

WHITE BLUFF
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

11911 White Bluff Road
Savannah, Georgia 31419
(912) 925-5924

Website:

www.whitebluffmethodist.org

Email:

info@whitebluffmethodist.org

Staff

Rev. Barry Giddens
Senior Pastor

Mike McCann
Director of Youth
Ministry

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



White Bluff News

December 2022

EMBRACE TRANSFORM EQUIP IMPACT

I am writing this article on November 22, 2022. This date may not seem particularly significant to you, but it holds special significance to me.

In U.S. history, today holds a place in infamy. November 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy awoke in Fort Worth, Texas to begin what he thought would be just another day as President of the United States. With Jackie by his side, they rode in a white, open-topped, Ford convertible along the streets of Fort Worth until they boarded Air Force One for the short trip to Dallas, Love Field. They came off of the plane and got into the black, open-topped Presidential limo that now is on display at the Ford Museum in Detroit. As they made their way through the streets of Dallas, they came ever closer to the library repository until the unthinkable happened. You know the rest of the story. Our nation was plunged into a collective mourning that forever changed history. The facts of that fateful day are still debated with regularity, but most will agree that it was an awful day.

Fast forward 29 years to November 22, 1991. I was attending the a retreat called "Celebration" at Epworth by the Sea. As a 7th grader, I was just old enough to be in the youth group at Cairo First Methodist. My Youth Director was David Unkles, the current pastor of Swainsboro First Methodist. I don't remember much about that day except that in the evening, a new band from Australia was playing for the retreat. They were called "The Newsboys". During the concert, the Newsboys' drummer and his drum set turned upside down as he continued to play. I remember they were wearing their signature high-top red Reeboks. Near the end of the concert, they said that Jesus loved me and that if I felt a tugging at my heart to receive Christ, I should come forward. I did. I knelt at the altar of Strickland Auditorium and someone prayed over me to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. It was the day that I was born again and is now my born-again birthday. It was a day that forever changed my life. Eternal life began for me that day. It was one of the best days of my life.

November 22. Terrible and wonderful things have all happened on this day. I tell you this today to say to you that where we place our emphasis, both as individuals and as White Bluff, will determine how we see the world moving forward. No doubt, there are many circumstances in our lives that have caused and continue to cause heartache and pain. Unfortunately, life is not all a bed of roses; we will suffer. In the midst of our hardships, I say this: What we choose to focus on will determine our forward trajectory, as individuals and as White Bluff. I believe that White Bluff's brightest days are yet ahead. I see a church that is situated in a prime location to grow the Kingdom of God in Savannah, Georgia. Within our walls, we have a lot of wonderful people. In the surrounding community, I see a lot of people around White Bluff that need Jesus.

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The continual challenge for us in the midst of the chaos and the storms of life is to do as the Newsboys did with me so long ago and share the opportunity to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. When we share Jesus, it will become the best birthday someone has ever had as they are born again as it becomes another one of the best days of our lives as well.

That's ultimately why we are here at WB... to know and share Jesus. As David Thompson reminded us Sunday, November 20, as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he could walk on water. When Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, he started to sink as he focused on all of the disruptions and distractions of this world.

What kind of day will today be for you? Will it be a terrible day as you think about all that has gone wrong and could yet go wrong? Or, will it be one of the best, hope-filled days of your life as you grow closer to Jesus and you share Jesus with others? The key to it all, like Peter, is a matter of where we focus. Focus on Jesus. Believe in Jesus. In all things, share Jesus this week.

Blessings to you and yours. I give thanks for you.

Rev. Barry Giddens

Senior Pastor

White Bluff, Savannah



WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

- 9:30 A.M.** Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)
- 9:30 A.M.** Flourish Kids
(Children's Church)
- 10:30 A.M.** Connection Café
Coffee & Doughnuts
(Horton Hall)
- 11:00 A.M.** Sunday School Classes

Journey with Friends S.S. moved to
Room 28.

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.



