

BUMC's Quarterly

October-December Newsletter 2024

Volume 20, Issue 7

A publication of Bluffton United Methodist Church, Bluffton, SC

October-December 2024



All Saints' Sunday will be November 3rd this year. It is a day of remembrance for all the saints, with the New Testament understanding of the great cloud of witnesses of Hebrews 12:1-2. We remember with gratitude those whose faith influenced our own trust and life with God and who have completed their earthly race.

This year, our remembrance will include ringing of the bells, a reading of the names and lighting of candles. In the back of the sanctuary, there will be a special notebook where you may write the full names of those whose names are to be read aloud. They do not have to be members of this church or even United Methodists. If you cannot get to the table to write the name(s) yourself, please call or email the church office.



Faithfully,
Pastor Scarlett

If you are interested in serving in District or Conference Leadership, you may read for more information and apply at <https://www.umcsc.org/nominations/> on the conference website. For a direct link to the application, click <https://www.umcsc.org/applicationfornomination/>.

Upcoming Events

The BUMM's Pecans Sales 25 Years



- Order forms are available at pecan stations located in Fellowship Hall.
- Place completed order forms with remittance in the receptacles
- You may pay by credit card at our manned pecan station.
- We will announce when church orders will be ready for pick up at the church.

Last day to order is November 4th.

MISSIONS

NOVEMBER



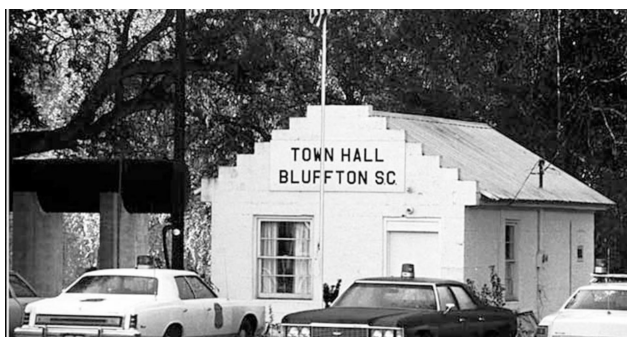
DECEMBER

Annual Reverse Advent Food
Collection for Local Aid Agencies



Mercy
Mission

HISTORY COMMITTEE PRESENTS...



Bluffton History >

Tuesday, November 12th, 2-4 PM
Fellowship Hall

Speaker, Michael Reynolds, is a friend of our church and a local Bluffton historian.

He is the first of a series of Bluffton Historic Society lecturers.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Bluffton Methodist Women Reading Program

There will be 14 new books in our library as of the second week of October. They won't be in categories, but the books from 2020-2024 will still be in categories on the shelf. Please bring books you may have had out over the summer back to the library so that there can be an inventory.

This is one of the new books:



Najila by Ladine Housholder

The Well Women are back. After a reunion in Orlando, where they celebrate Najila's visit to America and her Samaritan woman book, five of the group then go with her on a cruise to Ireland. Join our old friends from "The Well Women" and "Bus to Corinth" as they offer love and support to each other on this new journey.

Sally Mattingly

Nurture & Discipleship

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

2 Corinthians 4-6 NIV

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path." Psalms 109: 105 KJV



I gave you two scriptures for us to know the Lord. It always gives us a light to lead us out of darkness and the way is through his word. We all are in need of the light at the end of the tunnel. How many times have we thought or said this in our life time? We have felt these many times and in many situations. Personal ones, for example, can be losing a loved one, divorce, financial problems and health problems to name a few. And hurting for a relative, a friend, or even just an acquaintance or a fellow church member

that is going through something in their lives. Sometimes that tunnel can be very long or very short. But they are all very real and can be devastating at the time. But when we have faith and prayers, we know that God is always with us and prayers will be answered. The timeline of our answers is where our faith can be tested. And that is the time to turn to his word. Our Bibles. In this time of the internet and google, we can find scriptures for our situations just by searching with a simple word like scripture on despair or one on hope and even on coping. But when we see that light at the end of the tunnel getting brighter, we need to read about praise. In this ever-changing world, we still have so much to be thankful for and hopeful for. A lot! So, as we go into this holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, go the light. It is always there and shining brightly. Be closer to the light be closer to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Blessing to all,

Debbie Kaulig
Chair of Nurture & Discipleship



The Stephen Ministry Team, including new trainees, attended the 3rd Annual Stephen Ministry Jubilee at Providence Presbyterian Church on Hilton Head Island. The morning was filled with powerful presentation by **TH.M. Ron Greer, Director, Pastoral Counseling, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta**, concerning the terminal illness of his wife and his subsequent grief journey after her death. The message was especially beneficial to our team, as we continually work with people who have lost loved ones. The team ordered several copies of his new book, *The Empty House*, for continuing education and to share with the congregation.

