

# March Newsletter

A publication of Bluffton United Methodist Church, Bluffton, SC

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March 2024



This morning, I am listening to birds rejoice in the hints of Spring and I can see all around me; longer days, daffodils, a few azaleas and the hint of new growth on the tips of the branches of the trees. And pollen. We cannot ignore the yellow accumulations on our cars and porches and windowsills! Speaking of longer days, Daylight Savings Time will begin March 10, mark your calendars now.

While you are marking your calendars, there are 3 events you may want to include:

First, on **Sunday, March 17 at 2 PM**, the Alzheimer's Association will be our guests to present information on Alzheimer's and Dementia and support of caregivers. So many of us have been touched by Dementia and/or Alzheimer's. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors who might benefit.

Next, have you ever wondered what it would be like to follow in the Footsteps of Paul? In March of 2025, we will travel to Greece and Turkey to see the places where Paul preached and started churches. We will grow in faith and fellowship as we explore cities like Ephesus, Philippi, Thessalonica and Athens. We will even spend time in Santorini! For more information, please join us on **Monday, March 18 at 4 PM** in the sanctuary of Bluffton UMC. Trip dates are March 25 - April 3, 2025.



Sunset at Ephesus



Church in Santorini

Finally, on **Sunday, April 14, at 2 PM**, we will spend some time talking about How We Got Here and General Conference. For an hour or so, we will spend some time seeking understanding of what brought us to this point with General Conference. We will cover the structure and steps that brought us to where we are and I will present possibilities as best they are known at that point.

*Faithfully,  
Pastor Scarlett*



ALL CHILDREN please join us in worship Palm Sunday for the traditional Procession of Palms.

## A Lenten Experience

Please make plans to attend our first ever Lenten Experience for All Ages - - - this will be an interactive journey through various stations to remind us of Jesus' last days.

Please note: the children's Egg Hunt will be at the end of this event – we will not have an Egg Hunt on Easter Day this year.



A Lenten Experience for All Ages  
Concluding with a Children's Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, March 24

4 – 5:30 PM

Beginning in Fellowship Hall

Please bring 12+ filled plastic eggs

Contact Sally LeSage to RSVP and Volunteer –  
[blufftonumc.education@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc.education@gmail.com)



## Lent/Easter

**Palm Sunday—**  
Sunday, March 24th  
8:30 AM and 11:00  
AM in the Sanctuary.

Lenten experience for all ages and egg hunt at 4:00-5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

**Maundy Thursday Worship & Communion—**March 28, 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

**Good Friday—**Open sanctuary for prayer from noon to 1:00 PM

**Easter Day Services—**  
Sunday, March 31. Sunrise service at 7:00 AM front of the Annex.  
8:30 & 11:00 AM in the

## Other Events

**March 16—**BMW Unit Meeting & Luncheon, 9 AM Fellowship Hall.

**March 17—**Alzheimer's & Dementia Seminar, 2:00 PM, BUMC.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

## THE IMPACT OF ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA IN OUR COMMUNITY

Join us for a program presented by the Alzheimer's Association®



Today, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and over 11 million are their unpaid caregivers – an escalating health crisis that affects many in our community. Join us for a brief informative program to learn about the impact of the disease, local resources and ways you can join the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

For more information on the program, contact Megan Brauer with the Alzheimer's Association at (440) 622-5997.



**Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM**

**Bluffton United Methodist Church  
101 Calhoun Street  
Bluffton, SC 29910**

For more information, contact  
Mary Ellen Parks at (843) 368-1852  
Email: [maryellen.parks22@gamil.com](mailto:maryellen.parks22@gamil.com)

RSVP to BUMC Church Office  
(843) 757-3351 or  
email [blufftonumc@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc@gmail.com)

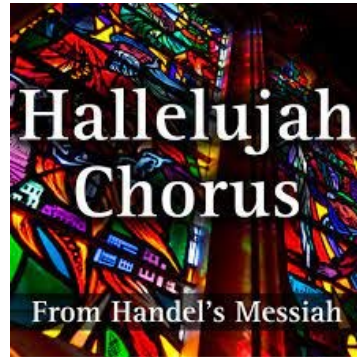


# Music Ministry

Did you know that we originally believed the entire universe revolves around the earth? That is until 1543 when Nicolaus Copernicus published his astronomical model revealing that the Sun is in fact the center of our universe and all planets revolve around it. I feel like the season of Lent gives us a similar reset. We become so ingrained in the ways of the world, following our self-imposed busy schedules, searching for what will make us happy. We have a habit of living as if the universe revolves around us. But Lent reminds us that we are sinful by nature. We can't do life on our own. We need a Savior. Our world must revolve around the Son. One of the pieces we're singing for our upcoming Palm Sunday cantata is "I Surrender All." May the words of this song be our prayer of surrender this Lenten season.

