



BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Worship In November



Traditional Worship

On every Sunday in November, we will offer an Online Traditional Worship Service as well as in-person physically-distanced worship in our Sanctuary at 10:30am. In order to attend you will need to register for worship either through our Realm membership database online or by calling the main office. 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, the recording is available all week long. Children's Church and Nursery are available during the service—registration is required.

The Gathering



The Gathering will be holding in-person physically-distanced worship in our Chapel at 9:00 am. In order to attend the in-person physically-distanced worship services in our Chapel, you will need to register for worship either through our Realm membership database online or by calling the main office at 205-822-0910. The Gathering worship service will be livestreamed on Facebook and the church website at 9:00 am. After the livestream ends, a recording is available on the Facebook page.

Remembering Our Saints

Ardelle Acton
Wendell Andrews
Charles Arthur
Harold Bailey
Mike Barron
Jim Braswell
Jay Burns
Don Delashaw
Pat Doran
Margaret Dover
Terry Dunne
Mary Griffin
Peggy Hill
Dan Hughes
Loy Jones
Linda King
Sonja Lother
Robin Martin
Richard Mixon
Cary Moore
Cindy Myers
Jim Nichols
Joy Raine-Thrash
Dale Schmelzle
Edith Stewart
Bob Sturdivant
Jean Valentine
John Whitcomb
Jim Windham
Peggy Wyatt
Carla York

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On the same day in 1788, he writes, "I always find this a comfortable day."

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Sunday Morning

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 10:30 am

THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK: 9:00 am

Worship online at Facebook:
www.facebook.com/bluffparkumc

Worship online at 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

The Church Word of 2020: *Reschedule*.

We are approaching our eighth month of a new way of being the church together during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This past month, one of our staff members tested positive for COVID-19 and was out of the office for about a week and a half. Thankfully, that staff person is improving quickly! During that time, we closed the office for a few



days to allow other staff members to get tested and to ensure that our church members were kept safe. We ended up having to reschedule several events. The fourth hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico this year also forced us to reschedule our Halloween Carnival Drive-Thru from Wednesday to Friday. This year has required us all to be quite flexible in our expectations as well as what we see as being "firm" on our calendars.

We have chosen to reschedule several other things on our church's calendar. For instance, we have some important needs that we are about to communicate to the whole church related to the preservation of our buildings and grounds as well as preserving the ministries that we provide to you and the community. We are entering into a one-year capital campaign to raise \$300,000 over and above our annual budget in order to Preserve Beauty and Preserve Ministry at Bluff Park UMC. We also know that November and December are months where there are a lot of end-of-the-year budgeting, saving, and planning for Christmas holidays. We want to give you the space that you need in your spiritual life in order to focus upon fulfilling the pledge that you have made for the 2020 annual ministry budget as well as considering this one-year capital campaign. We also want to give you the time to focus on faith, family, and service to others during these holy months.

Because of this, we are going to wait until January 2021 to begin our annual ministry budget pledge campaign. By then, we will hopefully have not only a better sense of what our needs are as a church family but we will also hopefully have a clean slate in a new year where the word of the year will no longer be "reschedule." Our prayers are that the word will then be "reconnect." We will be focusing on reconnecting to God and reconnecting to one another! We will eventually be reconnecting to serve others together! And we will all eventually be together within our beautiful spaces of worship that will be preserved by your generosity! Remember: there is a future with hope!



Christmas Ornament Sale!

Show your Bluff Park UMC pride!! The Bluff Park United Methodist Women have a new fundraiser this year and would appreciate your support. These cross ornaments can be purchased for \$5 each and the proceeds will go to fund the various mission projects we undertake each year. Orders due by Sunday December 6th. Please email Ellen Kerns at ekerns1001@gmail.com to reserve yours!

Mission Focus: Water Utility Bills

As a Matthew 25 church, we have pledged to provide assistance with food, water, and shelter along with other means of care and assistance mentioned in the 25th chapter of Matthew. Our food assistance programs are going strong and have been celebrated in the Hoover community and beyond. Even still, they continue to need your help and support. During the upcoming holidays, however, your financial help is especially needed regarding water and utilities. We understand that there are now 12,000 customers in the greater Birmingham area that may have their water cut off due to unpaid bills. As people are struggling to make ends meet, the assistance with water bills can be a life saver! You can help by making financial gifts over and above your annual pledge to either the Pastor's Discretionary Fund at Bluff Park UMC or to Urban Ministry. If you choose to give to Urban Ministry, please make sure that the gift is clearly marked for "utility bill assistance" (i.e. in the memo line of a check). For more information, please call the church's main office at 205-822-0910 or contact Urban Ministry at www.urban-ministry.org. Rev. Garret Harper is the Executive Director

of Urban Ministry and can be reached via his direct line at 205-848-4095.