Stewardship Report

Attendance 11/06/2022

9:30 am.....166
No Sunday School
Online Views101

Attendance 11/13/2022

9:30 am.....149
No Sunday School
Online Views37

Attendance 11/20/2022

9:30 am.....175
No Sunday School
Online views66

Attendance 11/27/2022

9:30 am.....114
Sunday School.....40
Online views93

Merry Christmas White Bluff Families!

In our Youth Group we're kicking off the season with the start of a brand new series this month called *Messy Christmas*. It's all about the way Jesus brought joy to the world in the middle of the mess and how His presence can do the same for us, thousands of years later!

DECEMBER PROGRAM

CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO VIEW THE PREVIEW FOR DECEMBER'S PROGRAM "MESSY CHRISTMAS"

<https://vimeo.com/xp3students/messychristmas>

BOTTOM LINE

You're not alone when life gets messy.

THE GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To encourage students to find joy in God's presence with them this Christmas no matter what their holiday season looks like.

THINK ABOUT THIS

This week's conversation encourages students to find joy in Jesus this Christmas. We will be sure to remind students that joy isn't the same as happiness. Happiness is a feeling often related to our circumstances while joy is a contentment we can find regardless of our circumstances. Choosing joy isn't easy, especially when living in the tension of unmet expectations.

JOIN US

DAILY DEVOTIONAL

To read the daily devotionals that go along with this series, download the YouVersion Bible app on iOS or Android, or visit Bible.com. Just search for **MESSY CHRISTMAS** in the [Reading Plans](#) section to get started. I hope you will be encouraged to join us in reading the daily devos as we all walk through this series together!

SHARE

Any time you have a win with a youth in our area, I would love to hear it! Just hit reply on this email and let me know. Sharing wins is a great way we can all keep each other encouraged and motivated week in and week out! If you know of a family that has a youth who would benefit from our programs please share my contact info with them or send me their info and I will reach out.

SOCIAL MEDIA

I will be making regular posts on our social media sites starting in December. Please interact with them. Facebook recognizes that as traction therefore promoting out content. "Like", "Comment" and make sure to share these posts. You can also help by sharing to your local Facebook groups, clubs and neighborhood pages.

Thanks for supporting what we are doing for the youth in the community through White Bluff Church

Mike McCann
Youth Director

Happy Birthday
Greetings extended
to:

Betty Downs
On celebrating her
95th birthday
December 12th



Christmas Worship Service Schedule

Christmas Eve Worship Service

Saturday, December 24, 2022

5:00 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Christmas Day Worship Service

Sunday, December 25, 2022

10:00-11:00 a.m. (One Service)

(Sanctuary)

Advent Schedule

2022

December 4

9:30 am Sammy Strode, Esma Campbell
and children and granddaughter

December 11

9:30 am Carol Downs and Susan Fallen

December 18

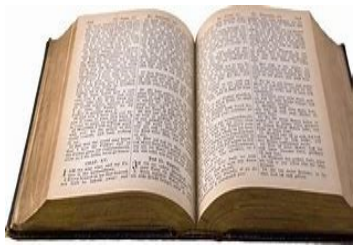
9:30 am Jerry and Ann Wilson and family

December 24

5:00 pm Gary and Susan Young

Christmas Day

10:00 am Rev. Cindy and Ian Layton



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

10:00 A.M.

Room 21

Everyone is welcome
to join us.



White Bluff is a
Community-oriented,
Bible-believing church
family serving the southside of
Savannah, Georgia where the
Truman ends and faith begins.

DAY TRIP-Epworth by the Sea

Thursday, December 1st

Meet at the church at 9:00 a.m., leaving by 9:30 a.m.

Return around 4 p.m. Cost: \$15.00

Bus: 12 Passengers- Rev. Giddens is driving!!

Program: tour museum ("O Holy Night display"),
lunch, and devotions.



A Sight And Sound Production movie

The Inspiring True Story Behind The Beloved Christmas
Carol

"I Heard the Bells"

December 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Thursday thru Sunday)

Cost \$9.00

Pooler Cinema (Showing only at 4:30 p.m.)

