



733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter May 22, 2016*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

[www.BluffParkUMC.org](http://www.BluffParkUMC.org)



**D**uring the season of Lent, our church family began a new spiritual discipline by committing to daily Scripture reading and daily prayer. We have heard very positive reviews about our Leap of Faith daily prayer journal. One person even remarked that they were thankful to have a tool that helped them to set a time to focus on God and prayer each day. Some even mentioned that their day went better when they started in prayer and reflection than if they missed a day. At first, I personally found it difficult to set a specific time each day to stop, reflect and pray. However, when I was intentional to do so, I found that I became more in harmony with God and others in the process. My prayers led me to better decisions and more faithful actions towards others.

We are planning to continue to offer this prayer journal to our church family and the time to sign up is now! You can go to our website to register ([www.bluffparkumc.org](http://www.bluffparkumc.org)). Or you can even download a PDF version of the prayer journal now! These journals are free of charge and they are a wonderful way to grow in prayer and devotion to God. This summer, we are making a few changes to the study. The first is that we are providing a daily prayer focus and that will be included in the reflection questions each day. Secondly, we will be changing the shared prayer more frequently so that we will all be engaged in prayers that match the things that are going on in the life of our church family.

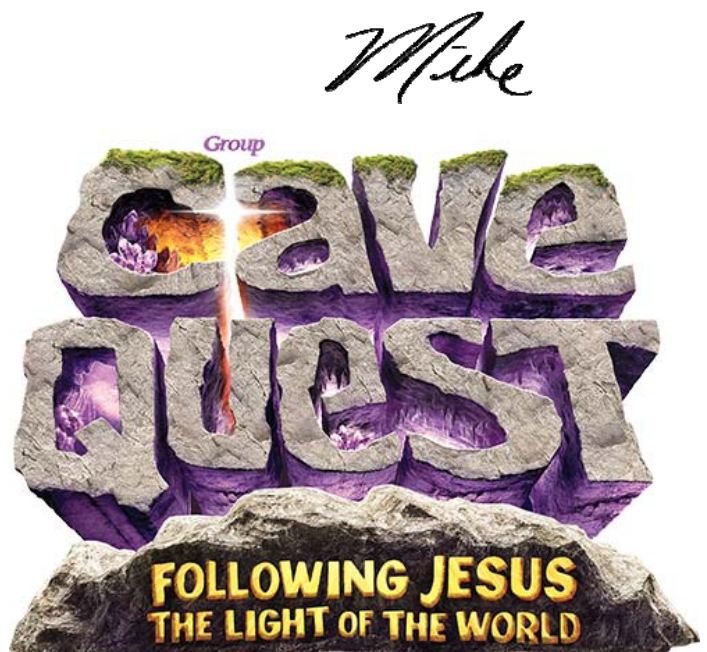
If you are looking for a daily devotional and not a daily prayer journal, we encourage you to stop by the Welcome Desk in the Narthex where the Upper Room daily devotional is available. We highly recommend this United Methodist devotional that is written by people from all over the globe. We would even be happy to recommend a new Study Bible to go along with either daily spiritual growth plan.

May the peace and love of Jesus Christ work through these daily practices to touch your hearts and prepare you for the journey!

## REGISTER FOR VBS 2016!

Excitement is building in Children's Ministry!! Vacation Bible School for summer 2016 takes place July 18th-22nd. Daily sessions will run from 5:15-7:50pm. Dinner will be available each night of VBS, from 4:45pm-5:15pm, in the Fellowship Hall, at a cost of \$2 per plate. This is not part of the programming but a service to our parents, students, and volunteers. Parents must stay with their kids during dinner as programming begins in the Sanctuary at 5:30pm. Online registration is now open. To register visit:

[bluffparkumc.org/VBS2016](http://bluffparkumc.org/VBS2016)



# News of the Week

## LEAP OF FAITH SUMMER PRAYER JOURNAL

The Summer Leap of Faith Prayer Journals are coming. The journal picks up right where the first one ends, so you can keep your new habit going. But, even if you did not participate the first time around, it's not too late to start! Reserve your copy on the church website today or call the office. Journals will be available starting this Sunday morning.

