You can also get connected with the Open Door Cafe for interesting articles, online speakers and more...

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

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 AND MISSIONS

COORDINATOR: Susan Reynolds

adultministry@bpumc.org, ext. 121

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Jason McCrory

jmcrrory@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

imagination@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

The longer that this pandemic has gone on, the more we are learning about our world, our relationships, and about our faith. We have learned that we are, as a people, both resilient and fragile. We have learned that we are able to change the way we live in order to help one another. At the same time, we have witnessed how easily we are swayed by fear or mob mentality. Many of us have realized, during this unprecedented time, which relationships mean the most to us. Some have wished that they had invested more time in relationships with others. And finally, we have had to face the depth of our faith and our relationship with God.



I have personally seen some of the best of people and faith during this pandemic. From church members serving others to people showing the staff with encouragement and helpful feedback, people have focused on spreading hope and courage to others. I have received blessings from complete strangers like the staff of the Chick-Fil-A on Lakeshore that provided me with a free ice-cold drink while I changed out a dead battery in my car in the oppressive Alabama swirl of humidity and heat. If we look carefully, we will be able to see glimpses of God at work in the world as well as in others.

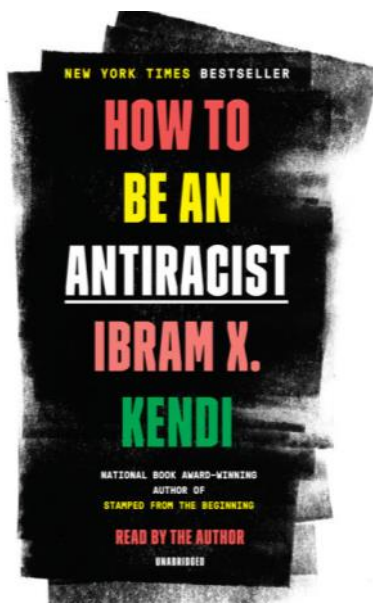
I have heard that things will change this year. Experts are saying that churches will see continued drops in attendance for in-person worship as online worship expands. They say that people will gravitate more towards Sunday school, small groups, or mission teams. And they say that people will more carefully invest their time into pursuits that they care about ~ or where their gifts are most needed. We will have to endeavor some of these possible changes together, but some of them are very encouraging to me as I hope and pray that people find the blessings of connecting with God and one another in new and deeper ways! If you have been someone pondering some of these changes in your journey of faith, we have pastors and church leaders ready to help you discern your next right and faithful steps!

May God continue to bless our church family and our shared ministry and mission this fall!

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

The Gathering Book Club

This July and August, several members of BPUMC that attend The Gathering gathered together over Zoom to read and discuss the book *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. The book weaves together a story of the author's experience as a Black person in America with history, stories, and strategies of how we can all strive for equality and justice. Kendi argues that it is not enough to simply be "not racist," but that we should actively strive to be "antiracist." Over the course of the two months, participants discussed how we as followers of Jesus can incorporate these stories and histories of racism in America and around the world to be more effective witnesses of the inclusive love that we find in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. It was a challenging, sometimes uncomfortable, journey, but all participants came away educated and enlightened about how we can be better educated about issues of racism and systemic injustice as well as how we can best love our neighbor both through action and advocacy.



August Food Pantry:
248 Families Served and 6000 Diapers Distributed

4k-5th Grade Movie Night

The first one was a big success, so we're having another movie night for 4k-5th grade children on September 20th from 4pm-6pm!



Sign your kiddos up now and reserve their spot. We are keeping everyone safe, masks and social distancing between households is required by all. Kids can bring a small blanket or stuffed animal to cuddle with. We will provide cold water and popcorn (no outside food allowed.)

Movie-TBA

To register your kids for Movie night follow the link below. Be sure to unclick your name and click the names of the kids that are attending. If you need help with registration email Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org.

bluffparkumc.org/childrensmovienight

Bluff Park United Methodist Church

You probably have seen the 2020 hate online. It's crazy funny -- but let's be careful not to say "What is God doing?" in such a way that it sounds like God is throwing murder hornets and back-to-back hurricanes at us.

Instead, let's be the people asking "What is God doing" in a way that looks for hope and blessings and signs of the coming Kingdom of God in an unprecedented year.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We hope that everyone had a great summer and that all of our children have had a great start to the new school year, whether in person or online! We would love to invite everyone to join us in praying the following prayer over the children

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray that you would help the children of our church and community as they travel through this unique and unprecedented school year: that you would give them peace when they are anxious, strength and grace as their bodies grow, and wisdom and knowledge as they learn the things they need to know this year. God, may they develop friendships this year that are encouraging, beneficial, and good. Help them to embrace and grow through the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this school year brings. God, be their refuge and their strength, guide, guard, and keep them safe in all that they do, and help them remember that you are always with them and you will always love them. We entrust them to your loving care and we thank you so much for the blessings they are in our lives. We ask all these things in Your Name, Amen!

