

WHITE BLUFF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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White Bluff News

May 2020

EMBRACE TRANSFORM EQUIP IMPACT

COVID-19 Update

Happy May! It's my prayer that each of you are doing well during this bizarre moment in history. I don't know about you but I never imagined experiencing anything like this. I miss seeing all of you and can't wait to meet in our beautiful sanctuary again!

Just to update you on our plans, we have put together a "Back to Church" team. This group will be meeting weekly through Zoom (online) up until we re-open the doors of our church to ensure that we are doing everything that we can to make our church safe as possible once we return. **As of now, we are targeting June 21st to be our first Sunday back.** As you know, things can certainly change. But that's the date that we will be aiming for. Once we return you should expect some things to be different. We'll update you once we have a clear plan. Please know that this team of leaders is taking this task extremely seriously. The safety of our church members is our number priority as we navigate all of this.

In addition, our office hours will continue to be limited to Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-12. We'll let you know as soon as that changes. Our church staff continues to work remotely so please don't hesitate to reach out to us if there's a question or need.

In the meantime, you'll find some exciting updates in this newsletter. Great things are still happening at White Bluff! Connect with us online on our church's Facebook page and our website. I hope that the online worship services have been meaningful for you.

God be with you till we meet again!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Josh

Staff

Rev. Josh Duckworth
Senior Pastor
(912) 347-7860

Rev. Ken Sharpe
Associate Pastor
(912) 656-1524

Rev. Danny Beam
Director of Music
Ministries

Bobby Floyd
Director of Modern
Worship and
Student Ministries

Suzanne R. Woodrum
Church Organist

Carolyn Anderson
Administrative Assistant
(912) 925-5924

Malinda Smith
Financial Administrator



Congratulations!
Graduating Seniors
Class of 2020

Ryan Anderson
Joey Drescher
Andrew Maynard



Staff-Parish Relations Update

The Staff-Parish Relations committee is excited to share some news with you! While looking for a part-time staff member to provide music for the new modern worship service, we had a great candidate apply who can serve in that music role and also fill the position of our number one priority (Student Ministry K-12th grade) as identified by our Church Council. To put it simply: one staff member will be serving three important roles for our church! (modern worship music, youth and children's ministry)

We are excited to announce that Bobby Floyd has accepted a full time position of Director of Modern Worship Music and Student Ministries! SPR met with him and his wife Olivia and were impressed by them both. We believe that Bobby will make a great addition to our staff and both of them will be great additions to our church. The hire fits our SPR budget for 2020 and we are planning to bring him on board at the end of June. We understand that there's some uncertainty over the next few months because of COVID-19, so SPR wanted to do their due diligence to ensure that this was a financially responsible move. After consulting with Rev. Josh Duckworth, Council Chair Bill Brown, our District Superintendent David Thompson, and Chuck Dickson of Finance, the entire SPR committee is ready to move forward with this hire. We still believe in the vision that Josh and Church Council has laid out to start a new service and bring on someone full-time who can reach our children and youth. Below you will find his mailing address. I encourage you to send Bobby and Olivia a letter of welcome. If you have any questions please contact me, Josh, or any of the SPR members.

Thanks,
Jerome Butler

White Bluff Church,

Our names are Bobby and Liv Floyd. We are so excited to be joining the church family at White Bluff! We can't wait to get down to Savannah and get started on building something great for the Kingdom of God together, as well as soaking up some coastal sun (**disclaimer: that was my wife's idea to put in.**) A bit about us: Currently, we are both teachers in a private Christian school in Anderson, SC. She has been teaching English and I have been teaching Bible. We have a wonderful dog named Pond. She is an Australian kelpie who we love dearly.

My favorite things to do are play music, baseball/outdoor sports with friends, or something quiet like reading or video games. Liv loves to read, hike, write, cook, and play with our dog. She is very much a people person too!

There is so much to say about why we are excited to be joining you all. I am so excited to build a worship program with you and help expand our student ministries. My passions are music and student/youth leadership; as I have a calling to help teach the next generation about Jesus not just in academic sense, but also in a relational sense. To me, these two are intertwined eternally. Loving Jesus makes you hunger to know more about Him, and knowing more about Him makes you love Him infinitely more. Helping all of our younger church members reach this understanding is important to me, and I am elated to get the chance to have a crucial part of doing that at White Bluff. Building an environment that is cohesive to that goal is something which I am fully prepared and excited to do! I am thrilled and ready to get to know each of you over time as we journey into this adventure of growing our Church in several ways for God's Kingdom. Beyond that, we are also so excited to be in the beautiful city of Savannah with what we already clearly see as a loving, kingdom-oriented, Christ-focused community of believers.

Grace and peace,
Bobby and Liv

Trustees Update

As I'm sure you have all heard, our church facility was vandalized last month. As of now we have had over \$60,000 worth of damage, but everything is being taken care of. We had several of our members show up the next day to start cleaning up! We have had a professional cleaning done on the floors and air ducts. After we are finished, it will be better than new!

As you'll see in the Staff-Parish Relations update, we are hiring a new minister of students. In order to prepare for his arrival, the Trustees have approved renovating the youth room. It was already in bad shape and even worse after the vandalism. So we are going to take the opportunity to completely renovate it: remove the wall, replace the flooring and ceiling tile, new paint, etc. Once Bobby is here, he'll have a room ready to go! The trustees are thankful that the church is prioritizing our youth and children!

Gift Card Scam



There have been multiple scam emails sent out to church members pretending to be Pastor Josh asking for gift cards. Please know that Josh or anyone on staff at White Bluff UMC would never ask you for anything like that over an email. If you get one of these emails please let the church office know about it.

Financial Update from the WBUMC Finance Committee

As we near the two month mark of worshipping from home, our committee wanted to give you an update on the finances of the church as of the end of April. While there was some concern at the beginning of this uncertain time that our church operations would be affected by a slowdown in giving, we are happy to report that giving has remained strong.

The following numbers are as of 4/30/2020:

Budgeted Income: \$ 208,936.00

Budgeted Expense: \$ 208,936.00

Actual Income: \$ 233,170.12

Actual Expense: \$ 161,483.18

We are so thankful for all of you who have taken a leap in your financial faith – putting a check in the mail, when you prefer to put it in an offering plate; giving online, when that whole idea is not in your comfort zone; fulfilling your annual pledge early in the year, when your own finances allow; giving a little more each week than usual, to support the work that is being done now and the work that will be done when our operations resume. We are indeed blessed this Easter season in the knowledge that we are faithful givers to the ministries of the church, at all times and in every way!

Happy Birthday Greetings extended to:



Dorothy Banks 4/6 (93)
Gerald Fields 4/6 (91)
Margaret Legler 4/8 (95)
Leita Stevens 4/16 (93)
Beverly McQueen 4/29 (91)

Detmer Stalnaker 5/5 (91)
Georgia Carter 5/26 (101)



Bobby and Olivia Floyd
738 Jonagold Court
Anderson, S.C. 29621