



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter January 24, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



I missed being with my church family this past Sunday while I was away at a church ministry conference, but I hear that we had a very moving time of worship Sunday morning and a wonderful gathering of all ages at our Skate Party Sunday evening! We had around 130 attend our Skate Party and all had a wonderful time!

I was away at a conference called "Grace in Action" which is held by Grace United Methodist Church in Fort Meyers, Florida. I traveled with our District Superintendent, our District Lay Leader, and the senior pastors of Birmingham First UMC and ONEeighth Church in Springville, AL. It was so very encouraging to learn together and to reflect on the possibilities in our churches and in our district.

One thing that really struck me about Grace UMC was their singularity of purpose. They knew exactly who they were as a church as well as who God was using them to reach in their community. Below, you will see our Purpose and Mission Statements that were adopted in 2015. I invite you to use this time, as you read through our newsletter, to prayerfully consider how we as a church can live out these statements together! Our Vision Steering Team is working on ideas right now. Maybe you can help ~ but only if you prayerfully consider and share your ideas. Please send them to me: mholly@bpumc.org.

Mike

Purpose Statement

Bluff Park United Methodist Church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world around us. We seek to guide, develop and nurture persons to deepen their faith and service to God through vibrant worship and dynamic opportunities for learning, growth and life-giving mission.

Vision Statement

Bluff Park United Methodist Church seeks to be a community creating relational experiences to help all people find life and know through a relationship with God: who they are, why they matter, and how they can serve the world in love.



News of the Week

STATE OF THE CHURCH

We will hold a State of the Church meeting during the Sunday school hour on January 31st in the Sanctuary. Our church leadership will bring everyone up to speed on where we are with our 2016 pledges, and budget as well as providing any other new information as we begin a new year together as a church. All classes are requested to attend.

14TH ANNUAL ORGAN RECITAL

Gail Archer, the college organist at Vassar College, and director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University, will perform an organ recital at Bluff Park United Methodist Church on February 28 at 4:00 pm. A reception will follow the performance.

MISSION STUDY: LATIN AMERICA

On Wednesdays in January, the UMW is sponsoring a church-wide mission study on Latin America. We are exploring the history of the region, its people, and their faith, from pre-Colombian times until colonization and the struggle for independence. Classes are being led by Tom Duley in the Fireside Room starting at 6:00pm.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

On January 12th, Tuesday, studies start with Adam Hamilton's "The Call"—a six week study which traces the journeys of Paul through Greece and Turkey to Rome. The DVD features Hamilton's unique commentary, which we will follow with group discussion and application to our lives today. We meet every Tuesday morning in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Got questions? Call Becky Walker at 987-0404, or 531-7237.

LITTLE IMAGINATIONS REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2016-17 school year begins for church members on Monday, February 1st at 9:30am. Visit the website for more information: bluffparkumc.org/little-imaginations/

WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY

Rev. Angela Martin is leading this new study on Wednesday mornings at 9:00am in the Fireside Room. The study is titled "Anonymous." Contact Angela for more information.

SCREAM FREE PARENTING SEMINAR

Parenting is not about kids, it's about parents. If you are not in control, then you cannot be in charge. What every kid really wants is parents who are able to keep their cool... no matter what. Easier said than done, right? If this sounds like you, there's help. Join us for a Scream Free Parenting Seminar on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:30pm starting January 27th. Sessions will be led by Daniel Seigel, MFTA, M.Ed. Call the office to sign up (group size is limited.)

