



White Bluff News

January 2022

EMBRACE TRANSFORM EQUIP IMPACT

Staff

Rev. Barry Giddens
Senior Pastor

Rodney Powers
Director of Music
Ministries

Bobby Floyd
Director of Modern
Service and Student
Ministries

Suzanne R. Woodrum
Church Organist

Rick Weeks
Audio/Visual Coordinator

Carolyn Anderson
Administrative Assistant

Malinda Smith
Financial Administrator

Sarah McGalliard
Nursery Director

Audrey Tilton
Custodian

Happy New Year! I realize by now you may be settled into 2022, but I am writing this on Epiphany, January 6, 2022. Epiphany is the day assigned to the arrival of the Wise Men in Bethlehem at the manger where Jesus lay. It is especially interesting because it is 12 days after the birthday of Jesus and begins our march toward Lent. The wise men followed the light of the star to find the Savior. Now, when a new idea suddenly comes to mind, we figuratively say that someone is having an “epiphany” as they have seen the light.

At White Bluff Methodist (whitebluffmethodist.org), I hope 2022 will be a season of thanksgiving and expectation as we thank God for the good things that happened in December and we expect Him to do great and mighty things in this new year! I am reminded that the Church is not a building or steeple, the Church is the people. In Matthew 16:18, Jesus encourages Peter by saying, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” The combination of the previous two sentences helps us to see that we are the church, yes. But, we are also under the direction and guidance of God as He works through us to build His Church. Sometimes I think we start the process of building of our own design, power, and strength as we forget to invite the master architect and craftsman to show us how. After all, Jesus (God in the flesh) was a carpenter, wasn’t He?! He is the Master Builder. May our daily prayer be something to the effect of “God, we want to build your Church here at White Bluff in 2022. You show us how, and we will follow your design and do it by your strength.” It is when we surrender to His plans that we are able to build the Church bigger and better than we could ever imagine!

For me, one evidence of God’s building His Church came in December with the Savannah Christmas Lights Extravaganza (savannahchristmas.online). You welcomed over 2000 people into the White Bluff Methodist parking lot along with many children and young adults who ate popcorn, took pictures with Santa, petted Lola (my furry friend!), and rode in the kiddy barrel ride. Those who participated came from both faraway places and as close as next door. The church made the news on WJCL and WTOG (many thanks to you and them for the recognition that came through the stories!). Some drove over the Truman bridge and said, “I never knew that church was down there, but it was beautiful at Christmas!” Others began to see me around town after being on the news and asked me, “Are you that preacher with all the Christmas lights? I saw you on television!” Songs such as Anne Wilson’s (yes, probably a different Anne from the one you are thinking of!) “Kentucky Fried Christmas” rang out as people walked our sidewalks and picked out their favorite lighted piece. Members took down names as they welcomed, popped tons of popcorn, drove the train, and so much more! (Thank you!) Many attendees said, “I remember when you used to do the drive-thru nativity!” I will forever be grateful for the opportunity to pray with multiple families. The benefits are too numerous to mention here, but one more thing I am excited about was working together to accomplish something great for the Kingdom and how we now will work to bring some of those who came to the Christmas Lights into our White Bluff family.

One way we will invite people to be a part of our family is through Growth Groups. If you do not already have a Sunday School Class or small group, in February we will be putting an emphasis on starting new Growth Groups that will meet for about an hour weekly at a time that is convenient for participants. The groups will be led by White Bluff facilitators that agree to serve for 10-12 weeks at a time. Growth Groups will occur three times a year with breaks in between. The first set of groups will begin in the beginning of February 2022. For more information or to sign up, please visit <http://www.savannahchristmas.online/growthgroups>.

From there you can submit your interest in joining a group. We are sending the invitation to join groups to everyone who joined us for the lights at Christmas. This is just one more way we are seeking to grow our church! Pray that those who came to our church in December will be moved by God to return. Also pray that we will offer quality ministries that will help people of all ages to fall more in love with God daily as they find a loving place to plug in. And, do not forget to pray for the Preschool Exploration Committee! While I am not saying much about it here, the process is ongoing. I hope very soon to tell you more about how we can welcome the youngest of ages on a daily basis into our church through a fully licensed daycare. I look forward to journeying with you in 2022!

