



# APRIL NEWSLETTER

A publication of Bluffton United Methodist Church, Bluffton, SC  
Volume 20, Issue 4

April 2024



I know that my family and I will slide from the emotionally and spiritually charged joy of Easter on Sunday right into the work of Monday. Beaufort County public school kids go back to school Monday morning. Folks go back to work. Life goes on.



But first, thank you. Holy week has been all the better because of your willing, loving hearts. So many of you have volunteered to read, have sung in our cantata, helped and participated in our Lenten experience that included an Easter Egg Hunt, and been readers and communion servers for Maundy Thursday, changed the paraments to white, put out and arranged the flowers, made everyone audible, lit candles, dimmed lights and prepared communion. It has been glorious and an honor to serve with you.

I wanted to mention that on Maundy Thursday, it was especially meaningful that we drank the juice from olive wood cups from Bethlehem. With war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza shattering lives and hopes for better days, I looked in the cup, and I remembered Jesus asking, "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" He wanted to know if the disciples could be faithful in hard times.





These are not easy days.

The work of the Church includes the General Conference for which we have been waiting since 2020. Decisions, large and small, will be made there that impact our local church more than any General Conference since 1968 when the Methodist Episcopal Church merged with the United Brethren to become the United Methodist Church.

I am not among those who were elected to serve as delegates to General Conference. (That election was in 2019 in anticipation of 2020, which has been on hold because of Covid.) Although I have neither voice nor vote at the General Conference level, I determined to apply to be a volunteer. I was accepted and will be in attendance for just a few of the days.

But maybe I am getting ahead of myself. On April 14 at 2:00, we will gather in the sanctuary and I will do my best to explain How We Got Here and What is Before General Conference. No, it will not be live streamed or recorded. Sensitive conversations need to happen in person, and nuance and sensitivity are too easily lost in cyberspace.

You might find information now using the following links that explain some things before the General Conference including Regionalization, Revision of Social Principles and Removal of Language.

<https://www.umnews.org/>

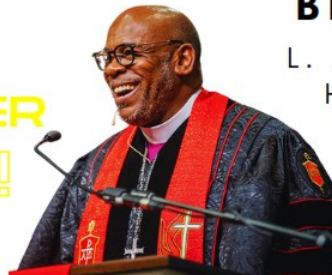
<https://www.umnews.org/en/landing-pages/general-conference-news-and-commentary>

These are days for prayer, yet these are not the first hard days for Christ's body, the Church. I am frequently reminded of the Jerusalem Conference referenced in both Acts 15 and Galatians 2. The Church has had to work through hard things from the beginning, but after years of divisions, schisms and splits, the Church goes on, and will continue to do so as long as God has use of it.

Peace, hope and faith,  
Pastor Scarlett

As part of this time together with our Bishop, we are inviting you to participate in our District's mission project - Walterboro District's Food Drive. We are collecting non-perishable food items for the Lowcountry Food Bank to fight hunger. Please bring your donations to this event.

**REGISTER  
NOW!**



**BISHOP**

L. Jonathan  
Holston

*You're  
Invited!*

**Bishop's Day in the Walterboro District  
Saturday, May 18th  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Sand Hill UMC**

1961 SUMMERS DRIVE, RIDGEVILLE, SC, 29472

WORSHIP | FELLOWSHIP | FOOD | FUN | & FEED THE HUNGRY MISSION PROJECT!

PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER BY APRIL 30TH:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/B5TNQADPKCMDULRS7](https://forms.gle/B5TNQADPKCMDULRS7)

# Upcoming Events



## BMW

The Bluffton Methodist Women will have a table at this year's MayFest on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Items will include a bake sale and yard sale of small items that are easy to carry such as purses, books dolls and more.

Anyone is interested, contact Nancy Humes [nancyhumes22@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhumes22@gmail.com).



## BUMM's Meeting

Craig Ostergard of Operation Patriots Forward Operating Base (OPFOB).

The Mission of OPFOB is to help reduce the alarming rate of veteran suicides.

We would like to invite all of our veterans to attend this event. This will be in the Fellowship Hall at **9 am on April 6th**.