Mission Focus: the Festival of Three Kings

The Festival of Three Kings is an annual opportunity for us to help others experience the joy of Christmas by providing gifts to children. Normally, individuals or groups sign up and are given a wishlist to shop for a child. This year, due to our different circumstances, we would like to request monetary donations that we can use to shop for the children. You may still sponsor a child individually or as a Sunday School class, family, or other group. We plan to spend a maximum of \$100 per child, but any donation amount is appreciated. Donations may be turned into the Bluff Park Financial Office, specified for "Festival of Three Kings." Please contact Debi Whitcomb (205-979-7626) if you have any questions. The Festival of Three Kings is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.



Blanket Collection for the Homeless

Adult and Student Ministries partner together for a special Mission Project! We will be collecting blankets for the Homeless during the month of November. You can bring a new blanket to the main office Monday through Friday 8am-4pm or drop them off in Narthex during an in-person worship event. You can also send them with your children and youth to an in-person event.

The Youth will be having their "immersion experience" event, One Night for the Homeless on November 14-15 8pm-6am. They will be collecting blankets for the homeless during this event as well.

If you would like to make a donation and we buy the blankets, you can use this link: BluffParkUMC.org/blanketdonation. Thank you for your support!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BLUFF PARK UMC COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN DRIVE THRU!!!

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make the Halloween Drive Thru a huge success! Whether you donated candy, donated money for candy, helped out the night of the event, or prayed for us, we could not have done it without you! Because of you, families in our community were still able to experience a safe, community wide, Halloween ministry event at our church in the midst of a pandemic, and hopefully they felt and experienced the love of God in the process! We are so proud to serve at such a loving and giving church!

THE NURSERY AND CHILDREN'S CHURCH IS BACK!

We are so happy to announce that we are able to offer a Nursery for kids 6 weeks to 4 years and Children's Church for kindergarten through 5th grade. All kids must be registered by the Thursday before they attend (so that we can plan appropriately.) Covid and social distancing protocols apply. To get all the details and rules and to register your kid(s), go to our website at:

<http://bluffparkumc.org/nursery-and-childrens-church-registration-page/>



STUDENT MINISTRY

FALL RETREAT SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14TH 9:30am-5pm

We will be playing games, having small groups, having worship, eating lunch, and hanging out all day! The volunteer shift times are at 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm. You may want to consider volunteering for both shifts if your student is attending.

ONE NIGHT FOR THE HOMELESS NOVEMBER 14TH-15TH 8pm-6am

The students that will be participating in this immersive event will be spending the night in cardboard boxes or tents. We need two women and two men to chaperone for the night. You can bring your own tent to sleep in or you can join the students in a box if you prefer. If you would like to help and do not have a tent, we will provide one for you.



ADULT MINISTRY

Hoover Senior Center Great Exercise Videos

The Hoover Senior Center has posted links to numerous videos that will guide you through Chair Exercise, Tia Chi, Walk at Home, Strength and Balance, and Yoga. For quick links to the videos, visit their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/HooverNewHorizons. The videos can be found at the top of their homepage. While you're there, scroll through their Facebook page, they list lots of activities!

If you are a Hoover resident 55 or older, you can purchase a membership to the Senior Center for only \$10 per year. For more information, call the Senior Center at 205-739-6700.

A United Methodist Event for Seniors Golden TV (via Zoom)

Golden TV - Zoom
Friday, November 13
9:00 - 2:00

Remember when the most risqué thing on television was Barney teasing Andy about a "little kissee on the jaw?" Seems like they just don't have good programs like in the golden age of television. But on Nov. 13, 2020, you can tune in to Golden TV on a screen in your very own home. Join us anytime from 9-2 p.m. for information, education, and yes, entertainment (so we can "share a laugh or sing a song" like Carol Burnett) - in other words, the things TV was created for.

Learn about the history of Methodism, how to protect yourself from scams, caregiver support, and cooking for 1 or

The Open Door Café

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

2 for the holidays. Our keynote speaker, Rev. Rick Owen, will offer a timely and comical look at the year 2020. You can tune in for any or all of these speakers at the top of each hour.

Please watch the very funny promo video at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/13RrYp5VAQa3n-PBZ8SOi2Jtu609zYN6/view?usp=sharing> and encourage all "seasoned" adults to tune in by registering at <https://na-reg.brtapp.com/GoldenTV2020>.

