



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 1, 2018

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Happy Easter to you all! I am so very excited to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ this Sunday in worship with all of you! It will be an Easter to remember as this year our Easter celebration coincides with April Fools' Day. I couldn't help but think about Paul's thoughts in 1 Corinthians 1 where he says that "the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." The cross and the empty tomb are astonishingly strange events that have power beyond belief once you understand what they mean for the entire world. I hope this Easter is an opportunity for foolishness to become hopefulness for you!

Mike

SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- We will not be mailing households a quarterly giving statement for the first quarter. You will get a giving statement after the second and fourth quarters in the mail. However, if you contact Jason McCrory in the church office (jmccrory@bpumc.org) we will happily send you a giving statement for the first quarter.
- We are also going to begin offering a class centered around a powerful tool to help you to know more about who you are and why you matter in the body of Christ. "Living Your Strengths" is a class that gives you a greater understanding of your top five strengths and how God can use them in the church and out in the world. Look for classes and events centered around Living Your Strengths throughout the 2018!

Celebrate EASTER

News of the Week

EASTER LOVE OFFERING

During the season of Lent we always receive our Easter Love Offering. This offering goes to support many of the mission agencies that we work with throughout the year. They include: Firehouse Men's Shelter, First Light Women's Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, McCoy Older Adult Day Care, Meals on Wheels, NeverThirst, Rise Against Hunger, United Community Centers and Urban Ministry, Inc. Each of these ministries provides vital services to the communities they serve. Our generosity through the Easter Love Offering enables each of them to continue to serve those in need. The Easter Love Offering is sponsored by the BPUMC United Appeal Fund.

ANNUAL CHURCH WIDE BBQ & BAKE SALE

The Bluff Park UMC annual barbecue has raised funds for over 20 years to help with the maintenance and expansion of our church building and grounds. The event is happening Friday, April 13th from 4-6pm and Saturday, April 14th, from 10am-3pm (Boston Butt pickup on Saturday.) It's time for Sunday school classes to sell BBQ tickets. You can help by giving door prizes to the church office, or by purchasing tickets from your Sunday school class or at the main office! To reserve a Boston Butt, call Brenda in the church office.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

On April 15th–17th, Bluff Park UMC will join with several other churches, schools, and civic organizations from the Vestavia/Hoover area to pack nutritious meals to be sent overseas to relieve hunger. This project will be carried out in conjunction with Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now), an organization dedicated to eradicating world hunger. We are encouraging groups from the church to volunteer together, but each individual must register separately. If you have any problems accessing the website to regis-

ter, contact the church office for assistance. To sign-up as a volunteer visit:
BluffParkUMC.org/riseagainsthunger

SPRING SERVE DAY

Our Spring Serve Day is coming up on Saturday, April 21st, and the BPUMC Serve Team is looking for people in our neighborhood who could use a helping hand with spring cleanup. If you know someone in our community who could use help with yard work or light exterior projects, call the church office or email us and share their contact information. Do you want to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Bluff Park? Become a serve team volunteer! We'll have a sign-up table in the narthex on Sunday mornings April 1, 8, and 15. You can also sign up online at the church website.

DINNER FOR EIGHT

Dinner for Eight is a potluck dinner for eight people which will be held one time at the home of a host church member. This is a great way to get to know others in the Bluff Park congregation that you may not normally have the opportunity to meet. Please sign up on Sunday in your Sunday School Class or at the Welcome Center. You will be contacted by your host to schedule your group's dinner.

BLUFF PARK GREEN TEAM

BPUMC is seeking new members for our Green Team. Volunteers are needed to help with the Children's Garden, GOTB Community Garden, Planting and Grounds Team, and Environmental Awareness Team. Volunteers may participate in any or all of these activities. Contact Jan Rogers at jan2rogers@gmail.com for more information.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Nell Woods—UAB West

Memorials

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Annis Cammack, by Mike and Sandra Miller

George Nash by James and Jill Borders, Phillip and Janice Brown, Julia Cobb, LBYD Engineers, A.V. and Mary Marlow, Jane McGriiff, Monday Morning Men's Bible Study, Mark and Helen Monts, James Nash, Steven and Purnell Nash, Matt and Pat Reeder, Mike and Juno Sharp

Marianna Sturdivant, by Nancy Ezell

Brett Wood, by Rance and Melissa Hardy, George and Kaye Lokoy, Laura Norris, Steve and Nancy Piro, Butch and Charlotte Williams

BUILDING FUND

Marianna Sturdivant, by J. Edward and Rene Alderson, Kenneth and Ann Damsgard

George Nash, by Bob and Pan Cahoon

Carolyn Schaefer, by the Opportunity Class

FOOD PANTRY

Annis Cammack, by James F. Ashworth

Aunt Ann Duke, by Jan Harris

Jack Moore, by John and Sylvia Sumners

PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

George Nash, by Elizabeth Davis

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

Rev. Edward Carrington, by Pony Green

Raymond Phagan's Mother, by Dyer and Ronda Carlisle

Michael Thompson, by Pony Green

ORGAN FUND

Stretch Dunn, by Arthur and Pamela McIntosh

Marianna Sturdivant, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

UNDER THE BRIDGE

George Nash, by J.B. and Frankie Thrasher

55+ FUND

George Nash, by John and Sylvia Sumners

YOUTH FUND

George Nash, by Jim and Sally Holland

Honorariums

OPERATING FUND

Martha Wade, by Kenneth Wade

Please Note: Some Memorials and Honorariums are not listed by the request of the donors.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: This year's Vacation Bible School is Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus! VBS will be held on July 16th-20th from 8:30-12:00 each day. Online registration is now open! To register visit: <http://bluffparkumc.org/vbs-2018/>. We look forward to seeing you there!

NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED: The Children's Ministry currently has two openings we are trying to fill on our nursery staff. Our nursery staff watches the Preschool-aged children of our church on Sundays, Wednesdays, and/or during special church events. If you or anyone you know would be interested in applying for these positions, please contact Marcie Walters at nursery.bpumc.org.

MIDWEEK MEETUP: Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday night from 5:00-7:30 in the Spring. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, age focused Bible Study/Classroom time, and more! We look forward to seeing you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Elementary and Preschool Sunday School lessons will be on the Easter story this week!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Our Children's Church lesson will be on the Easter story this week!

CHILDREN'S WEEKLY EMAIL: If you would like to start receiving our Children's Weekly Email to find out all of the fun and exciting things that are going on in the Children's Ministry at BPUMC, please email Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org.

STUDENT MINISTRY

APRIL HOLY GROUND SERIES: MORNING, NOON & NIGHT... DAY BY DAY DEVOTED On Wednesday evenings in April, we'll be learning what it means to commit each day and season of our lives to Christ, the good times and the bad. Also, how to keep our eyes, ears and hearts open to God in some of the most unexpected places of our everyday lives. Ministry can happen anytime, and we want to be tuned in to the Holy Spirit's leadings even in the seemingly mundane tasks of everyday life!

WEEKLY SMALL GROUPS ARE EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 6-6:30PM IN THE YOUTH WING. There are 3 groups to choose from, all guys, all girls or co-ed. You're welcome to join in at anytime, this is a great time to get to know each other and share what's going on in your life.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: *Adventure Camp at Whitewater Express* is June 22nd-24th, *ASP Mission Trip* is July 8th-14th.

THIS WEEK

Sun, April 1st @ 10am
Sun, April 1st

Youth Sunday School
EASTER SUNDAY—No Sunday Evening Activities

55+ MINISTRY

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

5–6:30pm Conversation and Candlelight Dinner in the Faith Classroom

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 10 Trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens - Lunch @ Cafe, tour, Shop – No Entrance Fee Bring your camera! 10am RSVP: fgatch@bpumc.org

April 17 “Birmingham Heroes Luncheon” Tuesday, April 17 @ Noon (FH) “Andrew Gerow Hodges”, Birmingham’s WWII Hero, presented by Denise George, Writer for Penguin – Catered Lunch – \$15

April 20 Trip to Fontanel Mansion and Gardens Home of Barbara Mandrell - Franklin, TN Tour, Lunch, Antiques, Winery, Shop Friday, April 20 @ 7 AM Professional Tour Guide, bus & all expenses. Total payment due April 2. Information in the church office, and Narthex. Sylvia Sumners for more information 824-9902.

May 9 Trip to Aliceville’s Military History Museum. Fascinating Curator Program, Lunch, Tour - Special connection to Elizabeth Davis and Carol & Pat Westbrook.

SHEPHERD’S CENTER SCHEDULE

Programs – 10 AM – Thursdays
In The Fireside Room
All are Welcome!

April 5th
“Then Sings my Soul” - The Rev. Buddy Majors

April 10
Trip to Birmingham Botanical Gardens

May 9
Trip to Aliceville’s Military Museum



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**NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Pastors

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Angela Martin, amartin@bpumc.org, ext. 107
Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112
John Carl Hastings, jchastings@bpumc.org, ext. 120
Director of Senior Ministries, ext. 103
Fran Gatch, fgatch@bpumc.org
Director of Student Ministries, ext. 118
Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org
Director of Children's Ministries, ext. 105
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Secretary, ext. 111
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Lonnie Parsons
Organist,
Jay Tumminello, jtumminello@bpumc.org
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org
Facilities Manager,
Chad Malcom, cmalcom@bpumc.org

The Week of April 1—7

Sunday, April 1—Easter Sunday
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
Monday, April 2
10:00 am **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
Prayer Shawl
Tuesday, April 3
9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
Wednesday, April 4
9:00 am Food Pantry
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell
6:00 pm Reformation Bible Study
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Holy Strollers
Thursday, April 5
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
9:30 am Sewing Group

SUNDAY, April 1, 2018
8:45 & 11:00am Traditional Worship
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
"The Wisdom of Foolishness"
Rev. Mike Holly
11:00am The Gathering at Bluff Park
Rev. John Carl Hastings

LIFETRACK
Easter Sunday
Mark 16:1-8 | Psalm 148
Monday
1 Corinthians 15:35-49 | Psalm 93
Tuesday
1 Corinthians 15:50-58 | Psalm 111
Wednesday
John 20:1-18 | Psalm 115
Thursday
Acts 2:42-47 | Psalm 149
Friday
Acts 4:23-31 | Psalm 136
Saturday
John 12:44-50 | Psalm 145

SERVING
Ushers
8:45 Seekers 11:00 Vitality
Acolyte
8:45 Ian Chatterton 11:00 Beverly Redding
Cross
8:45 Ella Bowles 11:00 Charlie Redding
Meal on Wheels: McDonald
Food Pantry April 4th: Summers
Midweek Meetup April 4th: Menu—TBA

Last Week's Record

March 18, 2018

Children/Youth	256/49
Traditional Worship/Gathering	485/40
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,137.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$23,733.28
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,411,109.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$325,644.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$294,346.47
New Members in 2018	3

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017—December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$340.00
Received to Date	\$521,024.64

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2018 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.