## SAVE THE DATE:

**Adult Prom – Tropical Nights Theme –  
May 3, 2024 – 6-8:30 PM Fellowship Hall  
- - - tickets go on sale soon!!!  
Nominations for King and Queen  
due April 12!  
Proceeds to benefit the 2024 Live  
Nativity on December 17!**



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

**VBS – calling all children ages 3- 5<sup>th</sup> grade and all youth and adult volunteers – our VBS this year will be June 17-21. Set up and Decorating Sunday afternoon, June 16. VBS 5:30 – 8 PM Monday through Thursday. Friday 5:30 to 8 PM – Kids' presentation and family cookout!**



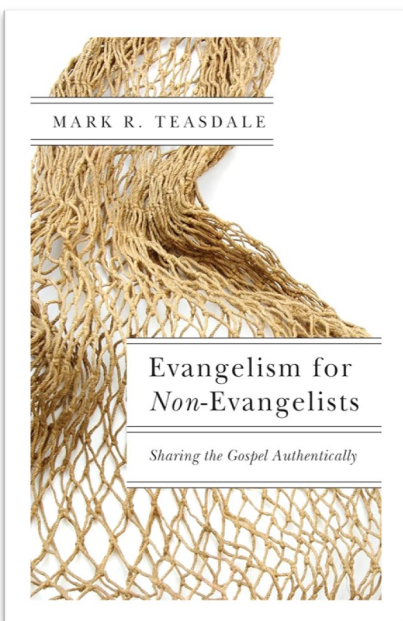
It is hard to realize that, as this is being written, our Easter services are over and April has arrived. Stephen Ministry has been hard at work, but in more ways that you would realize. Yes, all four of us have care receivers. Yes, we continue with educating ourselves in becoming better listeners. Recently, however, we sponsored a Sunday afternoon program on Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease. A guest speaker (from the Alzheimer's Association) came to share with us current information specifically about the warning signs of Alzheimer's. People interested in learning more about the disease, including those who have been diagnosed and those caring for parents with the disease attended. It was timely, informative and definitely eye-opening. We are currently exploring the possibility of having an Alzheimer's Support Group meet at Bluffton United Methodist Church in the near future. Stay tuned for upcoming information.

The GriefShare Support Class continues to meet each Wednesday at 1:30 PM in the Music Suite. Although the class is two-thirds over, the Lord continues to send hurting people to us. He uses us to reflect His hands and heart as we work our way through the thirteen-week class. The members have bonded and are wonderful at supporting and encouraging each other. Christ's love touches each one, those who have lost spouses to those who have lost a child, adult or very young. Although the class lasts 13 weeks, everyone has learned that the length and reactions of each individual's grief journey is different. What is available to all is Christ's love and strength.

If interested in more information, contact Mary Ellen Parks, (843) 368-1852, Bill Stutesman, (214) 435-0243 or Diane Ciba, (203) 982-0450

---

## Evangelism



Scripture calls us to be fishers of men, to be sent out as laborers of the harvest, to let our light shine before others, to be witnesses, ambassadors for Christ, to spread the gospel to all of creation, to go and make disciples of all nations!  
... But what does all that *actually look like*?

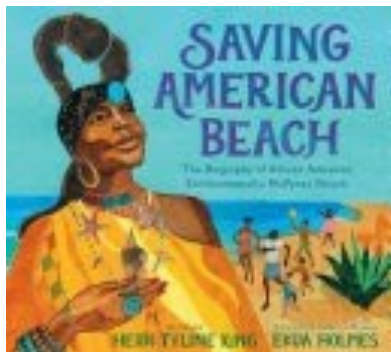
### **What does it really mean to be an evangelist today?**

Join us for 6 weeks as we explore this question and more in the book *Evangelism for the Non-Evangelist*.

Meetings will be **Wednesdays at 10:00 AM, April 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29** in the Music Suite. Books are \$14. Contact Keeley for more information.



## Bluffton Methodist Women



Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynee Betsch  
by Heidi Tyline King.

This picture book tells the story of MaVynee Betsch, an African American opera singer turned environmentalist and the legacy she preserved. During Jim Crow, her grandfather bought a beach near Jacksonville where African American families could go. After desegregation, the beach fell into disrepair. Ms. Betsch was determined to preserve this important piece of American history.