We also want to invite the 4K-5th grade children of our church to join us each Wednesday night in September (beginning September 9th) for virtual Midweek Meetup! Each Wednesday from 6:00-7:15, we will be offering a virtual choir time and virtual Bible classes that will include Bible stories, games, songs, and/or memory verse challenges. Be on the lookout for an email from Miss Melissa with more details!



STUDENT MINISTRY

Wednesday Holy Ground Worship!

As of right now every other week we are planning to meet online for worship. 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, and weekly newsletter!

Contacts: youthdirector@bpumc.org or mhendon@bpumc.org



ADULT MINISTRY

A Timely Prayer

The Coronavirus pandemic has rapidly transformed life as we know it for millions of people all over the world. For many, COVID-19 carries feelings and challenges of fear, anxiety, economic hardships, isolation, and many other stresses. This prayer reminds us that we are not alone in our feelings and we can ease our own fears by praying for others.

A Prayer for a World Facing the Coronavirus

Dear God,

It seems like lots of uncertainty around us.

So many people who need prayers.

Today, I pray...

For those whose health is compromised by the coronavirus or other health issues.

For those who suffer from the economic impact of the virus, in travel, manufacturing, hospitality, retail, agriculture, energy or so many other industries.

For health care workers and first responders, and other public servants who put themselves in harm's way for us.

For our leaders of the world, our countries, states, and cities, as they seek to help manage this challenge.

God, it can be overwhelming. But you tell us over and over again not to be afraid.

Show me how to trust in you.

As I examine my heart, help me to turn away from my concern with self, and turn my heart, hands, and prayers toward the concerns of others.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray.

Amen

The Open Door Café

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

Note: *A Prayer for a World Facing the Coronavirus* was originally posted by St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3471 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77027. It was adapted by the United Methodist Church and posted on www.UMC.org.

Adult Ministry Survey

We have an important Adult Ministry Survey for you to fill out on page 7 or you may take the survey online. Help us as we plan for ministry this fall.

bluffparkumc.org/adult-ministry-survey

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 online version of the church Newsletter. Don't miss out!

To receive the Weekly Email Newsletter, visit bluffparkumc.org/newsletter to signup online. If you need help, please call the church office at 205-822-0910.

How To Worship Online

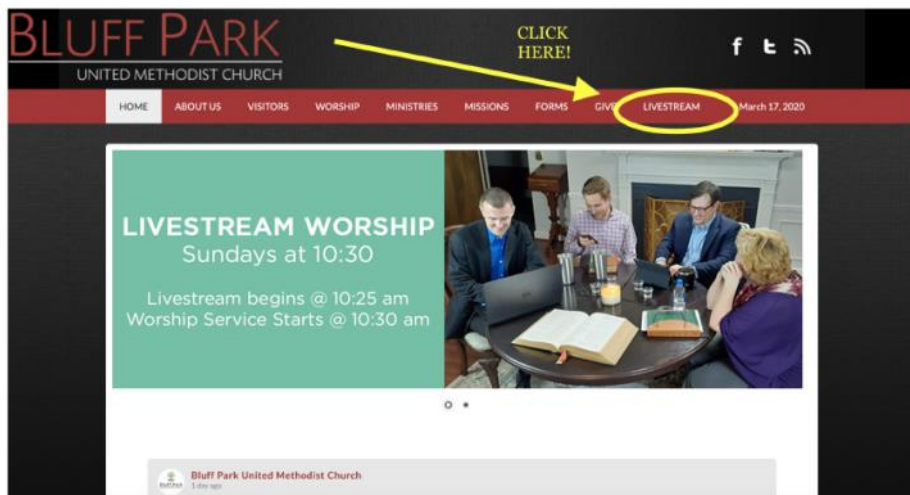
On Sunday mornings the weekly worship Livestream can be found on our Facebook Pages. If you aren't a Facebook user, there is also a dedicated page on our website where you can tune in live each week. The link to the livestream page is on the upper right of the website homepage and will take you to the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



Meet the Staff

NAME: Rev. Stanley Davidson

JOB TITLE: Director of Children's Ministry

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR JOB: Through programs, worship services, Sunday School, Bible studies, mission projects/trips, and events, I strive to help the children of our church and community learn who Jesus Christ is, how much Jesus Christ loves them, how they can form a relationship of some kind with Jesus Christ, how they can grow in a relationship with Jesus Christ, and how they can take what they have learned and experienced about the love of Jesus Christ and pour that love out into their friends, their family, their community, and the world.

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND? I have an Associate Degree in Science from Young Harris College, a Bachelor's Degree in History with a Minor in Business from Georgia Southern University, and a Master's of Divinity Degree from Asbury Theological Seminary. I worked at BB&T in Atlanta for 3 years after college before accepting my first job as a Director of Children's Ministry in Conyers, GA. I moved to Hoover and accepted the Director of Children's Ministry job here at BPUMC in May 2015. I was ordained a Deacon in the United Methodist Church in 2018.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB? I have the privilege of getting to know and watching the children of our church grow from birth to 5th grade. My favorite part of my job is seeing the kids of our church slowly grow in their knowledge and love of God, their faith in Jesus, and their love of others during that time!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY: I have been married to my beautiful wife Stephanie for 13 years, and together we have two amazing children: Gavin (9) and Katie (4)! We also have two dogs: Pickles (old and lazy) and Peaches (wild and rambunctious)!

