



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
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BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter December 9, 2014

www.BluffParkUMC.org

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

4:00pm and 6:00pm

ADVENT SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS ON THE BLUFF CONCERT

Sunday, December 14th @ 6:30pm

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Wednesdays @ 7:30am
in the Sanctuary

LESSONS, CAROLS, AND COMMUNION

Sunday, December 21st @ 5:00pm
In the Chapel

WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each Advent, our church takes up the White Christmas Offering in support of the United Methodist Children's Home. Their mission is to heal children, unite families, and change lives in northern Alabama. Through your support, children are placed in safe and loving foster homes and are able to continue to be cared for in college as they transition into independent adulthood. Simply assign checks or envelopes to "White Christmas Offering" in morning worship throughout Advent, or by dropping off your gift in our Financial Office.

This Christmas Season, give a child the gift of a second chance!



News of the Week

AN ADVENT REFLECTION

According to Luke's Gospel, John is said to leap with joy inside Elizabeth's womb when Mary approaches. In one sense, Luke is trying to tell us that Mary and her role as Jesus' mother are so very special. She is blessed among women, as Elizabeth says.

In another sense, Luke is also conveying that all of creation, even children in the womb, sense that something amazing is about to take place. John leaps for joy because God is about to bless the world with His most precious gift of His own self in the Christ child.

We invite you in worship this Sunday to consider how your heart is. Where is joy ready to leap in your own life? Worship is a joy-inspiring gathering each week! And don't forget to be a part of the other joy-providing Advent offerings like Christmas on the Bluff and Advent Morning Prayer and especially our two Christmas Eve services!

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS AT WORK

The Festival of the Three Kings was a great success. 23 students, 1 child and 13 adults participated through our Student Ministries here at BPUMC. They were joined at the event by 20 other church members who showed up to help bless Birmingham families this Christmas.

Members of the church generously provided gifts for 88 kids this year out of the 200+ who are blessed through this event.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

To date, we have received 238 Financial Pledges for 2015. Your pledges help the church make responsible financial plans. If you haven't turned in a Pledge Card, they are available in the pews, at the Welcome Desk, through the office, or can be downloaded from the church website.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

The holy season of Advent begins on November 30th. This year we will again have Advent Morning Prayer

each Wednesday as a way of focusing our hearts and minds as we prepare for the coming of Jesus into the world. The service begins at 7:30 am and is held in the sanctuary. This is a service of Scripture, prayer and Holy Communion which lasts approximately 30 minutes.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL EMAILS

It is not too late to join in on the Advent Devotionals. Every day during the Season of Advent we are sending out a devotional written by a member of the church. Print copies are available in the office and you can sign up for the email list and view previous devotionals online at the church website:

BluffParkUMC.org/advent-devotionals

LESSONS, CAROLS, AND COMMUNION

One of the traditional worship services of the Advent season is A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This service is a beautiful and inspiring way to hear the message of this holy season. We will have A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 21st at 5:00 pm in the Chapel.

CHILE VOLUNTEERS FOR 2015

The Chile Volunteers in Mission team has openings for additional team members. We will be traveling to Angol, Chile to support the work of John Elmore our Covenant Missionary Partner at El Vergel Methodist Agricultural School. The dates of the trip are March 13-27, 2015. If you are interested or have questions please contact Tom Duley.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees will meet on Sunday, December 21st at 9:45 am in the Library.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Bernie Thompson—Princeton
Nan Moore—Trinity
Gary White—Brookwood



Christmas Poinsettias

Reserve your large beautiful poinsettia now to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas. The cost is \$23.00 per plant payable to the church. Deadline for ordering is December 15.

In Honor Of: _____ **by** _____
In Memory of: _____ **by** _____

Return order form and payment to the church office.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT was a great success! Thank you to all those wonderful parents who volunteered their time to help us. Big Thank You's go out to Ivy Holmes and Bethany Dover who spent so much time preparing and planning, Susan Vogt who always does such a great directing job, Mahala McKinney who provided us with the perfect music, and Dave Martin who helped us put up and take down the set. More Thank You's to Amy Matheson who has once again planned a fabulous Christmas party and to Joe Thomas who played a very special part (wink wink.) We will miss Ms. Leigh with all our hearts! We wish her great luck and happiness as she takes on a new adventure in her life. She will always be with us in our hearts! Thank you Ms. Leigh! We love you!!

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR WILL BE PERFORMING AT BOTH SERVICES this Sunday. Ms Rebecca and Ms. Jamie would like for all the kids to come by 8:00am to practice. They will also be picked up early from Sunday school to prepare for the 11:00am service. Ms. Jamie and Ms. Rebecca will sign them out so you can go straight to the service.