---

## Nurture & Discipleship

*2 Corinthians 1:3-4 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."*



There is an old story about two pots. One was perfect, but the other had cracks and broken in some places. Every day, a woman filled the pots with rainwater she collected and then carried them down the path to her home. The first pot was so proud that she never spilled a single drop. The other pot felt ashamed because no matter how hard she tried; she lost a lot along the way. One day the two pots overheard the woman talking with someone who lived nearby. The neighbor exclaimed, "The flowers along your path are so beautiful! What's your secret?" The woman answered, "One of my pots is broken and the water that spills out helps the flowers grow every day."

We think that when we are broken and have troubles of our own, we need to be perfect in order to be used by God and bless others. But God thinks in a completely different way. He took what was perfect, His Son, and made Him broken to bring us healing and forgive us our sins. He is an awesome God. He knows us so well.

*Debbie Kaulig*  
Chair, Nurture and Discipleship



The BUMMs have welcomed several new members to our group since January this year. It is always great to have new faces join us for our regular monthly meetings. And the really good news is that they have come back each month!! It really is great to see our BUMM group growing as more men of the Church give us a try. In addition to a great breakfast at our meetings on the first Saturday of each month, the BUMMs offer opportunities for participation in fund raising activities that bring significant financial support to a number of local charities.

We also have a regular "sharing meeting" each month that the BUMMs call the "Upper Room Group". This is a time for men to meet and share anything that may be going on in their lives and find support from other men. The meeting is held in the upstairs room at the Corner Perk in Bluffton, which is why it is called the "Upper Room Group".

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month in the Church fellowship hall. We start with a full breakfast, prepared by the "BUMM Chefs", followed by our business meeting. In most months, we have a speaker of interest to the BUMMs and often someone from one of the local charities that we support.

At our next meeting on April 6th, we have as our guest speaker Mr. Craig Ostergard. Craig has a long and distinguished career in the military as well as in the business world. In his military career, he volunteered to serve in Vietnam and was assigned to a MACV Team in the Central Highlands and then finished his tour as a Company Commander on Artillery Hill, Pleiku. He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and other decorations during his military tour. Craig has lived in Hilton Head since 1984 and has had a long and successful career in the real estate business and has been inducted into the Sea Pines Real Estate Hall of Fame.

Our next regular BUMM meeting will be on Saturday, April 6th starting at 9 AM with our full breakfast in the Church fellowship hall. We hope that all men of the Church will give us a try. We think you'll enjoy the fellowship not to mention a great breakfast!

See you then,

*Danny W. Jett, Secretary*



# Music Ministry

*God sent his Son, they called him Jesus  
He came to love, heal, and forgive  
He lived and died to buy my pardon  
And empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives*

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives, all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because He lives*

*(Because He Lives, UMH 364)*

The sweet lyrics of this Gaither hymn take on so much more meaning after the celebration of Christ's resurrection. But before we could reach the empty tomb we had to live through Holy Week. We had to listen as the crowd shouted "Hosanna!" one moment and "Crucify Him!" the next. We had to watch as beloved Jesus was welcomed with waving palms and then crowned with thorns. We had to travel with Jesus down that dark path that led to his death on the cross and burial in the tomb. But Easter morning came and we heard shouts of "Hallelujah!" We witnessed the stone being rolled away and the tomb being empty. Those early followers of Christ could have sang "Because He Lives" with great amazement and joy.

But the good news isn't just that Jesus lived then, but that He still lives in us today. That's why this Gaither song is in present tense: Because He lives. Because the temple curtain was torn in two and we were invited to live in God's presence again, Jesus is alive with us. Are you living today in a way that shows Jesus is still alive? Is your life different because He lives?



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

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

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

# GARDENING TEAM

*“And the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it”*



---

Spring is the time of renewal and rebirth and the gardens are our yearly proof of that. Each re-emerging perennial, especially the Easter lilies, reminds us of Jesus's resurrection. During the recent Lenten Experience as a reminder of Jesus's time in Gethsemane, we toured several of the front gardens which are providing Spring color.

The Sanctuary Gardens have been planted with yellow snapdragons and purple pansies to replace the early season daffodils. Color is also apparent around the church signboard as the Sweet Williams return and play off the red cyclamens which begin to peek out in late winter.