*All to Jesus I surrender,  
all to Him I freely give  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
in His presence daily live  
I surrender all, I surrender all  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all*

**Singers needed for our upcoming special Palm Sunday cantata!**



**It's not Easter without the Hallelujah Chorus!**

All singers are invited to join the Easter choir for the 8:30 or 11:00 AM Easter services as we celebrate our Savior's resurrection with this iconic anthem. RSVP to Keeley with your voice part and we will save you a seat!



**Keeley DiMartino**  
Director of Music Ministry  
[MusicMinistry@BlufftonUMC.org](mailto:MusicMinistry@BlufftonUMC.org)

**Michael Cole**  
Organist, Pianist, Accompanist  
[mcoleorganist@yahoo.com](mailto:mcoleorganist@yahoo.com)

**Nancy Osgood**  
Director of Wesley Ringers  
[njcosgood@gmail.com](mailto:njosgood@gmail.com)



## Bluffton Methodist Women

Souper Bowl of Caring—The Bluffton Methodist Women want to thank you for the great support and turn out for our Souper Bowl 2024 . Donations of \$480 were received and will go to the Bluffton Community Soup Kitchen. We also collected 145 cans of soup, which are going to Bluffton Self Help. Thank you everyone who came and supported this event. Hope everyone enjoyed the food and wonderful community we shared after church on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

*Blessings, the BMW*



Thirty Talks Weird Love by Alessandra Navraez Varela ( Education for Mission)

Out of nowhere, a lady comes up to Anamaria and says she's from her future. This 30-year-old "future" lady won't stop bothering her, giving her advice about being kind to herself and mysterious talk about saving a girl. This thought-provoking, moving verse novel will lead all readers to vital discussions on topics such as dealing with depression and how to recognize this in yourself and others through the voice of a thirteen-year-old girl.

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## Nurture & Discipleship

*Ephesians 1:18-20 "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at his right hand in the heavenly realms " KJV*



The eyes of your heart. What do you think that means? To me it is your soul, your conscious, your deep-down feeling. During Lent is a time to really look at our relationship with Jesus. Walking with Him as he goes through the last days of His life on earth. Knowing why He was crucified on the cross and knowing what a painful death He went through feeling so alone. But also knowing He rose from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God. And all for us. Because we are all sinners. And the best part is knowing because we have accepted Jesus as our Savior; we too are to join Him in Heaven. We all are going to go to our eternal home. How glorious that will be! God's power and strength will bring us home. A home that is beyond anything we can imagine.

*Debbie Kaulig*

# Gardening Team

*“And the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it”  
(Gen. 2:15)*



The first Daffodil announcing spring.



Azaleas in our Reflection Garden announcing Lent.

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Now that we have all enjoyed the winter beauty of the camellias along Camellia Walk and the new one at the corner of Water Street, it's time to think about Spring! Although March is the official arbiter of spring, in the Lowcountry, the February pollen generally declares the first sign.

At BUMC, the Landscape Team, aka God's Gardeners, wait for another yellow sign, the daffodils. So be on the lookout for our 600 daffodils scattered throughout our front and side gardens. Also providing color out front this month are snapdragons, big face pansies and cyclamens. Around the church sign, Patti Taylor has done a constant refresh where the pansies and cyclamen star this spring. In the Reflection Garden, the azaleas provide the greatest announcement of regeneration and rebirth with their blanket of pink color along the Fellowship Hall and kitchen windows. Look for our latest attempt at keeping the irises feet dry with a new raised bed in the Sunshine Garden. In the White Garden, several of the azaleas have been moved forward to get them more sun to flourish among the many Easter lilies spreading in that area. Watch for the Easter lilies to bloom in late spring. The Landscape Team will be meeting in the Spring to review progress on our plan and the current status of each garden.

We are very much in need of more Gardeners for God as some of our members have had some health issues. Nevertheless, if you can help out for a couple of hours a month to tend to what God provides, you will enjoy the time.

Contact Tom or Barbara McCann (843) 707-1379.