Blessings,

Barry

Rev. Barry Giddens

Senior Pastor, White Bluff United Methodist Church

Director of Modern Worship and Student Ministries

bfloyd@wbumc.org

Hey White Bluff,

I hope you all had an excellent Christmas season and your new year is off to a fantastic start. This month in our youth and children's ministry we will be beginning new curriculum for each of their Sunday School times! We will be continuing our Seedbed (Truthtrackers) Journey with our children through the New Testament and jump into Cokesbury's curriculum with our youth. It's an exciting time! It's good to have a steady group who has been willing to help out in these areas, but we always welcome more. If you'd like to help out, just let me know!

Our modern service is doing well and reaching more people daily. Our online presence has grown substantially and our average viewership seems to increase steadily. We are very thankful for all the ways in which we can reach people for God's Kingdom and are so excited for how many more we will reach in 2022.

Grace and peace,

Bobby

Stewardship Report**Attendance 12/05/21**

9:30 am.....138
 11:00 am.....14
 Sunday School.....65
 Online Views-Tradition...147
 Online Views-Modern.....13

Attendance 12/12/2021

9:30 am.....185
 11:00 am.....13
 Sunday School.....80
 Online Views Tradition...265
 Online Views-Modern.....33

Attendance 12/19/2021

9:30 am.....143
 11:00 am11
 Sunday School.....57
 Online views-Tradition...120
 Online views.....48

Attendance 12/24/2021

Christmas Eve
 5:30 pm.....205
 7:00 pm20
 Online views-Tradition...190
 Online Views-Modern.....37

Attendance 12/26/2021
Combined Services

10:00 am.....84
 Sunday School.....17
 Online Views.....113

Author:
Fred Pratt Green



The name of the Rev. F. Pratt Green is one of the best-known of the contemporary school of hymnwriters in the British Isles. His name and writings appear in practically every new hymnal and "hymn supplement" wherever English is spoken and sung. And now they are appearing in American hymnals, poetry magazines, and anthologies. Mr Green was born in Liverpool, England in 1903. Ordained in the British Methodist ministry. He has been pastor and district superintendent in Brighton and York and now served in Norwich. There he continued to write new hymns "that filled the gap between the hymns of the first part of this century and the 'far out' compositions that have crowded into some churches in the last decade or more. He wrote the following hymn texts that are in our hymnal. Break forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light, O Master Let Me Walk With Thee, To Mock Your Reign O Dearest Lord, When In Our Music God is Glorified, and the one I want to focus on, of All the Spirits Gift to me number 336.

I hope you will take time to read hymn number 336, "Of All the Spirit's Gifts to me." The text is about the fruit of the spirit, namely love, joy and peace. "Of all the Spirit's gift to me, I pray that I may never cease to take and treasure most these three; love, joy and peace." First of all, sometimes it is confusing whether someone is referring to the fruit of the spirit or the gifts of the spirit but often the two are interchangeable. In this case, the poet is referring to the fruit of the spirit. so, the second verse establishes that love is the most important of all these three fruits. So, we get to the place I want to stop for just a minute. What is love anyway? Is it an emotion or is it an action? I believe that love is first an action followed often by some emotion. We wrong someone, we apologize, they feel better, all is well. Then there is tough love. It still starts with an action and proceeds to an emotion. Perhaps my point is that people are emotional creatures. This hymn is a example of speaking to the heart where emotions begin.

Rodney

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL AND LAY LEADERSHIP
WHITE BLUFF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church Council Chair	Kay Williamson	Youth and Children Ministries	Kathryn Murray
Church Council Vice Chair	Gary Young	Young Adults	Kristen Maynard
Lay Leader	Michael Lariscy		
Chair of Trustees/Safe Sanctuaries	Joe Drescher	MEMBERS AT LARGE:	
Finance Chair	Chuck Dickson	Ashley Hazlett-Sullivan	
Finance Vice Chair	Doug Cobb	Sammy Strobe	
SPRC Chair	Frank Murray	Gayle Spilliards	
Worship Chair	Martha Adams	Bill Davenport	
Treasurer	Sarah Cooper	Debbie Hudgins	
Secretary/Food Pantry	Diana Hodges	Bill Brown	
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference	Jerry Wilson		
UMM Fellowship President	Jerry Thomas	STAFF:	
UMW President	Lisa McGalliard	Senior Pastor:	Rev. Barry Giddens
Mission/Endowment Chair	Tommy Swinford	Director of Music Ministries:	Rodney Powers
Membership Secretary	Beth Brown	Director of Modern Worship/Student Ministries:	
Communications Chair	Kathy Swinford	Bobby Floyd	
Education Chair	Jane Anderson	Audio/Visual Coordinator:	Rick Weeks
Adult Ministries	Doug and Harriet Cobb	Nursery Director:	Sarah McGalliard



Happy Birthday
Greetings extended
to:

Madie Dickey
 On celebrating her
 94th birthday
 January 28th.

