

Bluff Hall Church Newsletter

December 2025



Advent Season is upon us. It signals the season of waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. It also symbolizes the anticipation of his second coming.

Each of the four weeks is a time to reflect on the HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE that Jesus Christ brings. It is a time for reflection, prayer, and expectant celebration.

HOPE: In the Hebrew Bible, the words most often used for hope – qavah and yakhal – are translated as 'wait'. To hope in God means to wait with patient expectation, trusting that he will fulfill his promises. This hope and 'wait' is the anticipation of the day when Jesus will return to make all things new.

PEACE: Jesus brings true peace by working to heal the deeper sources of division, such as fear and pride that compel people to violence. Jesus offers healing and restoration through his love and forgiveness. As Jesus continues his work of bringing lasting peace throughout the Earth, we can participate in that work by living as peacemakers. We join with Jesus by embracing his non-violent way of forgiveness, caring for our neighbors, and extending generous love towards all people.

Joy: is a deep sense of safety and freedom people feel because of God's loving character. This kind of joy is about being united with God who walks with us and in trusting he will one day wipe away every tear. The season of Advent invites us to experience joy not because everything is perfect but because God is with us.

Love: The Bible invites us to see a kind of love that is neither accidental nor driven by desire for self-fulfillment. Instead, it involves a steady commitment to care for the well-being of others. As we give of ourselves to care for both friends and enemies, we demonstrate the love that Jesus shows to all people. (Adapted from The BibleProject Advent Guide)

Search Committee Update

Please join us on **Sunday, December 7th** when Pastor Mike Quicke will visit Bluff Hall Church and share a message and communion with us.

Dr. Mike Quicke is a seasoned pastor and leader with more than 35 years of faithful ministry experience. He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree, graduating summa cum laude, with a focus on pastoral counseling and family systems therapy, along with Master of

Divinity and Bachelor of Arts degrees emphasizing theology, pastoral leadership, expository preaching, and biblical languages.

Dr. Quicke has served churches ranging from 50 to more than 500 members, most recently as Lead Pastor at The Sanctuary in Juliette, Georgia, and Grace Fellowship in Athens, Georgia. His ministry has consistently centered on strong biblical preaching, evangelism, discipleship, and developing healthy church leadership teams. He is known for growing churches, strengthening outreach efforts, and helping congregations deepen their commitment to prayer, Scripture, and mission.

Beyond preaching and teaching, he is skilled in counseling, member care, leadership development, and community engagement. Dr. Quicke is a warm, relational pastor with a passion for reaching the lost and nurturing believers toward Christlikeness. His heart for God's people and his desire to see churches thrive in unity and purpose make him a strong pastoral candidate for Bluff Hall Church.

As part of the search for a Pastor for Bluff Hall Church, we are further vetting Dr. Mike Quicke. He currently resides in Ada, OH and has 4 grown children.



Christmas Candlelight Service

December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

(NO 4:00 p.m. service this year)



Thank you!!!

Leona Loos, Mary Fairchild, and Sharon Loos for making Bluff Hall Church visible in the community through your planning of and working at the Payson Trunk or Treat on October 25!! There was a great turnout (over 200!) and they came home with nothing left!



Contact

Information

**Bluff Hall Evangelical
Free Church**

951 North 400th Ave.
Payson, IL 62360

Church Phone

217.656.4370

bluffhallefc@gmail.com

www.bluffhallefc.org

Sunday Worship Service: 9:00

THANK YOU EVERYONE!!!

Another Successful Fall Turkey Supper!

We continue to break records every year – 608 (plus help!) meals served. Up from 571 patrons last year!

God Blessed Us with a nice evening after the initial rain shower right at 3:45!!



GREAT JOB COMMITTEE!



5th Sunday Collection – This Sunday, November 30!

Don't forget to donate to the Community Outreach through our 5th Sunday Collection. Envelopes designated for this purpose are in the back of the pews and may be placed in the collection plate at the back of the church. Thank you for your support.

Check out the updated church website – bluffhallefc.org.



Prayer Needs

New, Recent, & Updated Requests:

- Those fighting cancer:
 - Vaughn Flesner
 - Earl Mast
 - Janice Waner
 - Danny Thomure
 - Travis Cooper
 - Darla Schneider
 - Johnny Sparks
 - Jim Brinkman - leukemia
 - Chuck Laaker
 - Becky Mellon - blood cancer
 - Julie Hooper
 - Dan Riggs
 - Penelope Summers (9 year old)
- Dale Loos - health issues
- Dawn - back surgery with healing issues
- Chanel - back surgery with numbness issues
- Geoff Cole - back issues
- Belva Dodd
- Sarah Riggs - recovering from foot surgery
- Barb Ray - recovering from surgery
- Sandy Loos - recovering from surgery
- Ron Whitaker - heart issues
- Michelle Huber - recovering from surgery
- Donna Riggs - recovery from carotid artery surgery
- Hazel Kramer - healing
- Mary Lynn - recovery from surgery
- JB Walker's wife on hospice

Ongoing Requests:

- Marilyn Speckhart, Joan Groh,
- Betty Speckhart, Gail Oitker, Bob Cutforth
- BJ Cutforth - Needs miraculous healing
- Missionaries: Alex McClain, Dan Lohnes,
- Ahdee Wayzee, Stuart Humphrey
- Carolyn Kaiser - emotional well-being
- Bob Cutforth - emotional well-being
- The unrest and political divide in this country.
- Harmons Jamaica after hurricane
- Those who gave us our freedom.
- Those in our community grieving the loss of loved ones:
 - Family of Dave Yuchs
 - Family of Dale Elliott
- Search Committee, future pastor God is preparing to serve as our shepherd, and the church as a whole
- All those traveling for the upcoming holidays

Praises:

- Safe Harvest for area farmers
- Jane Huber - normal vision & balance restored
- Wanda Speckhart - pain controlled
- Donna Riggs -cardiac cath with no stents needed!
- Alex McClain - commissioned as full time missionary through Reach Global! Congrats!