A new GriefShare class began in August and will continue through November meeting every Wednesday at 1:30 PM. The class is for anyone who has lost a loved one. All are welcome; it is not necessary to be a church member to attend. We currently have five attendees. Bill Stutesman, Mary Ellen Parks and Charlie McCormick (a previous class member) facilitate the program.

Training for new Stephen Ministers has begun!!! Two people expressed their desire and God's nudging to become Stephen Ministers. Training occurs each Thursday afternoon at the church and will continue through February 2025. If this is an opportunity you don't want to miss, it's not too late.

Contact Mary Ellen Parks, 843.368.1852, maryellen.parks22@gmail.com for more information.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Ellen Parks
Stephen Leader, BUMC

spiritual gifts workshop

With the holidays fast approaching (less than three months until Christmas – Yikes!), **we have scheduled October 28th from 9:00 AM – 12 noon in the Christian Ed Office** for our last Spiritual Gifts workshop this year. S

Our workshop is designed to help you better understand the gifts God has given you. In three short hours, you'll learn more about spiritual gifts in general and complete an individual exercise to identify your personal gifts.

If you aren't sure what gifts you have, or if you think you know but want confirmation, we welcome you to join us.

We hope you will prayerfully consider participating. Please contact Sara Jenkins at spjsuncity@aol.com or 843-298-2076 if you're interested.



The Bluffton United Methodist Men (BUMMs) are back from our summer vacation hiatus and are getting ready for another big year of fundraising, fun and fellowship. The BUMMs meet on the first Saturday morning each month from September through June each year. Our meetings start at 9 AM in the church fellowship hall with a full breakfast prepared by the famous “BUMM Chefs”. That fame may be only in the eyes of those chefs, but without doubt, the breakfast is regarded by all as the best on the May River.

Following breakfast is the BUMM’s business meeting. Meetings usually include a special speaker from the community that may address areas of interest for the BUMM community. Speakers may also represent one of the charities that the BUMMs support with donations each year. The business portion of the meeting also includes discussions regarding the many fundraising activities that the BUMMs are engaged in throughout the year. BUMM fundraising provides financial donations to the specific local charities that the BUMMs support each year. The fundraising events each year include participation in the Bluffton community Christmas parade and the Town of Bluffton’s MayFest celebration in the spring. The largest and most financially strong and rewarding fundraising event is the BUMMs annual Pecan Sale. The BUMM Pecan sale generated in excess of \$9,000 in profits last year that was donated to the local charities that the BUMMs support. We try to grow this fundraiser more and more each year. Last year, we expanded our sales efforts to include a sales tent present at the Bluffton Farmer’s Market each week. We also expanded our sales efforts to include making it easier for Church members to order pecans by having order forms available for church attendees at pecan stations in the Narthex & Fellowship Hall. Last year we expanded payment methods for paying for pecan orders to include the acceptance of credit cards at our pecan station in Fellowship Hall.

The Pecan Sale for 2024 is getting underway right now and will be in full swing in the weeks immediately ahead. The real benefit from those efforts flows to the local charities that the BUMMs support with financial donations. We hope that you will watch the various communications from the Church, including the bulletins, the video board in the sanctuary and the new website (upcoming events page) for information on this year’s sale.

The BUMMs are truly an organization of men who come together for fellowship, fun, spiritual growth and good works for our community charities. Oh, and yes, the BUMMs love to eat and they have the best breakfast that can be found anywhere on the May River preceding the monthly meetings. We invite all men in the Church to come and join us for our monthly meetings. We’re sure that you will enjoy the breakfast, the fellowship and will likely make some new friends.

Danny W. Jett, Secretary



Music Ministry

Fall 2024



*One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many throughout the earth
We are one body in this one Lord
("One Bread, One Body" UMH 620, John B. Foley, 1978)*

Together we share **one** body, Christ's body, broken for us all. We share **one** cup, Christ's blood, spilled for us all. Because there is **one** bread, we who are many are **one** body, for we all partake of the **one** bread (1 Corinthians 10:17). And in our Eucharistic liturgy we pray: "By your Spirit make us **one** with Christ, **one** with each other, and **one** in ministry to all the world" (Great Thanksgiving, UMH p.14). There seems to be a theme of oneness resonating throughout our Communion celebration.