Dinner following at McAlister's Deli on Saturday

Christmas Party

Monday, December 5, 2022

6:00 P.M.

Dinner and Entertainment

\$25.00 per person

Fellowship Hall

Everyone is Invited!

(Sponsored by UMM and UMW)



LINE DANCE CLASS



December 1st, 8th and 15th
(No Line Dance December 22 and 29)

Time: 10-11 A.M.

Where: White Bluff UMC-Gym

Cost: Free

(a small donation is requested for church utilities)

Instructor: Susan Morgan

Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

“Were You There on That Christmas Night?”

December 11, 2022

9:30 A.M. Worship Service



Trustee Meeting
December 14, 2022

6:30 P.M.

Room 21

GAME NIGHT

(First and Third Fridays)

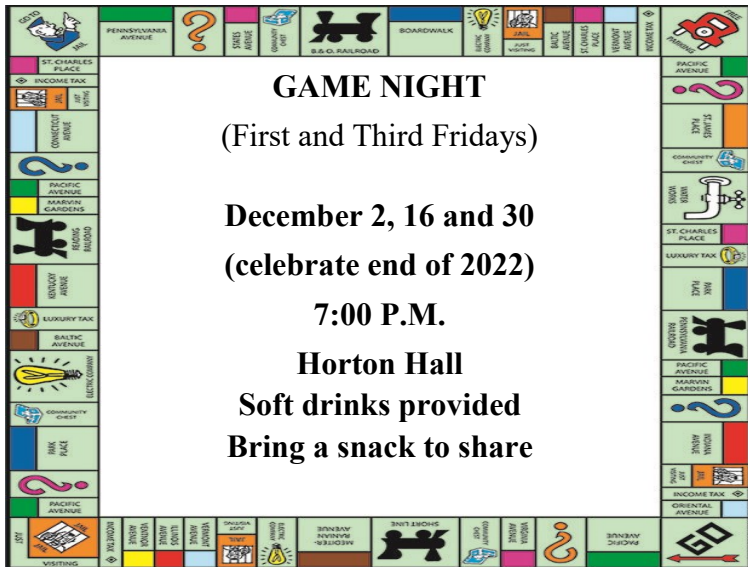
December 2, 16 and 30
(celebrate end of 2022)

7:00 P.M.

Horton Hall

Soft drinks provided

Bring a snack to share



Sunday School Door Decorating Contest

Theme:

“The Greatest Gift of All”

11:00 a.m. during the Sunday
School hour.

1st and 2nd place prizes will
be awarded!



Sponsored by White Bluff UMC

HOLIDAY HOOPLA

KIDS ONLY EVENT
SEE YA LATER MOM & DAD

Lunch, Cookie Decorating, Games, Santa Store, Storytime
with Santa & Mrs. Claus

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 17
12:30PM-4:00PM
WHITE BLUFF
UMC GYM**

Ages 2-12
Price \$5 Per Child

BRING YOUR KIDS IN FOR OUR
DROP AND SHOP. FINISH TAKING
CARE OF THOSE LAST MINUTE
HOLIDAY ERRANDS AND PRESENT
WRAPPING & WE'LL TAKE THE KIDS.

**PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE TO REGISTER
912-925-5924**



POINSETTIAS

Red and White Poinsettias
\$14.00 each

Place your order now
Deadline December 15, 2022
Call the church office at (912) 925-5924
Forms will be in the Narthex.



Christmas Caroling
You are invited to join the choir
For this event.

December 18, 2022
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Savannah Square



Social Seniors Christmas Covered Dish Luncheon & Program

December 21, 2022
11:30 A.M.
Horton Hall

RSVP-Church office by December 19th.

Meat will be provided.

Everyone is invited!



Portable Hand Ramp for Choir and Handbells

Many areas within the church including the choir loft are not accessible to our members that utilize wheelchairs or scooters. The Trustees have been searching for an answer to the challenge. We hope to have a portable wheelchair lift available in early 2023.