For more information, contact Julie Wright at Trinity United Methodist Church at 205-768-6089 or jwright@trinitybirmingham.com.



MISSIONS

Food Pantry Provides Adult Diapers for Clients in Need

Our Pantry on the Bluff gives out adult diapers to those who need them. If you have diapers to donate, contact Sylvia Sumners at ssumners@bellsouth.net or 205-482-5680.

First Light Shelter Meals Needed Now and at Thanksgiving

The First Light Shelter for homeless women and children needs volunteers to provide breakfast and/or lunch for approximately 15 to 20 of their guests. There are several options for providing the food:

1. You can purchase prepared meals, purchase food and prepare it at home, or purchase food and prepare it in the First Light kitchen.
2. You can serve the food to the guests at First Light or you can drop it off at the shelter for someone there to serve.

In addition to help now, First Light is looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve, breakfast, lunch and dinner meals over the long Thanksgiving weekend. If you, your family and/or a group of your friends can help, please contact Deborah Everson @ deborah.everson@firstlightshelter.org.

September Food Pantry Report

Another successful drive-thru Pantry on the Bluff was held in October:

- 284 Households Received Food
- 24 Weekender Backpacks were Given to Bluff Park Elementary Students
- 6050 Children's Diapers/Pull-ups were Given Out
- 624 Adult Diapers Adult Diapers were also Distributed

Our thanks to the 39 volunteers who prepared for and operated October's *Pantry on the Bluff*.

Meet the Staff

NAME: Marcie Walters

JOB TITLE: Nursery/Preschool Coordinator

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR JOB: My job as the Nursery/Preschool Coordinator is to care for the children from birth until Kindergarten. I make sure that these children are well taken care of so that their parents can go to church and other ministries. I implement a curriculum that is age appropriate and focus on teaching them how much God loves them. I also put on a few events each year for preschoolers and their families (ex. Pajama Story Time and Christmas Party). I make sure that my staff is a good fit and that they have everything they need.



WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND: I started working as a nursery worker at Bluff Park United Methodist Church in February of 2013. In September of 2014, I took on the role of coordinator. I have worked with children my entire life as a nanny, babysitter, day care worker, music and movement teacher, and gymnastics coach.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB? My favorite part of the job is without a doubt the kids. I love watching them grow up and developing a relationship with each child. The hugs are an added bonus!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY: I have been married to my awesome husband for 6 years. Together we have a 4-year-old boy (Carson). We are big pet lovers, and as of now we have a Plott Hound mix puppy (Presley).

FAVORITE THING TO DO AWAY FROM WORK? I love to be with my family. I would rather be at home, and I never turn down a nap. I enjoy organizing and planning. I know every Friends episode and watch it every day!

Brief Charge Conference - for the Church Council

Thursday, November 5, 2020. Zoom Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Charge Conference - for the Church Council

Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Zoom Meeting or In-Person in the Chapel at 6:30 pm.

Member Updates

BAPTISMS

- Audrey Face—10/11
- Laura and Derek Needham—10/18

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Linda Phillips on the passing of her husband, Jack, on October 18th. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in their time of loss.