2016 ALTAR FLOWERS

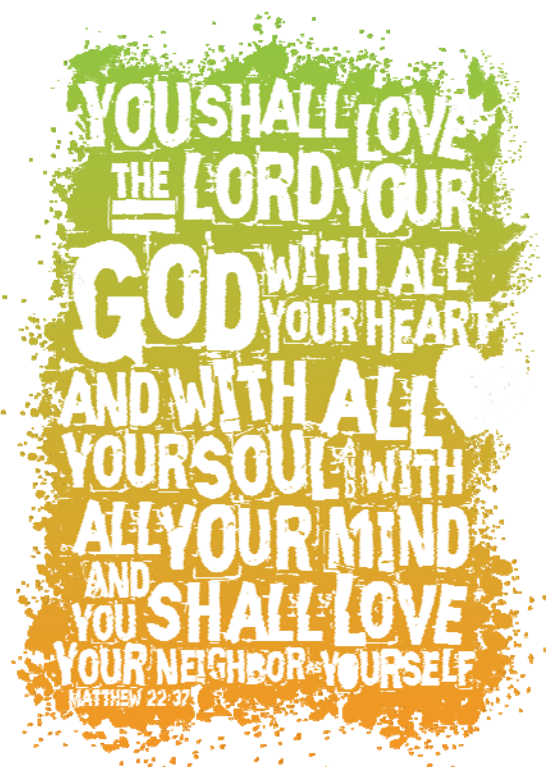
There are dates left on the 2016 Flower Calendar. Please sign up to remember a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. One arrangement is \$50.00; both \$100.00. We have two arrangements each Sunday. Dates available include: February 7, 14, 21, and March 6. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

Discovery Weekend

This weekend, January 29th-31st, is an important time in the Student Ministry at Bluff Park UMC. High school and college students come together to lead middle school students on a spiritual formation retreat. Together, they will worship, talk, pray, and play together. Young people who have matured in their faith through the ministries of our church are coming together to encourage the students following behind them.

Discovery Weekend is also an opportunity for the middle school students to experience the love that our congregation has for them. They will be reminded, in very tangible ways, that they are an important part of the church. Church members are providing snacks, volunteering time, participating in a prayer service, and more.

The weekend closes on Sunday morning as the students sing in the morning worship service and then return home. Please keep our students, and the student ministry at Bluff Park UMC in your prayers.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SPECIAL NEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS: We are excited to announce that BPUMC would like to begin offering of a Sunday School class for 4K-2nd grade children with special needs in 2016. If you would be interested in volunteering in such a class or would like more information about this class, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org.

EXIT 456: We would love to take a group of 4th and 5th graders to Exit 456 at Camp Sumatanga again this year! This retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 11th (we would leave right after school) and Saturday the 12th. It is a one night retreat full of fun, food, worship, and speakers. The cost for the retreat includes lodging at Camp Sumatanga, 3 meals, all snacks, and a T-shirt. The cost is \$75 per child and we would need to know who is going by Wednesday, January 27th in order to register at this price. We do have limited scholarships for anyone who would like to attend but is unable to pay the fee. Please email Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org if your child would like to attend!

MIDWEEK MEETUP: Midweek Meetup happens every week from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more. Each week this winter/spring a Bible verse will be given to everyone who attends. A prize will be given every week to anyone who has memorized their weekly verse. Then, on one of the last Midweek Meetups of the fall, any child who has memorized all of the Bible verses will get to play during recreation on a giant inflatable water slide! Will you accept the challenge?!?!?

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates over the next two months: January 31 and February 14, 21, 28. There is no pre-planning for this volunteer spot: this person will assist Mr. Stanley in crowd control and worship with Mr. Stanley and the children! If you would like to volunteer in Children's Church, please contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: For the month of January, we will be studying the baptism of Jesus in our Sunday School Rotation through discussion, art, food, and science!

STUDENT MINISTRY

DISCOVERY TRAINING NIGHT - SUNDAY NIGHT, 48PM Our high school students play a pivotal role in being leaders at Discovery Weekend. In fact, they do not pay to attend. This is because they serve in very real ways: leading worship, driving discussions, giving their testimonies. This afternoon, we'll train our HS leaders here at the church, assign middle schoolers to their d-groups, polish up our talks and discussions and create banners, etc. We'll provide snacks and supper to everyone who comes.

DISCOVERY WEEKEND - FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JANUARY 29-31 This is the single most important spiritual formation event in our student ministry each year. High school and college students will work to serve our middle school students - modeling for them what it means to live out the Great Commandment of Matthew Chapter 22. There will be games, gifts, snacks, meals and free t-shirts. But most importantly, there will be worship, prayer, discussions and testimony - all provided by our older students for our younger students.