FAVORITE THING TO DO AWAY FROM WORK? When away from work, I love to spend time with my family, read, run, watch sports, watch movies, and play disc golf!



Member Updates

NEW MEMBERS

- Kristin and Michael Brymer - 8/23

BAPTISMS

- Henry Wayne Patterson - 8/9
- Jack Elliott Brymer - 8/23

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Sarah and Brandon Miller on the birth of a daughter, Addison Ruth on July 31st.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of George Johnson who passed away on Sunday, August 16, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Jerri Bailey on the passing of her husband Harold on Sunday August 16, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to David Martin on the passing of his wife Robin on Sunday August 25, 2020. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

September 1

Revelation 3:7-13 | Psalm 28

September 2

Matthew 12:22-32 | Psalm 38

September 3

2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Psalm 37:1-18

September 4

Romans 10:15-21 | Psalm 35

September 5

Matthew 23:29-36 | Psalm 32

September 6

Matthew 18:15-20 | Psalm 103

September 7

Exodus 12:14-28 | Psalm 52

September 8

Romans 13:1-7 | Psalm 47

September 9

Exodus 13:1-10 | Psalm 49

September 10

1 John 3:11-16 | Psalm 59

September 11

Acts 7:9-16 | Psalm 54

September 12

Matthew 6:7-15 | Psalm 55

September 13

Romans 14:1-12 | Psalm 87

September 14

Joshua 3:1-17 | Psalm 66

September 15

Romans 14:13-15:2 | Psalm 62

September 16

2 Kings 2:1-18 | Psalm 72

September 17

Exodus 15:22-27 | Psalm 74

September 18

2 Corinthians 13:5-10 | Psalm 73

September 19

Matthew 19:23-30 | Psalm 23

September 20

Philippians 1:21-30 | Psalm 96

September 21

Exodus 16:31-35

Psalm 119:41-64

September 22

Romans 16:17-20 | Psalm 78:1-39

September 23

Matthew 18:1-5 | Psalm 81

September 24

James 4:11-16 | Psalm 146

September 25

Numbers 20:1-13 | Psalm 91

September 26

Mark 11:27-33 | Psalm 87

September 27

Philippians 2:1-13 | Psalm 67

September 28

Philippians 1:3-14 | Psalm 89:1-18

September 29

Philippians 1:15-21 | Psalm 8

September 30

Matthew 9:2-8 | Psalm 101



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.

Adult Ministry -- Fall Planning Survey

With fall and cooler weather approaching, we have some questions for you! Please let us know your answers to the following:

1. Do you receive the BPUMC Weekly Update that is emailed to church members on Friday or Saturday, each week? YES/NO
2. Would you be comfortable attending a program inside the church, if all COVID safety guidelines are followed? YES/NO
3. Would you attend an event outdoors, if all COVID safety guidelines are followed? YES/NO
4. Would you like to be part of a small group of 6 to 8 people who meet in-person regularly for a devotion and conversation? YES/NO
5. Would you like to be part of a small group of 6 to 8 people who meet regularly for a devotion and conversation via a social media platform such as Zoom? YES/NO
6. Would you connect to and watch a livestream program(s) on your computer, smart phone or other device? You could watch them live or watch a recorded version later. Programs could be similar to what we have been having at the Open Door Café. YES/NO
7. What are your major concerns at this point during the Coronavirus pandemic? _____

8. What is the best way that we can communicate with you about new program opportunities? (Email, BPUMC Weekly Email Update, Phone Call, etc.)

Your Name (optional) _____

Your Contact Information (optional) _____

Please send your responses to adultministry@bpumc.org, bring them by the church, or mail them to the church at 733 Valley Street, Hoover, AL 35226. THANK YOU!

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

BUILDING FUND

Terry Dunne, by Jo Ann and Preston Huddleston

Kerri Moore, by Jo Ann and Preston Huddleston

CRISTIN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP

Ray Crockett, by R. W. Bowles, Jean Brown, Jeff and Lucy Hill, Charlie and Donna Ingram, David Stegall

Tommy Mosley, by the Mosley Family

HANDBELL FUND

Cary Moore, by Randy and Judy Smith

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Joy Raine, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

In Honor of...

CHOIR FUND

Art DeWeese, by Elizabeth Davis

Jay Tumminello, by Elizabeth Davis

Jackie Wesson, by Rusty and Julie Adams, John and Sylvia Sumners

OPERATING FUND

Mike Holly and Family, by Jim and Charlotte Holly

ORGAN FUND

Jackie Wesson, by Julia Dunne, Jim and Sally Holland, James and Olivia Howard

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—

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

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.