However, in the 1800s during the temperance movement, this "one cup" was challenged. With the rise of alcoholism, churches began to speculate if serving wine during Communion was still appropriate. A recovering alcoholic might have to forgo receiving this symbolic representation of Jesus' blood. This one cup could no longer be shared by all. In 1864, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church approved a report recommending grape juice be used in the Lord's Supper. But this posed one problem: raw grape juice could not be stored at room temperature... and refrigerators weren't invented until 1913!

Dr. Thomas Bramwell Welch, a communion steward for Vineland Methodist Episcopal Church and former Wesleyan Methodist preacher, dedicated himself to solving this problem. Welch studied Louis Pasteur's process for pasteurizing milk and adapted it for pasteurizing grape juice to keep it from fermenting. In 1880, the MEC General Conference approved changes to the *Book of Discipline* so alcohol-free Communion would be available in all churches. *Once again, we could all drink from this one cup.*

We still share in this one cup (of Welch's grape juice) today. A cup that symbolizes unity with Christ and with each other. The celebration of World Communion Sunday reminds us that this one cup is shared by churches throughout the world. It even extends to churches who practice different theology from us. But as the hymn above reminds us: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are **one** in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28). Just as Welch considered, in what ways do we need to change so that we can share this one cup with all?

Creator and Sustainer of all life, gather us together as one.
Make us one body, sharing in this one meal, with one bread and one cup.
And when we leave this one feast, let us be led by the one Spirit.
So that in our unity, we may share this one salvation with all of the world. Amen.

Keeley DiMartino



Music Ministry



Save the Date: Sunday, November 17

Our Kids Praise Club will present their creative interpretations of the stories of some of the youngest heroes in the Old Testament. You do not want to miss this!

Do you love singing Christmas songs?

Would you like a sneak peek at the results of the vote on our church's favorite Christmas songs?

Then join us for our **Christmas Cantata Choir!**

Rehearsals will begin in **October.**

This year our Christmas cantata choir will be open to youth (6th-12th grade) and adults of all voice parts & abilities.

Please contact Keeley to reserve your spot!



Do you play an instrument?

We'd love to have you play for our Christmas Cantata! All instruments and abilities welcome!

Contact Keeley to sign up!



And back by popular demand... the BUMC 2024 Live Nativity!

Save the date: Tuesday, December 17 at 6 PM

Rehearsal: Sunday, December 15 at 4:30 PM



Keeley DiMartino
Director of Music Ministry
MusicMinistry@BlufftonUMC.org

Michael Cole
Organist
mcoleanorganist@yahoo.com

Nancy Osgood
Director of Wesley Ringers
njcosgood@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



2024-2025 Theme:

Making a Difference Together

Excerpt from Looking for God in Messy Places by Jake Owensby

“Each of us is one of a kind, yet we all belong to one bloodline. God’s love makes you a true child of God – not where you grew up, not who your parents are/were, not the language you speak or the color of your skin. God loves **EVERYBODY**. We’re all God’s children, members of God’s family. We **ALL** belong.” **Let’s ponder this as we continue our fall studies and participate in our Season of Thankfulness – thankful to be God’s children and making a difference together.**

So far this fall, our youth have visited an emergency veterinarian clinic, collected \$ and towels/blankets/etc. for Jasper Animal Rescue Mission (JARM). They also helped to lead worship on World Communion Sunday – with percussion and scripture reading and more! Our year of focusing on being part of God’s family is starting off strong! We are grateful for those who volunteered to feed us on Sunday nights – If you’d like to prepare a meal for us, please contact Sally LeSage (blufftonumc.education@gmail.com)



Sunday Morning Education Schedule:

8:30 – Worship – Nursery Available (infant – age 3), Kids’ Church (kids ages 4 – 3rd grade) leave after Kids’ Message to do age-appropriate activities and lessons.

9:30 – 10:30 Adult Sunday School – Conference Room 1
Men’s Sunday School – Conference Room 2

11:00 – Worship – Nursery available (infant – age 3), no Kids’ Church.

