

Traditional Worship



*Believe,  
Belong, Grow,  
Serve!*



## NURSERY

Childcare is available during the worship service for children 4k and younger. The Nursery is located downstairs below the sanctuary.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes are offered for adults and children on Sunday mornings before the 10:00 am worship services. Visit the Welcome Desk in the Narthex for more information about available classes.



## NEXT STEPS

Connect with our church online and discover more about the life of our church family.



### REALM

[OnRealm.org/BluffParkUnited](https://OnRealm.org/BluffParkUnited)



### WEBSITE

[BluffParkUMC.org](https://BluffParkUMC.org)



### WEEKLY LIVESTREAM

[BluffParkUMC.org/worship](https://BluffParkUMC.org/worship)



### FACEBOOK

[BluffParkUMC.org/facebook](https://BluffParkUMC.org/facebook)



### SERMON PODCAST

[BluffParkUMC.org/grow-deeper](https://BluffParkUMC.org/grow-deeper)



### YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[BluffParkUMC.org/youtube](https://BluffParkUMC.org/youtube)



### EMAIL NEWSLETTER

[BluffParkUMC.org/newsletters](https://BluffParkUMC.org/newsletters)

## WELCOME

We are glad that you are here today! We at Bluff Park UMC affirm that all people matter to God as persons of sacred worth. We invite all people to be a part of our church family and grow in faith and grace.

## START YOUR JOURNEY AT BPUMC!

If you would like to know more about your next steps in our church family, please call or e-mail Rev. Ross Furio at (205) 822-0910 or [rfurio@bpumc.org](mailto:rfurio@bpumc.org).

## REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE

Members and guests, please take a moment to register your attendance at worship today. You can use the attendance pad located in your pew or register online using the QR code below or by visiting:

[bluffparkumc.org/traditional-worship-registration](https://bluffparkumc.org/traditional-worship-registration)



# **Bluff Park United Methodist Church**

## **Traditional Worship Service**

### **Order of Worship**

April 28, 2024

#### **Altar Flowers**

The Altar flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of  
Temmie and Otis Bibb, two of the most selfless people we know. We  
are so grateful for their unending love kindness and grace.  
Love, The Campbells and The Bibbs

*A personal prayer to help you prepare your heart and mind for worship today:*

O Lord, our God, you are worthy of all our praise. You are the God who never fails to keep his promises. We thank you that in Jesus' life, death and resurrection we see your love, justice, mercy, provision and victory. You are the God who lifts up those who are weighed down. You are the God who provides for your children. Our desire is to praise you as long as we live. Inhabit our praises as we gather together today. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*\* Congregation please stand as able*

#### **Prelude**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Choral Introit**

"BIND US TOGETHER"  
by Gillman

#### **\*Hymn of Praise** No. 384

"LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING"

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;\* the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

### **\*The Gloria Patri** No. 70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **Offering**

### **Offertory**

### **\*Doxology—Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Concerns of the Church Family**

### **Call to Confession**

God alone is righteous,  
God alone is perfect,  
God alone is judge,  
Yet this holy, righteous God,  
comes to us in love, to save us.  
Rejoicing in God's grace,  
let us confess our sin.

### **Prayer of Confession**

All: God of all glory, beauty and grace,  
we have tried to hide from you;  
to hide our faces, to hide our sin,  
Yet you have never hidden your love for us.  
Instead you have revealed yourself to us in the face of Jesus Christ.  
Forgive us and transform us  
so that our lives may shine  
with your glory, beauty, and grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Our God comes and does not keep silence;  
God speaks to us with grace and love,  
saying: You are my beloved child.

This is the good news of the gospel:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God!

All: Thanks be to God!

### **Silent Prayer/Pastoral Prayer**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the king-  
dom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

### **Children's Choir: Stephanie Davidson — Director**

"The Lord's Prayer" (It's Yours) arr. by Grant Wall

## **Children's Church Dismissal**

*Elementary age children are invited to attend Children's Church. They will leave through the rear of the Sanctuary and return to the Narthex (gathering space outside of the Sanctuary) immediately after the worship service.*

## **Choral Anthem**

"HE LOVED ME"

by Doug Holck and Tom Fettke

*He chose me before the world was known. He chose me to be His very own. He made me, then let me choose my way. I chose to move away.*

*He loved me when hope had taken wing.*

*He loved me when I lost everything.*

*He bought me; redemption's work was done through Jesus Christ His Son.*

*Who shall separate me from the love of God?*

*Shall dreams of tomorrow, pain, or sorrow?*

*Can the need of food or earthly possessions, the threat of war or man's oppressions?*

*In all these things victory is our reward.*

*Victory is our reward through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

*Of this I am sure, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come.*

*Not height, nor depth, nor any creature shall separate me from the Love Of GOD.*

*Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

## **\*Prayer for Illumination**

**Open our eyes and soften our hearts, O God, through the work of your Holy Spirit, that in hearing your Word we may receive new life. Amen.**

## **\*Scripture Reading**

Romans 8: 35-39

35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? 36 As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

## **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. Kay Mutert

"HOPE IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING"

## **\*Hymn of Commitment** No. 593

"HERE I AM, LORD"

## **\*Sending Forth with Blessing**

## **\*Choral Benediction**

"HALLELUJAH AMEN"

Mason

## **Postlude**

## PRAYER LIST

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Matt Reeder, Christie O'Brien, Linda Sully, Paula McGarity, Gloria Phillips, Dorothy Frances, Debbie Smith and the family of Fay Nichols, Curtis and Paula Thompson and family, Ed Langham, Audrey Glenn, Art and Debbie DeWeese, Ron Roegner, Beth Ann Pope, Becky Ferguson, Jim Black, Esther Stephens, Temmie Bibb, Cindy Mullins, Pat Reese, Alice Marie Morrison, Maya Britt Wright, Ann Gilliland, Janann Williams, Becky Blankenship, Israelites, Palestinians, Bill Jones, Kerns Family, Jim and Gaile Ketchersid, Bill Cooch, Lisa Avant, Pam Phagan, Haley Buchman, Ann Miller, Linda Phillips, Olivia Howard, Nathan and Amy Pearman, Sue Pearson, Nathan and Alice Chase, Ann Bice, The people of Ukraine, Mark Blankenship, Matt and Pat Reeder, Charlotte Word, Connie Steele

### People I'm Praying for Today:



realm

Let's get connected.

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 own personal information, control your giving, make pledges, 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 our church community. 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.



## Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School Registration is open and we are expecting a large number of children to attend VBS again this summer! The dates for VBS are July 15-19 from 8:30-12:00 each day, and registration can be found on our church's website. We are in need of a lot of volunteers to make this year's VBS as fun, life changing, and safe as possible for the 200+ children from our church and community who will be attending! Our primary need every year is Crew Leaders: volunteers who lead a group of 7-8 children from station to station at VBS each day. There's no prep work for this role: you simply hang out and travel with your group each day! If you would be willing to volunteer to be a Crew Leader for all five days, or just a few days, or if you would like to learn about other VBS volunteer roles, please email Melissa Hendon at [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org).

Learn More and Get Involved — Connect at Bluff Park UMC  
Visit [www.bluffparkumc.org/connect](http://www.bluffparkumc.org/connect)

## TODAY'S TOP ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Summer Common Tables

Are you looking for a way to get more connected to meaningful relationships? Common Tables are for you! The mission of Common Tables is simple: come together with good friends over good food to help one another listen for the voice of God in our lives. Learn more and sign up today at [bluffparkumc.org/commontables](http://bluffparkumc.org/commontables) or by emailing Billy at [brainey@bpumc.org](mailto:brainey@bpumc.org).

**Red Cross Blood Drive**  
**Sunday, May 5—Gym**  
**7:30 AM—12:30 PM**

If you're interested in helping out those in dire need of blood please consider donating to the Blood Drive. It really makes a difference, so come on down to the old gym on May 5th.

### Church Council Meeting

Our next church council meeting will be on Sunday May 5th at 4:00pm in the Chapel. Let this serve as a reminder that these are open meetings, where anyone is welcome to attend and where all have a voice. However, only those nominated to serve on the Church Council will have a vote. If you have questions regarding Church Council or this upcoming meeting please contact Pastor Ross at [rfurio@bpumc.org](mailto:rfurio@bpumc.org).



# LIFETRACK

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

You can sign up to have more daily devotional tools for your LifeTrack Spiritual Formation Journey delivered to your e-mail inbox everyday! Visit:

## **Morning Prayer**

Guide us in the path of discipleship, so that, as you have blessed us, we may be a blessing to others, bringing the promise of the kingdom near by our words and deeds. Amen.

## **Evening Prayer**

God, you sent your Son into the world that we might live through him. May we abide in his risen life so that we may bear the fruit of love for one another and know the fullness of joy. Amen.

## **Morning Scriptures**

**Sunday, April 28**

Matthew 22

**Monday, April 29**

Matthew 23

**Tuesday, April 30**

Matthew 24

**Wednesday, May 1**

Matthew 25

**Thursday, May 2**

Matthew 26

**Friday, May 3**

Matthew 27

**Saturday, May 4**

Matthew 28

## **Evening Scriptures**

**Sunday, April 28**

Psalms 5

**Monday, April 29**

Psalms 5

**Tuesday, April 30**

Psalms 5

**Wednesday, May 1**

Psalms 5

**Thursday, May 2**

Psalms 5

**Friday, May 3**

Psalms 5

**Saturday, May 4**

Psalms 5

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Midweek Meetup:** Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday night during the school year from 5:30-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner (\$4), choir, recreation, age focused Bible Study/Classroom time, and more!

