



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter March 29, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Holy Week is finally here. We begin with our remembrance of Palm Sunday in worship as we read how Jesus triumphantly entered into the holy city of Jerusalem. Children in worship will be able to wave palm branches this Sunday at 8:45 and 11:00 am. Jesus Christ arrived in Jerusalem, welcomed like a king, with shouts of loud “Hosanna!” The people gathered around him saw him as a savior – one sent by God to free them from the oppression they were experiencing so that God could rule over them and within them.

During the week, we will have two special worship services. Maundy Thursday is our remembrance of the Last Supper where Jesus and his disciples gathered for their last meal, where Holy Communion was established, and where Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. We will have a service of holy communion on Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm with an optional foot-washing service afterwards. On Friday, April 3rd, at 6:30 pm, we will hold our Good Friday Stations of the Cross service as we walk with Jesus on those final steps from his trial to the cross at Golgotha. This somber, yet powerful, worship service reminds us of the great and wonderful love Jesus displays for all of us.

During this final week of Lent, we invite you to enter into study and contemplation, even if you cannot attend one of our Holy Week services. In the Path to the Empty Tomb, we have found a Messiah willing not only to go on this journey for us, but also to invite us into our own journeys with him. Christ is calling you to take the next faithful step. What will it be?



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

March 29, 8:45am & 11:00am

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

April 2, 7:30am

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

April 2, 6:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

April 3, 6:30pm

EASTER EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST

April 4, 9:00am

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 5, 8:45am & 11:00am

News of the Week

DAY OF SERVICE

Our Church Life Committee is organizing a work day to help out neighbors in Bluff Park who have spring cleaning needs in their homes and yards who need assistance to get them done. On, April 25th, from 8:00-11:00 am we'll meet at the church, receive work assignments and then spread out in teams to help on projects like painting mailboxes, clearing debris, mowing the grass, planting flowers, and light housework. Sign-up will begin soon. If you know someone who needs help, please contact the office.

BPUMC ANNUAL BBQ

The Bluff Park UMC annual barbecue has raised funds for the past 19 years to help with the maintenance and expansion of our church building and grounds. Proceeds have historically gone to building improvements such as new paint jobs, security cameras, new door locks, and various other improvements. You can help by giving door prizes to the church office by April 10th, or by purchasing tickets from your Sunday school class or at the main office!

LADIES DAY RETREAT

The Ladies Day Retreat is coming Saturday, May 2nd, from 9:00am-12:30pm. Purchase your ticket in the Narthex on Sundays or contact Betty.

UMW MISSION STUDY: ROMA OF EUROPE

You are invited to join us on April 13th, from 10am-2pm in the Fellowship Hall to learn about the Roma

people of Europe. Lunch will be served, but you must make a reservation by April 6th. Call the office.

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

We gather one final Thursday morning at 7:30 am for a service of prayer. We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary as we prepare ourselves to meet the risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

CHILE MISSION TEAM

The Chile Mission Team finished their second week of work and headed home. They have been sending regular updates from the trip which are posted on our Facebook page and website.

2015 ALTAR FLOWERS

There are dates left on the 2015 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: April 12, and 19, and May 3, 10, 17, and 31. Check in with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Shirley White—Golden Living

Joe White—Golden Living

Rebecca Mooney—St. Vincent's

Charlotte Word—Galleria Woods

Bill Walker—Brookdale



STOP HUNGER NOW.

On April 13th and 14th, Bluff Park UMC will join with several other churches, schools, and civic organizations from the Vestavia/Hoover area to pack 250,000 nutritious meals to be sent overseas to relieve hunger. This project will be carried out in conjunction with 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 register, contact the church office for assistance. To sign-up as a volunteer visit:

BluffParkUMC.org/stophunger



Easter Love Gift

At Bluff Park UMC, the Lenten season is the time of year when we receive our Easter Love Offering for missions. The Easter Love Offering supports several ministries and missions that we, as a church, are involved in.

Your generosity allowed us to do a great many things in 2014, and we would like to do as much (or more) in 2015. Our goal is to make a difference in the lives of many people as we support projects that are consistent with the "food, water, shelter" mission emphasis that the church has established.

Please mark your check Easter Love Offering, so that we can make sure it goes to the right place. Your generosity will make a great difference for many people.

Thank you.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PALM PARADE THIS WEEK!! This Sunday all kids who would like to be in the Palm Parade will need to meet in the narthex before the service. There will be volunteers there to get the kids all lined up and ready to go. After the parade, the children will join their parent in the sanctuary. ALL children are encouraged to join in. No sign-up required. Parents may want to come a little early so their kids will have time to join the parade.

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: The kids did such a great job last week. We are nearly done with our egg stuffing mission. This week a few kids will complete the task and we will be ready for April 4th! Also during Sunday School this week we will be making a special "Welcome Card" for Mr Stanley! We will have a large cut out of "Flat Stanley." All the kids will participate in decorating him and adding a message on his back. WE will then mail it to Mr Stanley in Georgia to let him know how much we are excited that he is coming to lead us! WE will also send a special card to his son Gavin!