## SHOE BOXES ARE COMING!

This summer we will be putting together Shoe Boxes to be distributed to children throughout Latin America at Christmas time. The Shoe Boxes have small items that many of the children our missionaries work with have a hard time getting. We are setting aside the months of June and July to collect the items and assemble the Shoe Boxes. The list of needed materials will be published soon. This is a project in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief and our United Methodist missionaries working in the region.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 GRADUATING SENIORS

This past Sunday, we recognized our graduating high school seniors in worship. Please keep these students and their families in prayer as they finish up their school year and prepare for what comes next.

Benjamin Carey Cathers  
Nicholas Daniel Cathers  
Charlotte Elizabeth McCrary  
Kirsten Noel Puchta

## URBAN MINISTRY NEEDS A VAN

Urban Ministry is looking for a van to be donated (or sold at a reasonable price) for their mission and ministry. If you can help, please contact the church office.

## 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



## GROW IT 2 EAT IT

*Grow It 2 Eat It* is a four day camp experience. Each day we will work in the garden and learn something new. Kids will harvest fresh produce and cook it for lunch, followed by a craft or activity that reinforces all that we've learned that day. Camp dates are June 13th-16th from 9:30am-12:30pm. The cost of the camp is \$10 per child with a family max of \$15. Register online at:

[bluffparkumc.org/grow-it-2-eat-it-registration/](http://bluffparkumc.org/grow-it-2-eat-it-registration/)

\$50.00; both \$100.00. We have two arrangements each Sunday. Dates available include: June 19, and 26 and July 10, 17, 24, and 31. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## THANK YOU...

A big thank you to the church landscape planting team: Jimmy Ashworth, Wayne Hamlin, Julie Adams, Patsy and Bob Cummings, Lynn Jackson, Olivia Howard, Thelma Stickweh, Evelyn Lawrence, and Otis Bibb. Without your year-round help we couldn't keep our church grounds so beautiful. Thanks for your dedicated service and love of gardening. - Wayne Freeman

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Christian Cooper—Still Burn Center, Augusta GA  
Cary Moore—Aspire Rehab  
Butch Powell—Brookwood  
Shirley White—Brookwood



## Fast and Secure Online Donations With EasyTithe

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has implemented a new set of online giving tools, powered by easyTithe.com. They provide the ability to donate on our website and through a mobile app! After creating an account, you're able to give a donation or schedule a series of donations directly using your debit or credit card. You can also make a pledge and track your online giving. You can also make Midweek Meetup meal payments.

To create your online account, visit the church website and select 'Donate Online' under the 'Give' link in the top menu. Step-by-step tutorial videos are available on the main 'Give' landing page.

[www.BluffParkUMC.org/give-online](http://www.BluffParkUMC.org/give-online)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**PRESCHOOL SPLASH PARTY:** There will be a Preschool Splash Party for all Preschool aged children and their families on Tuesday, May 31st, from 10:00-12:00 on the playground! Come out and enjoy sprinklers, kiddie pools, squirt guns, snow cones, juice boxes, and more! We hope to see you all there!

**FIELD TRIP:** The Children's Ministry will be offering a field trip for our rising Kindergarten-5th graders on Thursday, June 2nd. We will be going to Desoto Caverns for the day, where we will take a cave tour and participate in some fun activities! Drop off will begin at 7:30, we will leave the church at 10:00, and pickup will be at the church between 5:00-5:30. Please RSVP with Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible as we only have 26 spots available.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS:** Did you know that we have been averaging 25 children in Children's Church since we started in November, with a high mark of 40 children one Sunday?! The children have loved having a service specifically geared towards them, learning how much God loves them, and talking about ways they can put their faith into action! We would love for some of you to come and worship with us! If you would like to sign up to join our rotating volunteer schedule or sit in with us one Sunday, please email Stanley Davidson at sdauidson@bpumc.org.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** This Sunday our theme will be "Praying for Others." We will be in Hudson Hall throughout the Summer!

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 SENIORS!** Ben Cathers, Nick Cathers, Charlotte McCrary, Kirsten Puchta

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH - WORSHIP AT CHURCH OF THE RECONCILER & CAR WASH FUNDRAISER** We have a busy first Sunday in June, so get ready. Our student worship team will be leading worship at Church of the Reconciler downtown at 9:30am. And then from 11:00am to 3:00pm, we also have a car wash in the Youth Wing parking lot as a summer fundraiser for student trips. Hey parents: We'd LOVE your help on supervising students at the car wash. Parents who volunteer for a specific slot can earn extra money for their students!