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

- 9:30 A.M. Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)
- 10:30 A.M. Connection Café
(Coffee & Doughnuts-Gym)
- 11:00 A.M. Open Table Modern Worship
(Horton Hall)
- 11:00 A.M. Kids' Table (Room 9)
- 11:00 A.M. Sunday School Classes
(All Ages)

All Sunday school classes will resume meeting in their classrooms. Seekers Sunday school class now meets at 11:00 a.m. in room 6.

WBUMC Mission Statement

The White Bluff United Methodist Church is called by God to **EMBRACE** their salvation in Christ, to be **TRANSFORMED** into His likeness, to be **EQUIPPED** to serve in ministry, as we **IMPACT** the world.

LINE DANCING



When: January 6, 13, 20, and 27th

Time: 10A.M.-11A.M.

Where: White Bluff UMC-Gym

Cost: Free
(a small donation is requested for church utilities)

Instructor: Susan Morgan

Social distancing will be observed.
Masks will be required for all participants.



GAME NIGHT

(First & Third Fridays)

January 7th and 21st

7:00 P.M.

Fellowship Hall

Soft Drinks Provided
Bring a snack to share.



DEAL THE CARDS

DEAL THE CARDS

MONDAYS AT 1:00 P.M.

Come play Hand and Foot (Canasta),
Hearts, Solitaire, Quiddler, etc.

January 10, 17, 24 and 31st
Room 21

Bring your own drink and a light
snack to share.



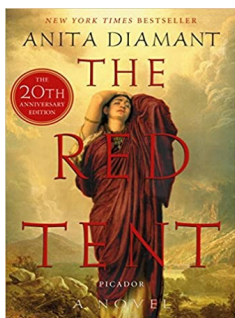
Trustee Meeting

Monday,

January 10, 2022

6:30 P.M.

Room 21



Book Study

The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

January 11, 18, and 25th

11:00-12:00 noon

Room 21

(Sells for \$10-12)

Novel based on Genesis 29-34,
and narrated by Dinah, Jacob's
only daughter

RSVP

Facilitators: Nancy Leavitt and
Harriet Cobb

Purchase a copy of the book (\$10-12)
or let Harriet Cobb know to order one for
you ASAP (912) 927-3320



SOCIAL SENIORS

SOCIAL SENIORS

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

11:30 A.M.

Fellowship Hall

Bring a covered dish.
Meat and drink provided.



Finance meeting

January 17, 2022

6:00 P. M.

Room 21



United Methodist Men

Monday, January 24, 2022

6:00 P. M.

Fellowship Hall

All men, members and non-members are invited.



Church Council Meeting

Monday, January 17, 2022

7:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Light meal provided

Agenda: 3-4 months planning session

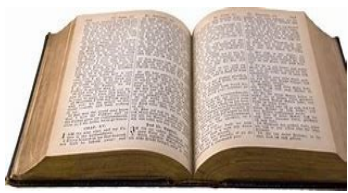


YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School

at 11:00 A.M.

Youth Rm or Rm 7



WEDNESDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY
10:00 A.M.
Fellowship Hall
Everyone is welcome to
join us.



FLOWER CHART

The 2022 flower chart is posted in the hallway next to the kitchen. The cost is \$25.00 and can be paid with a check made out to White Bluff United Methodist Church.

Either drop the check off at the office or put the check in an envelope in the offering plate.

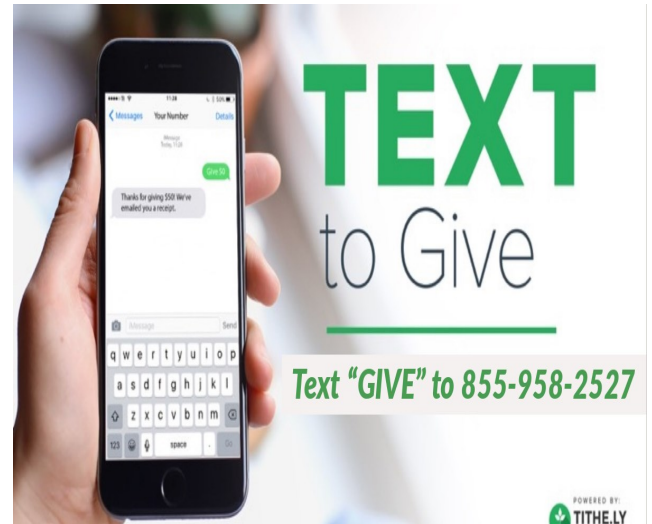
Stay Connected!