Along Allen Street, camellias, which have been blooming since winter, play off the red azaleas. The Lantana Garden and the White Garden will soon put on a display of Easter lilies. In the Office Gardens, we await the buds of the blue hydrangeas. If you would like a garden brochure detailing the plants in all the gardens along the Prayer Walk, or if you have ideas for new plantings, contact Tom or Barbara McCann. Meanwhile, please pray about joining our team, **Gardeners for God**. Thirty minutes twice a month can ensure a garden is a reflection of God's gift of his love for us.

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



## HISTORY CORNER

Old Parsonage  
Restored &  
Relocated



Did you know that the first parsonage built in 1906 that was originally located behind the “little white church”, approximately where the music suite is now located, was moved to 132 Confederate Avenue in 1973. It has been renovated and now is a private home.

---

This month, you will find a scrapbook which gives the history of the Graves House/Parsonage located on the old alter outside the double doors going into Fellowship Hall.

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!

## March Volunteers

**Kids' Church** – Jo Parrott, Nancy Humes, Christina Bryant

**Youth Leadership** – Keeley DiMartino

**AV and Tech Support** – Brian Osgood, Rick Humes

**Youth Meals** – Atkins Family, Linda Hall, Sapochak Family

**Banners and picnic table assembly** – Nick Mandalas and the Busy Bees

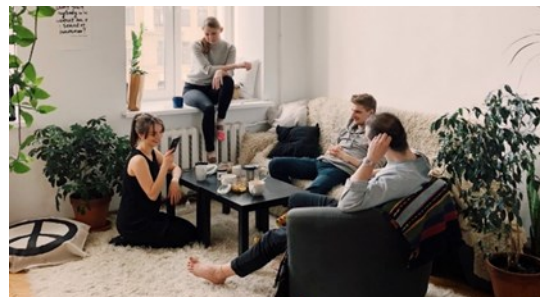
**Lenten Experience** – Stan and Donna Kozlowski, Rick and Nancy Humes, Ron and Joanne Davies, Sara Jenkins, Janet LaMartina, Keeley DiMartino, Brian and Nancy Osgood, Melanie Hyler, Alan and Harriet Edwards, Sharral Ruth, Tom and Barbara McCann, Mikey Hervochon, Charlie Fields, Zach Hester, Aiden Bryant, Carson Bryant, Matthew Sapochak, Shae Chandler, Ahreina Serrano and all our families and children who participated in the event and donated eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt!

## Spring 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

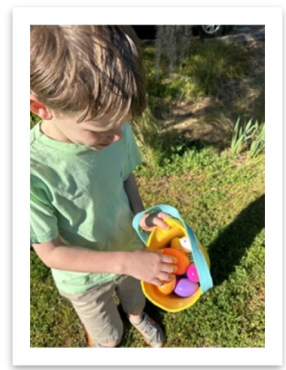
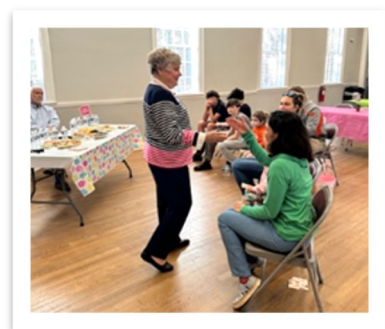
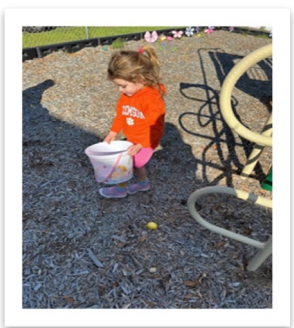
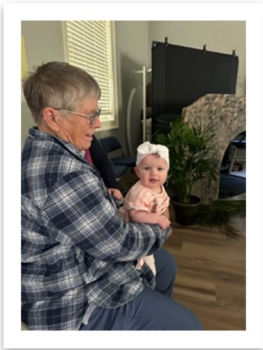
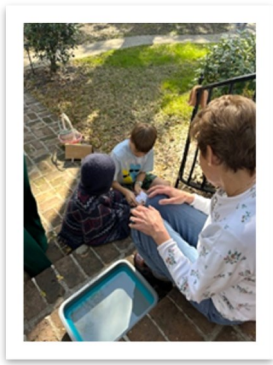