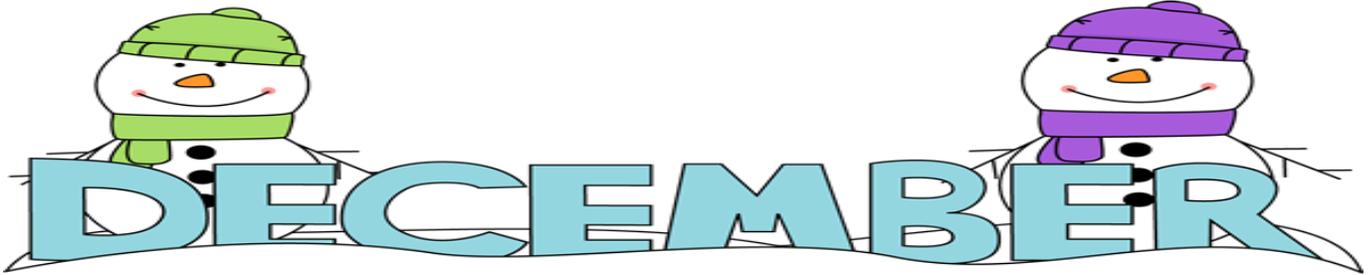
Military:

Seth Miles, Henry Dodd, Ryan Mena, Kason Spratt
Blaine Brown, Gary Velasquez, Lucas Velasquez

If you need pastoral care or have prayer concerns for the prayer chain, please contact one of the deacons or call church phone 217-656-4370

Bluff Hall Outreach
Mission

If you have a neighbor or know someone that the church might be able to serve in our community, please let the Missions Team know.
- Thank you!



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Pastor Mike Quicke Visit	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Christmas Party 5:00	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Candlelight Service 7 PM	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

Deacons: Greg Huber & Kenny Speckhart

Flowers: Artificial Arrangements: October through March



Dec. 1 Brian Ippensen
Morgan Loos

Dec. 7 Teresa Tedrow

Dec. 17 Lauryn Hinthorne

Dec. 18 Gail Oitker

Dec. 25 Joan Groh

Dec. 26 Rob Tedrow

Dec. 28 Daulton Speckhart

Dec. 29 Jennifer Oitker



Looking for a way to serve the Lord on Sunday?

We are always looking for people who can help lead the announcement/prayer times during Sunday service. See Geoff Cole or Teresa Tedrow for more information. They would be glad to train you and make it easy!

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 14 Daulton & Savannah Speckhart

Bluff Hall Church Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Church Dining Hall

5pm



Baked Ham ♦ Bourbon Glazed Chicken

7-Layer Salad ♦ Green Beans

Loaded Mashed Potatoes ♦ Dinner Rolls

\$20/per person

Pay Diana Felten by Wednesday, December 3rd

Food catered by JJ's

*Snacks, Dessert and Drinks provided by Women's
Fellowship*

Games to follow dinner

Bluff Hall now accepts Online Gifts

Want to give online?

Go to bluffhallefc.org/donate and click the link to fill out the giving form.

Service Live Stream

For those who are unable to join us in person, check out the live stream. Services are also available on our YouTube channel. Both are available by searching [bluffhallefc](https://www.youtube.com/bluffhallefc) at [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Women's Fellowship News



The Women's Fellowship recently met for their bi-annual sewing day and completed 79 hats for pediatric surgical patients at Blessing Hospital. We enjoyed a delicious salad carry-in with wonderful desserts provided by the hostesses.



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Women's Fellowship is organizing an 'Angel Tree' to gather needed clothing for Payson Seymour Grade School as well as Christmas gifts for the children of the women at the Well House. Gas cards are also being collected to assist the Well House cottagers in getting to their places of employment.

There are 'Angels', with items requested, on the Christmas Tree in the dining hall. We encourage you to stop by, take an angel or two and place your donated items in the back pew by **Sunday, December 14th**. Please leave your Angel tag with the gift(s) you purchase. If it is a Well House gift, please wrap if possible. If you are unable to pick up an Angel and would still like to donate, this is a list of items needed for the Grade School:

Boys & Girls Underwear sizes from 3T to Child Size 8

Boys & Girls Pants, Shirts/tops, and Sweatshirts sizes from 3 T to Child Size 10

(Note: no gloves, mittens, scarves, or hats are needed currently)

Remember The



'Reason For The Season'

Please pass along any information you have for the January newsletter by December 23. It may be emailed to bluffhallefc@gmail.com or texted to 217-242-6276. Thank you!



Bluff Hall Evangelical Free Church
951 North 400th Ave
Payson, IL 62360

Looking Ahead

Church Council Meeting -
January 7, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting - Sunday,
February 1st, following morning
worship service. A carry-in
meal will follow meeting.

Reports Due: No Later than
January 18th to Debbie Dodd