**Children's Church:** Children's Church happens every Sunday morning (except the first Sunday of the month) for Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade students! About 15-20 minutes into the Traditional worship service, children will be invited to leave the sanctuary with our Director of Children's Ministry, Mr. Stanley, attend Children's Church in Hudson Hall, and then return to the Sanctuary at the conclusion of the service for pick up. Children who attend will experience a worship service geared towards them at their age level that includes prayer, offering, and a Children's Sermon.

**Children's Sunday School:** Children's Sunday School for birth-5<sup>th</sup> grade occurs every Sunday morning from 9:45-10:30! In Sunday school, children will learn Bible stories, participate in mission projects, experience hands on object lessons, and/or play games that go along with the Bible lesson. Birth-4K children will meet on the Preschool Hall and Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> grade children will meet on the Children's Hall (both located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor).

**Children's Weekly Email:** If you have any questions and/or would like to start receiving our Children's Weekly Email to find out all of the fun and exciting things that are going on in the Children's Ministry at BPUMC, please email Melissa Hendon at [mhendon@bpumc.org](mailto:mhendon@bpumc.org).

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**WEEKLY EVENTS:** We have three regular events for 6th-12th graders each week.

**Youth Sunday School:** Sunday Mornings from 9:45-10:30 in the Connect Room on the first floor! This is one of our favorite times of each week as we eat breakfast, talk about life, and pray for one another.

**Sunday Activity Night:** Sunday nights from 6-7:30 as we eat dinner and fellowship with one another! (Tonight is a game night and we've got a special project for this year's VBS, too!)

**Holy Ground:** This week instead of our regular worship service we're hosting Bluff Park's Got Talent! Dinner is from 5:30-6:00, we'll have a giant talent show from 6-7, and we'll get some free time from 7-7:30. And remember that dinner is FREE during April, so bring a friend who eats food!

**Beach Retreat:** This year for the first time since 2019 our student ministry is headed to the beach! All rising 6th graders through graduating seniors are invited to join us July 7th-10th for a beach retreat full of worship, fun, and fellowship at Camp Baldwin in Elberta, Alabama. We'll enjoy a pool, a water slide, a water zip-line, kayaks, mini-golf, basketball, volleyball, fishing, and of course plenty of beach time! Space is limited so sign your student up right away by visiting <https://bluffparkumc.org/event/beach-retreat/>.

**Bluff Park Ice Cream:** On May 5th all current middle schoolers AND upcoming 6th graders are invited to join us for a trip to Bluff Park Ice Cream! We'll meet at 4:00 at the church and then walk to get ice cream together—the church is buying, so bring a friend and come have fun while we welcome our newest youth to BPUMC Students!

## Events This Week

### Sunday, April 21

8:45 am Traditional Worship Service  
10:00 am Sunday School  
10:45 am The Gathering at Bluff Park  
6:00 pm Student Ministry  
**Monday, April 22**  
9:00 am Men's Group  
1:00 pm Pickle Ball

### Tuesday, April 23

6:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study  
**Wednesday, April 24**  
8:00 am Food Pantry  
5:00 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Adult Handbells  
5:30 pm Youth Holy Ground

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, April 25

8:30 am Prayer Group  
9:30 am Quilting Group  
9:30 am Thursday with Friends  
1:00 pm Pickle Ball

### Last Week's Record: April 21, 2024

Children/Youth	NA/NA
Traditional Worship/Gathering	212/114
Online Worship	87
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,219.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$22,160.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,415,369.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$435,498.00
Contributions Received to Date	<b>\$437,012.00</b>
New Members in 2024	13

### IT'S TIME CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2023–December 31, 2025

Total Pledge Goal	\$1,800,000.00
Total Pledges Received to Date	\$827,142.00
Total Payments Received to Date	\$370,264.00

## UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE

Be a good United Methodist!

Follow the events of  
UMC Worldwide  
General Conference  
going on this week  
in Charlotte, NC.



<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/>

## Pastors

Rev. Ross Furio Rev. Quinten Lochmann Rev. Stanley Davidson Rev. Dr. Kay Mutert

## Church Staff

Stanley Davidson, Children's Ministries | Regan Sanders, Youth Ministries  
Melissa Hendon, Family Ministries Coordinator | Marcie Walters, Nursery Coordinator  
Billy Rainey, Adult Ministries | Jason McCrory, Finance & Administration | Joe Pitard, Finance  
Stuart Parker, Communications & Media | Brenda Atkins, Secretary | Art DeWeese, Director of  
Traditional Worship | Jay Tumminello, Organist | Patrick MacDonald, Sound Engineer

# Bluff Park

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

— Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace —

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