## NEW GROUPS FORMING in 2024:



If you are interested in joining/forming a young adult Sunday School class, Men's or Women's Bible Study or a Small Group, please contact Sally LeSage, Director of Christian Education at [blufftonumc.education@gmail.com](mailto:blufftonumc.education@gmail.com)

# Scenes from Lenten Experience and Children's Egg Hunt



# MISSIONS



Several of our Quilters enjoyed working with the youth group to create a banner that is hanging in the youth space at the annex. Each of the youth chose a word that he/she found meaningful to place on a quilt square. It was wonderful to work with such polite, enthusiastic, and cooperative young people!!



# MISSIONS



Thank you for your wonderful support for the **MIRACLE JAR** in March for **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.”

**MIRACLE JAR** donations in April will go to our **BLESSING BAG** project. This is OUR church’s project to pack 60 bags each month that are filled with 15 full-sized self-care items plus a note of encouragement from the church. The bags are delivered to Bluffton Self Help and Deep Well on Hilton Head. We are the only group in the area that **REGULARLY** donates hygiene items to these agencies to help our neighbors in need. Checks may be written to the church with “miracle jar” on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity



**IN APRIL OUR CHURCH WILL  
DELIVER BLESSING BAG**

**#2,000**

**TO LOCAL AGENCIES TO ASSIST OUR  
NEIGHBORS!**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT.**

# BUMC Treasurer's Report

As of March 31, 2024

Budget Target is 13 of 52 Sundays or 25%

			YTD Income/ Expense	Annual Budget	Percent of Budget
Worship Offerings:					
Plate			104,063	-	-
Online			46,211	-	-
Total Worship Offerings			150,274	615,500	24.4%
Other Revenue:					
Unrestricted Memorial Donation			-	-	
Altar Flowers, Facility Rental, Interest, Etc.			1,535	8,500	18.1%
Roof Donations			41,892	-	
Total Other Revenue			43,427	8,500	
Total Revenue			192,166	624,000	30.8%
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Pastoral			40,959	173,402	23.6%
Worship			24,537	98,589	24.9%
Ministry & Education			17,209	74,700	23.0%
Missions			4,417	28,350	15.6%
UMC Apportionments			14,764	59,055	25.0%
Administration & Finance			22,202	84,835	26.2%
Property			51,509	79,215	65.0%
Total Expense			175,597	598,146	29.4%
<b>Surplus YTD</b>			16,569	25,854	

**Notes:**

*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*

04/03—Beth & Jeffrey Corry  
04/09—Charles & Joann Garner  
04/13—Bob & Jenny Brannen  
04/14—George & Helen Anderson  
04/17—Mars & Venus Mendoza  
04/20—Tom & Barbara McCann  
04/30—Wayne & Ellen Chester

04/01—Kathy Walter  
04/01—Paul Wehner  
04/01—Shari Steenson  
04/03—Amanda Wehner  
04/05—Carl Greenway  
04/08—Mike Tate  
04/08—Larry Stocker  
04/09—Paula Brown  
04/09—Sonja Russell  
04/10—Ann Ansel  
04/10—Diane Ciba  
04/11—Gloria Johnson  
04/13—Tom McCann  
04/14—Rick Humes  
04/14—Ruthie Runyan

## *Birthdays*

04/15—Gary Taylor  
04/15—Kathy Griebel  
04/15—Becky McCorkendale  
04/16—Penny Stanley  
04/16—Jennifer Hodges  
04/16—Mark Blackburn  
04/17—Joe DiMartino  
04/19—Kathie Coburn  
04/20—George Anderson  
04/21—Sailor Boyles  
04/23—Kathy Valentine  
04/26—Hugh Armstrong  
04/28—Doug Oblander



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

Elizabeth & Larry Duncan  
Richard Falon  
Donna & Kari Fiero  
Warren Graves  
Jane Grim  
David Harper  
Meredith Inglis  
Vera Jones  
Lloyd & Paula Lamb  
Paul Laughlin  
Judy McDonald  
Marilyn Moore  
Elizabeth Napolitano  
Bob Newmarker  
Barbara O'Connor

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

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

**April 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 — 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