THE YOUNG RINGERS WILL BE PERFORMING THE PRELUDE at the 11:00am service December 21st. They will be picked up early from Sunday School to prepare. Miss Ann will sign them out. They will be having practice on Wednesday the 17th in the hand-bell room at 4:30pm until 5:15pm. Please check with Ms. Ann as you sign them in if practice time will be extended.

THE 4TH/5TH FELLOWSHIP will be going to Exit 456 at Camp Sumatanga on March 13-15, 2015. This is a two day event. It is a weekend designed to help children understand their Methodist heritage and to encourage their faith journey. It is a FABULOUS event sponsored by the North Alabama United Methodist conference. It can be a very important event for your 4th/5th grader. Plus so much fun its crazy!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 14	Elementary choir to preform at both morning services
December 21	Preschool and Elementary Sunday School Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall 9:50am-10:45am.
December 21	The young ringers will perform during the 11:00 am service
December 28	No Sunday School

STUDENT MINISTRY

HOLY GROUND WORSHIP IN DECEMBER. Our student worship service is wrapping up 2014. We'll have our last Advent-themed worship night on Wednesday, Dec 17th. Since there won't be dinner upstairs, we'll have a special FREE meal from New China as our college kids join us for a Holy Ground Homecoming! Come for dinner at 5:30pm and worship with us from 6:30-7:30pm.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY & CAROLING - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST. We'll meet in the Youth Wing at 5pm and divide into vehicles to go Christmas Caroling. Then we'll return to the Church for a covered dish dinner and a game of Dirty Santa. We need your help to make the evening a success: Parents: we need drivers and second adults in each vehicle. We also need a side dish or dessert. Students: we need a fun, goofy, inexpensive gift for Dirty Santa AND we need a monetary donation or a gift card to Publix or Target for a family in need we're helping this holiday season. Everyone in our church: Contact our student ministry team via email at youth@bpumc.org if you know anyone in the Bluff Park area who could use some holiday cheer. Email us their name, contact info and address and we'll see if we can arrange to sing them some Christmas Carols that night.

DISCOVERY WEEKEND - JANUARY 23-25, 2015. Save the date for this incredible weekend of spiritual formation, when our high school students will lead our middle school students in worship, discussion, prayer and fellowship with the assistance of our college students and adults. High school students will begin meeting to prepare on Sunday afternoons as soon as we're back from Christmas break. We cannot wait to see what God has planned for our students! Online registration will be open very soon.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 14, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, December 14, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, December 14, 6:30pm	Christmas on the Bluff (we'll sit together during this program in our main sanctuary)
Wednesday, December 17, 5:30pm	Snack Supper in Youth Wing (a FREE New China meal!!!)
Wednesday, December 17, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship - Advent Conspiracy//Love All

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas program by Niki Sepsas.
SHEPHERD'S CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY The fun starts at 10:00am with special Christmas music and a visit from Santa.
BPUMC RED HAT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON with Mary Jane Wesler - call Mary Jane for reservations.

Special Moment with Jesus

"For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness." Psalm 33:4



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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Address Service Requested

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Pastors

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Lonnie Parsons
Organist, Jamie Davis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of December 14—December 20

Sunday, December 14

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:30 pm Living Room Study
4:30 pm ISN'T Bible Study
6:30 pm Christmas on the Bluff Concert

Wednesday, December 17

7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer
4:30 pm Young Ringers Rehearsal
5:30 pm Disciple 1
6:00 pm Men's Chorus

Thursday, December 18

8:00 am Shepherd's Center Christmas Party
6:30 pm Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Finance Committee

Friday, December 19

12:00 pm Opportunity Class Luncheon

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"The Christmas Spirit: Joy"
Scripture - Luke 1:39-45
Rev. Mike Holly

6:30pm Christmas on the Bluff Concert
"What a Glorious Night"

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
8:45 Adams 11:00 Alley
Cross
8:45 Neiley Mann 11:00 Harrison Winter
Acolytes
8:45 Emma Patton 11:00 Kate Culverhouse
Greeters: Seekers
Meals on Wheels December 17:
TBA
Food Pantry January 7:
TBA

Last Week's Record

December 7, 2014

Children/Youth	111/35
Morning Worship	549
Weekly Operating Needs	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$43,302.88
2014 Operating Budget	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date	\$1,324,225.00
Received to Date	\$1,177,247.22
New Members in 2014	48

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015	
Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$24,000.00
Received to Date	\$602,554.86

**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.