The donation effort to raise the needed \$12,000.00 has been initiated by Al and Debbie Hudgins, in the honor of David Wilson. David, a long time member of WBUMC, has served the church in the choir faithfully and worked with Dr. Paz on many mission trips to Honduras.

The acquisition of the portable wheelchair lift can be used throughout the campus and provide accessibility for all WBUMC members, with no alterations to the building.

We will let the congregation know when the lift is ordered.



DEAL THE CARDS

Will not meet for the month of December.

We will see you in January.

Merry Christmas!



Pins and Needles Sewing Group

Will not meet during the month of December.

Happy Holidays!

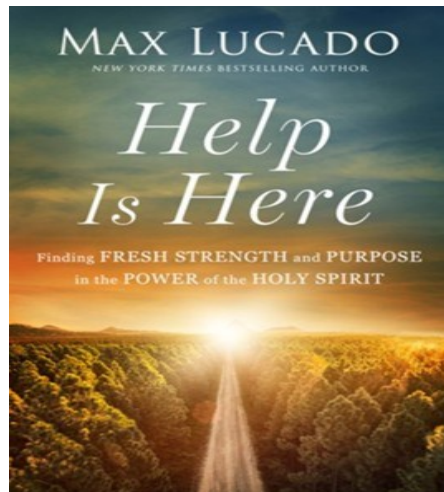


Items Most Needed This Month

- Green Beans
- Corn
- Small Boxes of Cereal
- Green Peas
- Canned Potatoes

Check expiration dates. We cannot use outdated items.

**Thank you in advance for your generosity.
Diana Hodges
Pantry Coordinator**



White Bluff United Methodist Church Tuesday Morning Book Group

Begins: January 10th

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Room 21

(A DVD study of the Holy Spirit)

Books are available now
See Nancy Leavitt or Harriet Cobb
to sign-up

Fellowship/Coffee Time Clean-Up

December Journey with Friends

All classes are responsible for the entire month.



JOIN REVEREND JOHN HANEY IN The Holy Land

April 26-May 6, 2023 \$4,500

Deposit \$500

Deadline 01-26-23 JTHAN423

Host: Reverend John Haney

Phone: (912) 704-5021

Email: revjohnhaney@bellsouth.net

Expected sights, Unexpected experiences!

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Day 1 | Departure | Day 8 | Old City of Jerusalem |
| Day 2 | Arrive in Holy Land | Day 9 | Qumran and Jericho |
| Day 3 | Galilee | Day 10 | Garden Tomb |
| Day 4 | Valley of Armageddon | Day 11 | Return to USA |
| Day 5 | Dead Sea | | |
| Day 6 | Journey to Jerusalem | | |
| Day 7 | MT. of Olives & Bethlehem | | |

Brochure Available in the Church Office.

CLOSED

FOR THE

Holidays

December 23 and 26 Christmas Holidays

December 30 and January 2 New Year's Holidays



POWERED BY
TITHELY

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Special Gifts

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

Shannon Butler

Kathryn Kiger

Madie Lee Clements Dickey

Kim Tice
Jane Anderson

Corine Hall
Gayle Spilliards

Carlton Kemp

Eve Circle

Alan Blake Matthews

Nancy Leavitt

Howard Sanders

Kathryn Kiger
Bob and Patricia Stalnaker
Larry and Sedjanane Sims
Rodd Spann, Desiree, Brett and Judge Wood

Michael Wilson

Eve Circle



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

George and Larry Sanders, on the death of their husband and father, Howard Miller Sanders, on November 6, 2022.

Kristi Cannon, on the death of her mother, Sally Ann Slocum, on November 10, 2022.

John Butler, on the death of his wife, Shannon Butler, on November 11, 2022.

Jackie Cooley Alexander and Carol Powell Kemp, on the death of their husband and son, David Blake Alexander, on November 29, 2022.

**Merry
Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**