Please call the church office if you have moved, changed your telephone number or have a new email address. You would not want to miss out on the upcoming events at White Bluff UMC.

What is new at White Bluff United Methodist Church!?
Exciting changes are going on.
Take a look at our new website:

www.whitebluffmethodist.org



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sunday School Volunteers
for

Children, Middle and High School
11:00 am

See Harriet Cobb or Kathryn Murray
Call the church office (912) 925-5924



REMINDER: Pledge envelopes for 2022 are located in Narthex. If your envelopes are not available and you are an active contributor, please see Malinda Smith in the finance office.

White Bluff UMC's Christmas Light Extravaganza shares joy, light of Christ with Savannah

12/19/2021

By Kara Witherow, *Editor*

Rev. Barry Giddens loves Christmas.

Each year he and his three boys – Maddux, 11, Paxton, 9, and Lennox, 7 – cheerfully channel their inner Clark Griswold and decorate their home for the holidays with their thousands of lights, more than 100 inflatables, and various other Christmas decorations.

To the Giddens family, lights, as Paxton said, “represent Christmas.”

This year, however, they are in a new-to-them parsonage in Savannah. The homeowners’ association prefers understated décor, Rev. Giddens said, so he had to tame his décor tendencies and find a new use for his multitude of lights and collection of inflatables.

That’s when a (twinkly, multicolor, LED, Christmas) light went off in his head. White Bluff United Methodist Church doesn’t have an HOA. The church sits in a prominent location, at the end of Truman Parkway near Abercorn Street. And the congregation wants to reach out to the community.

“Keeping in mind that we want to minister from our strengths, I asked what the church can do well and what we can thrive in,” said Rev. Giddens, who serves as senior pastor. “One of the things I thought about, easily, were the Christmas lights.”

His idea, the [Savannah Christmas Light Extravaganza](#), was warmly embraced by the congregation. A nightly event that would make even the grinchiest of folks jolly, it launched Dec. 6 and runs from 6-9 p.m. through Dec. 23.

The church – now decorated with 15,000 to 20,000 lights – can easily be seen from busy Truman Parkway. Around the sanctuary, faith-themed nativities and inflatables are displayed. The education wing features secular decorations and inflatables like the Stay Puft Marshmallow Man, Frosty the Snowman, and Buddy the Elf. A sleigh sits nearby for photos, and an eight-seat barrel train, made by Rev. Giddens out of 55-gallon metal drums, is pulled by a volunteer driving a John Deere tractor. Santa’s even been spotted on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Everyone loves Christmas lights, Rev. Giddens said, and the Savannah Christmas Light Extravaganza is a way White Bluff UMC can serve the community and be a visible, welcoming presence in Savannah.

“The lights give people a vision of White Bluff even if they never come inside or drive into the parking lot,” he said. “They know we’re here and we’re here to serve the community.”

While lights and decorations are pretty and fun to look at, they serve a deeper meaning for Rev. Giddens and his family, and he hopes visitors leave [White Bluff UMC's Savannah Christmas Light Extravaganza](#) with an understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.

“While I’ve always had a little Clark Griswold in me, these lights also represent the light of Christ in the world. People, whether they are Christian or not, love Christmas lights. Lights are a gateway to invite people who may not know Christ into our homes and our church and they’re a chance for us to take something that is secular and impart Christ into that.”



YOUR CHURCH STAFF

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Christian love and sympathy are extended to the following families and friends of White Bluff United Methodist Church.

Carolyn Biezenbos, on the death of her husband,
Michael Lee Howell, on December 4, 2021.

Sam and Tina Pilgrim, on the death of their son,
Chris Meeks, on December 6, 2021.



UNDECORATE THE CHURCH

Sunday, January 9, 2022
11:00 A.M.
Sanctuary
Come Join Us!

Special Gifts

Gifts were given to White Bluff United Methodist Church in memory of:

Rhett Anderson

Suzanne Woodrum

Fellowship/Coffee Time Clean-Up

January	Ampersand/Harmony
February	Journey with Friends
March	Seekers
April	Covenant
May	Wayfarers
June	Ampersand/Harmony
July	Journey with Friends
August	Seekers
September	Covenant
October	Wayfarers
November	Ampersand/Harmony
December	Journey with Friends

All classes are responsible for the entire month.