**BEACH RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN** We'll be staying at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center, just west of Panama City Beach, Florida, leaving on August 5th and coming back on the 8th. The cost is \$175 and covers transportation, lodging, a shirt and all but three meals. The retreat is open to rising 6th graders through 2016 high school graduates. Registration closes on Wednesday, May 25th and you can reserve your student's spot with a \$50 deposit. The balance is due is on Friday, July 22nd.

**NO HOLY GROUND OR REACH EVENTS IN MAY** We will take a hiatus from evening programming, except for worship team rehearsal, and then start back in June with our summer calendar of events. Instead our staff and volunteers will use this month for planning and training.

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING WINTER/SPRING SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we move deeper into 2016: Senior Recognition, Summer Mission Trips, the Beach Retreat and more. You can keep track of things via your smartphone or tablet by going to your app store and downloading our free app. Just search the key words Youth Wing to find it.

**SAVE THESE DATES** July 10-15: *Urban Ministries Middle School Mission Trip*; Sunday-Saturday, July 24-30: *ASP High School Mission Trip*; Friday-Monday, August 5-8: *Beach Retreat*; Friday, August 12: *Legacy Gala & Silent Auction*.

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, 10:00am, May 22  
Sunday, 4:00pm, May 22

Sunday School, 10am in the Youth Wing  
Worship Team Rehearsal

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### THANK YOU TO:

All our volunteers for your Labors of Love making our Ladies Day Retreat, "Amazing Grace for a Woman's Heart" so special. To Frances, Tina, Betsy, Rocket, Becky, Ann and Sara. Special guest Delores and Bobby, Harmony Mendoza and the Sugar Babes. To all our Ladies, Promise Home Ladies and the Children's Department for the beautiful Tablescape -to Chad for all the little/big extra's you did for us. Greg and his staff for a delicious lunch and to the Friendship Class for re-arranging their monthly luncheon to accommodate our needs. A fun exciting day at Bluff Park United Methodist Church.

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me....  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MAY 19

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Ginny Lacey, Lakeshore will be here.

TUESDAY MAY 24

DAY TRIP/CHURCH TOURS St. Michaels in Anniston, Silver Chapel at Ft McClellan, Classic on Noble, The Rabbit Shop. 9:00a-3:00p. Gas donation.

THURSDAY MAY 26

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Season Performers, "What is Baseball"???

### Special Moment with Jesus

You showed me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.  
Psalm 16: 11



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

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### Pastors

Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104  
Angela Martin, amartin@bpumc.org, ext. 107  
Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112  
**Director of Senior Ministries**, ext. 103  
Betty Hottenstein, bhottenstein@bpumc.org  
**Director of Student Ministries**, ext. 118  
Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org  
**Director of Children's Ministries**, ext. 105  
Stanley Davidson, sdavidson@bpumc.org  
**Director of Finance and Administration**, ext. 117  
Jason McCrory, jmccrory@bpumc.org  
**Financial Manager**, ext. 101  
Joe Pitard, jpitard@bpumc.org  
**Director of Communications and Media**, ext. 119  
Andrew Seltz, aseltz@bpumc.org  
**Secretary**, ext. 111  
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 May 22—28

### Sunday, May 22

8:45 am Wesley Tour Trip Returns  
Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service

### Monday, May 23

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

### Tuesday, May 24

5:00 pm Under The Bridge

### Wednesday, May 25

6:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:00 pm Communion Service  
6:30 pm Choir  
6:30 pm Building Team Meeting

### Thursday, May 26

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

### SUNDAY, May 22nd, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Romans 5:1-5

*"Don't Waste the Pain"*

Rev. Angela Martin

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15

### SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45am Chatterton 11:00am Youth

Cross

8:45 Caroline Marshall 11:00 Avery Edwards

Acolyte

8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Carolyne Hecklinski

Greeters: New Light

Meals on Wheels: Shultz/Hardy  
Food Pantry June 1st: Penny Burns

## Last Week's Record

May 15, 2016

Children	122
Morning Worship	521
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$25,351.70
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$544,235.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$599,521.85
New Members in 2016	13

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$895.00
Received to Date	\$964,422.87

**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.