- ⇒ We want you and your friends to experience this great example of God's love for them
- ⇒ Visit www.bpumc.org/msdiscovery to register your 6th-8th grader
- ⇒ Visit www.bpumc.org/hsdiscovery to register your 9th-12th grader

Discovery Weekend IS OPEN to non-members. Just remember:

- Because you serve as leaders, high school students attend for FREE. Please make sure your friends understand this before they register.
- The cost for middle school students is only \$75 for the weekend. You can register now and pay later. We want you to invite all your friends so please don't let the price be a roadblock. We are happy to provide financial assistance for anyone who wants to attend. Just email Bart at barts@bpumc.org to set that up.
- We know that there are scheduling conflicts almost every weekend of the year. Students can come and go if they have a recital, practice, audition, game, etc. We just need to know before that weekend.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 24, 10:00am

Sunday, January 24, 4:00pm

Wednesday, January 27, 4:30pm

Wednesday, January 27, 5:30pm

Wednesday, January 27, 6:30pm

Sunday School

Ground Team Rehearsal & HS Discovery Training

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Hang Out & Dinner

Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

SATURDAY, MAY 14

SHEPHERD' CENTER - Ginny Lacey, Lakeshore A Better/Healthy You in 2016.

CARDS TO OUR SICK/SHUT-INS. Meet in the Library 11:00am.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Jack Owens, retired FBI, The Spy Business, The Bureau Way.

AARP SAFETY DRIVING CLASS - 8:30am-1:30pm Call Betty to sign-up. Check your insurance - taking this class may lower your vehicle rate.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Valentines Day Party and Love Story by Delores Hydock.

CARE'N'CONTACT SUNDAY - Help care for our sick'shut-ins - Sunday School Classes and individuals. Send Cards, make a Phone Call, Easter Baskets, Christmas Stocking, Visit, Etc. Stop by the WELCOME CENTER sign-up. If you would like to keep the same person you or your class now care for - just let us know.

LADIES DAY RETREAT - SAVE THIS DATE and plan to join us for a day of Bible Study, Music, Special Guest, Tablesapes, lots of Fun, Laughter, and Excitement.

Special Moment with Jesus

The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. Psalm 145:8



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
(205) 822-0910

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Catherine Ward, cward@bpumc.org
Director of Worship Music,
Lonnie Parsons
Organist,
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org

The Week of January 24—30

Sunday, January 24

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Board of Stewards
5:30 pm Vision Steering Committee

Monday, January 25

9:00 am UMW Hope Circle
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:30 pm UMW Friendship Circle

Tuesday, January 26

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
12:00 pm Worship Planning Team
6:30 pm Board of Trustees

Wednesday, January 27

9:00 am Anonymous Bible Study
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
4:30 pm Children's Handbell Choir
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
6:00 pm UMW Mission Study
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Communion Service
7:00 pm 30 Minute Theology

Thursday, January 28

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

Friday, January 29

Discovery Weekend Begins

SUNDAY, January 24, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Genesis 50:15-21

"How to Fold a Towel"

Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Chatterton 11:00 Arthur

Cross

8:45 Lauren Gates 11:00 Avery Edwards

Acolyte

8:45 Caroline Marshall 11:00 Abbey Gray

Greeters: Faith

Meals on Wheels: Fugit

Food Pantry February 3rd:

Theresa Richerson

Midweek Meetup January 27th: Minute to Win It for Kids! Menu Chicken fried steak, green beans, creamed potatoes, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

January 17, 2015

Children/Youth	108/67
Morning Worship	509
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$22,030.39
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$80,019.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$72,495.39
New Members in 2016	0

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$307.00
Received to Date	\$943,749.87

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2016 budget.*

**BLUFF PARK UNITED
METHODIST COLUMBARIUM**
Information Sheets in Narthex and Church Office

BPUMC FOOD PANTRY

1st Wednesday each month

We are serving 200+ families a month.
We appreciate all donations!

VALET PARKING

Every Sunday morning! Drive to the covered entrance near the nursery and Fellowship Hall.