## History Corner



Methodist church  
before the storm  
looking at the church  
from the Seven Oakes  
House near the corner  
of Calhoun & Bridge  
Streets

Methodist churches on our current location (there were three of them) have taken on different looks and it is interesting to find pictures of them taken at various times. We were lucky to find two different looks at the first Methodist church built on our current site before and after a hurricane knocked down a big oak tree in 1940. The storm is referred to as the 40's Storm as the term hurricane hadn't been used at that time.

Methodist church after it  
was hit by a large oak  
tree and essentially de-  
stroyed in 1940.



The History Committee has been working with the Historic Bluffton Foundation to use Fellowship Hall for a lecture series. This is an outreach opportunity and a chance to develop a relationship with the Foundation. The first lecture was on February 29<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM and titled "Leap Back in History This Leap Year". Melanie Marks, a published author with a passion for history, made the presentation. The History Committee will be placing scrapbooks regarding our church history on the altar outside the double doors on the way to Fellowship Hall. The first book is quite comprehensive and provides details of ministers who served our church since 1889. You can find a comfortable place to look it over but please put it back on the table when finished and please do not remove it from the church.

We welcome any stories or information you have about our church.

*"Since God acts in human history, historical records are of great significance. They become salvation history because they contain the story of God's action to save sinful human beings."*

*\*Quote from the UMC Church Membership Records Manual.*

**Committee members: Al & Dian Litster, Joyce Atwood, Barbara McCann, Sarah Snow, Carolyn Smith, Gary Taylor, Mark Thomas**

Historians, Al & Dian Litster [tallowal@sc.rr.com](mailto:tallowal@sc.rr.com) 843-705-6221

# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Please join me in thanking our dedicated and loving volunteers who help make Christian Education an exciting and engaging ministry at BUMC – We couldn't do it without you!

## February Volunteers

Children's Messages – Lynn Newsom, Laura VanHorn, Keeley DiMartino

Kids' Church – Jo Parrott, Christina Bryant

Christian Education Publicity – Mikey Hervochon

Youth Leadership – Keeley DiMartino

AV and Tech Support – Brian Osgood

Youth Meals – Chandler, Bryant, Hester (Super Bowl Potluck)

Pancake Supper – Donna and Stan Kozlowsky and friends

## Winter 2024 Sunday Schedule

- ◆ Nursery Sundays at 8:30 and 11 AM – children up to 4 years old (Prekindergarten)
- ◆ Kids' Church Sundays at 8:30 and 11 AM – Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- ◆ Adult Sunday School Sundays 9:45 AM – Conference Room 1
- ◆ Kids' Praise 4:30 – 5:30 PM Music Suite
- ◆ Youth Praise 5:30 – 6 PM Music Suite
- ◆ Youth Group – 6- 7:30 PM Sundays – Annex



In March, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, the first day of Spring, and Easter. In the meantime, as we journey through Lent, think about what God gave up for us, and what you can do for God. Are you attending worship regularly? Are your children coming to church? Kids' Church? Kid's and Youth Praise? Youth Group? BUMC has much to offer our entire congregation for this season to bring you and your families closer to God.



# MISSIONS



MIRACLE JAR donations in February for Libraries for Kids, International amounted to **\$767.50!!** Their mission is “to help schools with limited or no access to the internet, establish libraries for their students and enhance learning opportunities.” They concentrate on establishing libraries in rural schools in Africa that do not have electricity. We appreciate your support.

MIRACLE JAR donations in March will go to Salkehatchie Summer Service. Since 1978, Salkehatchie has been an outreach of the South Carolina Conference Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. It began as an opportunity for high school and college youth to engage in a summer work camp to improve the lives of needy families whose homes are in disrepair. To cover these costs, monetary donations for building supplies and camp scholarships are needed as Methodist young people demonstrate how to “love your neighbor.” Checks may be written to the church with “miracle jar” on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**WHY ARE WE MAKING 5,000 COOKIES?**

**BECAUSE EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES AND EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE**

Volunteers from Kairos Prison Ministry will use the packages of cookies as “ice breakers” as they take the love of Jesus to those at Ridgeland Correctional Institution.



