



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter December 16, 2014

www.BluffParkUMC.org

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

4:00pm and 6:00pm

ADVENT SCHEDULE

LESSONS, CAROLS, AND COMMUNION

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

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Wednesday, December 24th @ 7:30am
in the Sanctuary.



THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS AT WORK

The Sanctuary was packed on Sunday, December 14th for the annual Christmas on the Bluff choir concert. Lonnie Parsons lead the choir, guest singers, aerialists, cast and crew through an amazing and uplifting celebration of the Christmas Season. Special thanks to all of the members of the congregation and staff who came together to make this event possible.

News of the Week

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.

COOKBOOKS MAKE AN AWESOME GIFT

Looking for a great gift idea for that special foodie on your list? This Sunday, December 21st, we will be selling our remaining copies of the Bluff Park UMC Church Cookbook for only \$5 each—while supplies last.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

To date, we have received 247 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

Throughout the holy season of Advent we have been meeting on Wednesday mornings for a time of prayer as a way of focusing our hearts and minds in preparation for the coming of Jesus into the world. Our final Advent Morning Prayer service will meet on December 24th. The service begins at 7:30 am and will be 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 the entire collection of previous devotionals online at the church website:

BluffParkUMC.org/advent-devotionals

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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

FINANCE OFFICE HOURS

The Finance Office will be open on December 31st from 8:00am–12:00pm.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to Elizabeth Delionback on the passing of her husband Chris on December 11th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Bernie Thompson—Princeton

Nan Moore—Trinity

2014 WINTER CONCERT SERIES

Believe

CELEBRATE
THE MAGIC OF THE SEASON

You have everything you need,
If you just Believe

MAGIC CITY
CHORAL SOCIETY

The Magic City Choral Society will be performing a concert in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 21st at 3:00pm. They will be collecting donations of non-perishable canned goods at the concert to benefit Birmingham area residents in need.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

IT'S PARTY TIME! The Elementary and Preschool Sunday School will have its annual Christmas Party and Breakfast this Sunday(12/21) 9:50am-10:45am. Elementary Students will gather in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. The Sign in/out sheets will be there. The Preschool classes (3k and 4k) will meet and be picked up in their classroom as usual. All parents are invited to attend. We will enjoy Ms Doris' yummy breakfast and make "Christmas Story Bracelets."

THE YOUNG RINGERS WILL BE PERFORMING the prelude at the 11:00am service this Sunday (12/21). They will be picked up early from Sunday School to prepare. Miss Ann will sign them out. They will be having practice on 12/17 in the handbell room from 4:30pm until 5:30pm. Please note the extended practice time. Sign in will be in the handbell room and sign out will be at the entrance across from the playground.

THE PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTY is just around the corner! It will be February 20th at 6:00pm. There will be crafts, snacks, and entertainment! We can still use some volunteers to help make this super fun event possible. Please contact Ms Marcie at nursery@bpumc.org to find out how you can help. And don't forget your jammies!

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! Interested? Send an email to mhendon@bpumc.org to get the registration started.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 late service, 11:00am
December 28	No Sunday School. There will be Children's Church
February 20	Preschool Pajama Party 6:00pm

STUDENT MINISTRY

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.

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 21, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, December 21, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, December 21, 5:00pm	Meet to go Caroling/Christmas Party & Dirty Santa (bring a side/dessert to share, a wrapped Dirty Santa gift & donation for local family)

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18

SHEPHERD'S CENTER CHRISTMAS PARTY The fun starts at 10:00am - Music, Food, Fellowship and Mystery Guest??? Everyone invited. This will be our last get together until January 8, 2015.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 20

BPUMC RED HAT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON at Mary Jane Wesler's home for past, present and new members. Call Mary Jane for reservations.

Special Moment with Jesus

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!" Psalm 84:1



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUTO
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Pastors

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Catherine Ward, cward@bpumc.org
Director of Worship Music,
Lonnie Parsons
Organist, Jamie Davis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org

The Week of December 21—December 27

Sunday, December 21

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:30 am Preschool and Elementary
Sunday School Christmas Party
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Board of Trustees Meeting
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
12:00 pm Fellowship Class Christmas Party
3:00 pm Magic City Choral Society
5:00 pm Lessons, Carols & Communion Service

Monday, December 22

10:00 am UMW Hope-Love Circle
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
6:30 pm UMW Friendship Circle

Wednesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

OFFICE CLOSED
7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25—Christmas Day

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

"The Christmas Spirit: Praise"

Scripture - Luke 1:46-55

Rev. Mike Holly

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00pm and 6:00pm Candlelight Worship

"The Christmas Spirit: Giving"

Scripture - Luke 2:1-20

Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Luke 1:47-55

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Open 11:00 Davis

Cross

8:45 Matt Lagan 11:00 Carolyne Hecklinski

Acolytes

8:45 Jonathan Kerns

11:00 Campbell Hecklinski

Greeters: Vitality

Meals on Wheels December 17:

TBA

Food Pantry January 7:

Sylvia Sumners

Last Week's Record

December 14, 2014

Children	70
Morning Worship	566
Weekly Operating Needs	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$32,060.30
2014 Operating Budget	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date	\$1,351,250.00
Received to Date	\$1,209,307.52
New Members in 2014	48

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$6,493.33
Received to Date	\$609,048.19

**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.