Sunday Night Schedule for Youth Fellowship

5:30-7:30 Youth Praise, Worship and Fellowship with Sally and friends in the Music Suite
1st and 3rd Sundays – Middle School Youth Praise, Worship and Fellowship
2nd and 4th Sundays – High School Youth Praise, Worship and Fellowship

Check bulletin and emails for schedule changes!

MISSIONS



IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE HELENE

Please remember the people in the regions affected by Hurricane Helene and pray for them to receive the love and comfort of God. **UMCOR-trained Early Response Teams** are coordinating efforts to support the removal of debris, tarping of roofs, and cleaning out of homes in hard-hit areas. If you would like to assist in this effort, please consider giving to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief.) You can write a check to the church with either "UMCOR" or "Hurricane" on the memo line. If you give on-line, UMCOR is listed under designated funds/United Methodist Committee on Relief/Advance 901670-US Disasters. Thank you.

"TOGETHER OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE"

QUILTERS

Pictured below are the new banners that have been placed in the fellowship hall. These banners are a gift from the quilters to the church. We hope that they serve as a visual representation of our faith.

If you sew and would like to join the Quilters, please contact:
Fran Oblander: 912-856-8775 (call or text), fran@alien87.com
Patti Taylor: 904-540-5483 (call or text), ptaylor0502@gmail.com
Paula Kirkland: 843-295-2065 (call or text), paulakirkland36@gmail.com

GLORIOUS CROSS



JESUS HOLDS US



HOPEFUL WORDS



JESUS LOVES ME



JESUS CALMS THE STORM



THE BIBLE SPEAKS




HISTORY CORNER

Lecture Series Speakers this past spring was sponsored by:
Bluffton Historic Foundation

THE HISTORIC BLUFFTON
FOUNDATION SPEAKER SERIES
PRESENTS:

BLUFFTON THEN AND NOW


THURSDAY, APRIL 25TH 5-7PM



BLUFFTON UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH

A visual look over the last 150 years using photographs,
videos, and first hand accounts of the people, places, and
things that helped shape Bluffton.

Presented by: Paul Tollefson



STORIES & SONG WITH CLAY RICE
May 21st 5pm - 7pm - Bluffton United Methodist Church
Clay is a world renowned artist, songwriter and author of children's books. His lecture will be based on storytelling with music (he will have his guitar). Clay says he "wants it to feel like he is sitting in one's living room."
Free to attend



Silhouette artist Clay Rice



BUMC Treasurer's Report

			YTD Income/ Expense	Annual Budget	Percent of Budget
Worship Offerings:					
Plate			264,877	-	-
Online			145,972	-	-
Total Worship Offerings			410,849	615,500	66.8%
Other Revenue:					
Unrestricted Memorial Donation			3,200	-	
Altar Flowers, Facility Rental, Interest, Etc.			6,228	8,500	73.3%
Roof/HVAC Donations			103,499	-	
Total Other Revenue			112,927	8,500	
Total Revenue			523,776	624,000	83.9%
EXPENSE					
Pastoral			128,461	173,402	74.1%
Worship			58,036	98,589	58.9%
Ministry & Education			53,333	74,700	71.4%
Missions			17,181	28,350	60.6%
UMC Apportionments			44,291	59,055	75.0%
Administration & Finance			62,767	84,835	74.0%
Property			88,866	79,215	112.2%
Total Expense			452,935	598,146	75.7%
Surplus YTD			70,841	25,854	
Notes:					
Annex Fire Insurance Payment			292,269		
Property, Plant & Equipment Purchases			(160,163)		
<i>Property Expense over budgeted amount due to annual property insurance payment</i>					

Visit Blufftonumc.org to establish your recurring online giving at the "select page prompt/donate!"

BLUFFTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
P. O. BOX 368
BLUFFTON, SC 29910

October-December 2024

TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL LIST,
PLEASE CALL: 843.757.3351 OR EMAIL
THE CHURCH AT: blufftonumc@gmail.com



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM – Online and In-Person

Pastor Scarlett's Email: pastor@blufftonumc.org

Director of Music Ministry — Keeley DiMartino—Email: musicministry@blufftonumc.org

Director of Christian Education — Sally LeSage – Email: blufftonumc.education@gmail.com

Organist — Michael Cole—Email: mcoleorganist@yahoo.com

Church Office — Laurie Palmer—Email: blufftonumc@gmail.com

Financial Secretary—Joann Garner—Email: financeatbumc@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.blufftonumc.org>

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. – Thurs. 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
(843) 757-3351

MAILING ADDRESS

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