# BUMC Treasurer's Report

As of February 29, 2024  
Budget Target is 8 of 52 Sundays or 15%

	YTD Income/ Expense	Annual Budget	Percent of Budget
<b>Worship Offerings:</b>			
Plate	63,005	-	-
Online	32,408	-	-
Total Worship Offerings	95,413	615,500	15.5%
<b>Other Revenue:</b>			
Unrestricted Memorial Donation	-	-	
Altar Flowers, Facility Rental, Interest, Etc.	964	8,500	11.3%
Roof Donations	38,627	-	
Total Other Revenue	39,591	8,500	
Total Revenue	134,040	624,000	21.5%
 <b>EXPENSE</b>			
Pastoral	27,047	173,402	15.6%
Worship	17,074	98,589	17.3%
Ministry & Education	11,247	74,700	15.1%
Missions	2,659	28,350	9.4%
UMC Apportionments	9,843	59,055	16.7%
Administration & Finance	15,294	84,835	18.0%
Property	48,353	79,215	61.0%
Total Expense	131,517	598,146	22.0%
<b>Surplus YTD</b>	2,523	25,854	

**Notes:**

*Worship Expense over budgeted amount due to late billing for 6 months of 2023 Altar Flowers billed in 2024.*

*Administration & Finance over budgeted amount due to closing costs on line of credit*

*Property Expense over budgeted amount due to annual property insurance payment*

**Visit [Blufftonumc.org](http://Blufftonumc.org) to establish your recurring online giving at the "select page prompt/donate!"**

# Anniversaries, Birthdays and Prayers

## *Anniversaries*

03/08—Dustin & Jennifer Arnold  
 03/10—Charlie & Annette Fields  
 03/19—Melanie & Buck Hyler  
 03/20—Bill & Nancy Epps Jr.  
 03/24—Shirley & Bud Mingledorff  
 03/28—Gwynn & Stan Yocco

03/01—Bob Wichmann  
 03/02—Chuck Fay  
 03/02—Mallie Sprouse  
 03/03—Rebecca Himes  
 03/05—Michael Hurst  
 03/05—Nancy Epps  
 03/09—Richard Inglis  
 03/10—Denny LaFaber  
 03/10—Karen Wehner  
 03/11—Pat Kirkland  
 03/13—Danny Jett  
 03/13—Joanne Dahl  
 03/14—Merrick Downey  
 03/17—Donald Parsons  
 03/19—Denise McPheeters  
 03/20—Becky Rees

## *Birthdays*

03/20—Jane Thornton  
 03/21—Elaine Blank  
 03/22—Joan Morris  
 03/24—Steve VanHorn  
 03/26—Jane LaFaber  
 03/27—Annie Reichert  
 03/27—Tim Wyld  
 03/27—Doug Runyan  
 03/28—John Clingerman  
 03/28—James Atkins  
 03/29—Dale Bennett  
 03/30—Alex Ulmer  
 03/30—Gloria Taylor  
 03/31—Mike Sperry



Rebecca Adler & Family  
 Daniel Alba  
 Lana Armstrong  
 Rocky Austin  
 Lois Barton  
 Malinda Blackshaw & Family  
 Rita Bobko  
 Jenny & Bobby Brannen  
 Jason Brown  
 Krystal Buck  
 Paul Bucklin  
 Lynn Cleveland  
 Pat Cleveland  
 Amy Cooper Family  
 Pat Crews  
 David De Paolis

Elizabeth & Larry Duncan  
 Richard Falon  
 Donna & Kari Fiero  
 Jane Grim  
 David Harper  
 Mike & Kara Hurst  
 Meredith Inglis  
 Vera Jones  
 Lloyd & Paula Lamb  
 Paul Laughlin  
 Judy McDonald  
 Elizabeth Napolitano  
 Ed Neal  
 Bob Newmarker  
 Barbara O'Connor

Michelle O'Connor  
 Mackenzie Orth  
 Megan Phelps  
 Evelyn Reddish  
 Tori Rinehart  
 Linda Allen Smith  
 Al Tahan & Family  
 Betty Thraikill  
 Jackie Tuohig  
 Brent & Jeanne VanBuskirk  
 Steve VanHorn  
 Judy Walden  
 Joe Walter  
 Rick Wortman

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

**March 2024**

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



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

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

Pastor Scarlett's Email – [pastor@blufftonumc.org](mailto:pastor@blufftonumc.org) – Cell: 1.843.907.5389

Director of Music Ministry: Keeley DiMartino; email – [musicministry@blufftonumc.org](mailto:musicministry@blufftonumc.org)

Director of Christian Education: Sally LeSage – Email – [blufftonumc.education@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc.education@gmail.com)

Organist, Pianist, Accompanist —Michael Cole—Email—[mcoleorganist@yahoo.com](mailto:mcoleorganist@yahoo.com)

Church Office: 843.757.3351; Email [blufftonumc@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc@gmail.com); Website: <http://www.blufftonumc.org>

**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon. – Thurs. 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

**MAILING ADDRESS**

Bluffton UMC  
P.O. Box 368  
Bluffton, SC 29910