LIFETRACK

November 1

Matthew 5:1-12 | Psalm 112

November 2

Joshua 4 | Psalm 56

November 3

Acts 13:1-12 | Psalm 62

November 4

Matthew 15:1-9 | Psalm 72

November 5

Joshua 5:10-12 | Psalm 71

November 6

Amos 3:1-12 | Psalm 73

November 7

Matthew 24:1-14 | Psalm 76

November 8

Matthew 25:1-12 | Psalm 96

November 9

1 Corinthians 14:20-25 | Psalm 80

November 10

1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 | Psalm 79

November 11

Matthew 24:29-35 | Psalm 81

November 12

Judges 2:6-15 | Psalm 83

November 13

Judges 2:16-23 | Psalm 88

November 14

Matthew 12:43-45 | Psalm 90

November 15

Matthew 11:25-30 | Psalm 123

November 16

Romans 2:1-11 | Psalm 89:1-18

November 17

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
Psalm 99

November 18

Esther 7:1-10 | Psalm 100

November 19

Genesis 48:15-22 | Psalm 101

November 20

Isaiah 40:1-11 | Psalm 102

November 21

Matthew 12:46-50 | Psalm 28

November 22

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 145

November 23

2 Timothy 2:8-13
Psalm 106:1-18

November 24

Zechariah 11:4-17 | Psalm 122

November 25

John 5:19-40 | Psalm 128

November 26

Zechariah 13:1-9 | Psalm 147

November 27

1 Thessalonians 4 | Psalm 140

November 28

Matthew 24:29-31 | Psalm 144

November 29

John 1:1-5 | Psalm 146

November 30

John 1:6-16 | Psalm 34

Monthly Calendar for November 2020

Sunday, November 1		Monday, November 9		Wednesday, November 18	
9:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	6:00 pm	Missions Committee	5:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service	Tuesday, November 10		5:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Monday, November 2		8:30 am	Maintenance	Sunday, November 22	
10:00 am	Prayer Shawl	9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study	9:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park
Tuesday, November 3		6:00 pm	Under the Bridge	10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service
7:00 am	General Election	Wednesday, November 11—Veteran's Day		Monday, November 23	
9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED		10:00 am	UMW Joy Circle
Wednesday, November 4		Saturday, November 14		Tuesday, November 24	
7:00 am	Food Pantry	6:00 pm	One Night for the Homeless	9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study
4:00 pm	Drive Thru Communion	Sunday, November 15		Wednesday, November 25	
5:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal	9:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	5:00 pm	Handbell Rehearsal
5:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service	5:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, November 5		4:00 pm	Children's Movie Night	Thursday, November 26—Thanksgiving	
6:30 pm	Charge Conference	Tuesday, November 17		OFFICE CLOSED	
Sunday, November 8		9:30 am	Becky Walker Bible Study	Sunday, November 29	
9:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park	6:00 pm	Under the Bridge	9:00 am	The Gathering at Bluff Park
10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service	6:00 pm	Charge Conference	10:30 am	Traditional Worship Service

How To Worship Online

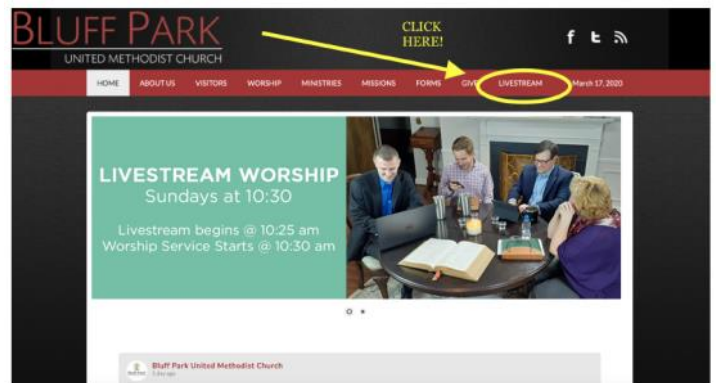
On Sunday mornings the weekly worship Livestream can be found on our Facebook Pages. If you aren't a Facebook user, there is also a dedicated page on our website where you can tune in live each week. The link to the livestream page is on the upper right of the website homepage and will take you to the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



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

In Memory of...

CHILDREN'S FUND

Linda King, by Dyer and Ronda Carlisle

CHOIR FUND

Linda King, by Footsteps Class, Bob and Ann Nelson Family, New Light Class, Ronald and Bonnie Payne, John and Sylvia Sumners

FOOD PANTRY

Jack Phillips, by Fishermen Class

MUSIC FUND

Linda King, by Debi Whitcomb

OPERATING FUND

Linda King, by Andy's Golf Group with Hoover Country Club, Balch and Bingham LLP, Terry and Ann Bice, Jean Brown, Alice Chase, Marjorie Colvin, Covenant Class, Thomas and Diane DeVries, Shawn Dunaway, Frances Faulks, Tim and Ellen Finley, Dan Goldberg, Stanley and Patsy Graves, Keith and Sylvia Harper, Barbara Harris, Bruce and Sharon Higdon, Andy and Ann Holder, James and Sally Holland, Debra McCallum, Mike and Sandy Miller, Randy and Michele Patterson, George and Alice

Singleton, Ed and Nan Thomas, Michelle Urban, Bennie and Amanda Vinson, Ray and Lia White Family

Jim Nichols, by Terry and Ann Bice, Randy and Michele Patterson, Bill and Paulette Pearson, George and Alice Singleton

Ruth Scott, by Dave and Phyllis Scott

John Whitcomb, by Randy and Michele Patterson

ORGAN FUND

Juanita Cox, by Covenant Class

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

Linda King, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT

John Whitcomb, by Covenant Class

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Linda King, by John and Rosemary Dallam

Jim Nichols, by Canterbury Class, Ed and Nan Thomas, J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP

Robert McClure, by Betsy Brooks

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.