IT'S EASTER EGG TIME!!! Thank you to all who took some eggs home. We have prepared nearly 2500 eggs for the "hunt." These eggs are due back on Palm Sunday (this Sunday March 29th). There are drop off locations located conveniently by the narthex, the fellowship hall, and the playground entrance. The Easter Egg Hunt is a major community event. The kids that come have the best time finding those great treasures you prepared for them. Thank you for your support!

4TH/5TH FELLOWSHIP The end of the year is fast approaching. There will be an end of the year party on April. All current 4th and 5th graders will be invited. This event will occur during mid-week. More details coming soon! May 6th we will have a special cross over event for 3rd/4th/and 5th. Charlotte McCrary will be having a special cooking class just for them. After, we will head down to Holy Ground to have mid-week with the youth.

OFF CAMPUS MISSION PROJECT- On April 18th we will have our first off-campus mission project. Ms Kaci and Ms Melissa will take 15 elementary kiddos to Camp Sumatanga to do some sprucing up for their Summer seasons. Sumatanga will provide lunch and open some activities for us as a thank you. If you would like to have your child participate, please email Ms Melissa at mhendon@bpumc.org to let her know. We will leave BPUMC by 8:30 and will return by 3:30. Parents are also invited and can ride the bus if room is available.

VBS-EVEREST IS COMING! Lets get excited!! VBS is July 13th-17th and will be 8:30am-12:30pm. Recruitment for volunteers has already begun. Please contact mhendon@bpumc.org to sign up. We need teachers, team leaders, snack helpers, sign-in/out help, decorating help, prep help... We have a job for everyone and every schedule! NEW this year- Registration will be online ONLY. Registration will open April 6th! A big thank you to Sarah Chavez, this year's VBS director! We love you Sarah!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 29	Mission Project: Egg Stuff Day!	April 4	Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast 9am	April 29	Midweek end of year festivities
March 29	Palm Parade (8:45am and 11:00am) *Easter Eggs Due	April 18	Off Campus Mission Project	May 6	3rd/4th/5th crossover event
April 1	No Mid Week (Children's Choir will rehearse!)	April 25	Church Wide Mission Project	May 6	Elementary MidWeek on Holy Ground
		April 26	Children's Musical 5pm	July 13/17	VBS "Everest"

STUDENT MINISTRY

CONGRATULATIONS SCOTT HARDY. Scott Hardy was recently recognized by the Greater Alabama Council for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout as a member of Troop 21. (Has your student won an award or been recognized in their school or our community? Let us know!)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE THIS SPRING. What better way to share the Good News of Jesus' resurrection than by serving others?

We have two service opportunities next month for students and their families:

Stop Hunger Now—You can sign up for morning, afternoon and evening shifts. Want to serve as a family? With parental supervision, children as young as four years old can help. See details in the news of the week. To serve alongside Bart Styes, volunteer for Shifts 10 and 11, on Tuesday, April 14, from 4:00-7:30pm.

Day of Service—Were joining our church family on April 12th, from 8:00-11:00am to help our neighbors needing assistance with Spring chores around the house. See news of the week for details.

SAVE THESE DATES: Confirmation Sunday, April 12, Senior Recognition Sunday, May 17, Band Tour (tentative): Friday-Tuesday, May 29-June 2, MS Mission Trip (tentative): Sunday-Friday, June 21-26, ASP Mission Trip: Sunday-Saturday, July 5-11, Beach Retreat: Friday-Monday, July 31-Aug 3.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 29, 10:00am	Sunday School & Confirmation Class in the Youth Wing
Sunday, March 29, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal in the Youth Wing
Sunday, March 22, 6:00pm	Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 22, 6:30pm	Hang Out Night (In town over Spring Break? Come hang out!)

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY APRIL 2

SHEPHERD'S CENTER – Easter Program with Alice Marie and Randy Morrison. Bible Study at 11:00 with Charlie Trucks. Everyone invited.

SUNDAY APRIL 5

EASTER SUNDAY – Bring Flowers for the Cross.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 8

COOKING CLASS with Jon McClure, Author of Alabama's Best Restaurant Cook Book. 6:00-7:00pm Fireside Room. Something good is Cooking...everyone invited.

THURSDAY APRIL 9

SHEPHERD'S CENTER – Staying Safe by George Carr, retired Homewood Police Department, everyone invited.

EASTER BASKETS AVAILABLE: For our sick/shut-in's. Pick one up from Betty – fill with goodies and deliver to a sick/shut-in.

LADIES DAY RETREAT: SATURDAY MAY 2, 9:00AM – 12:30PM

Breakfast Brunch, Worship, Music and Bible Study with Becky Walker, Jamie Davis, Doreen Duley, and Delores Hydock. Tickets, \$10.00, will be on sale Sunday. Look for us in the Narthex.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH JIMMY CARTER, OUR 39TH PRESIDENT

Saturday June 6 – Sunday 7 Maranatha Baptist Church, Plains, Ga.

Traveling by tour bus – cost: \$220.00pp includes overnight at the Historical Windsor Hotel in Americus, Ga, tours with step-on guides, transportation, all meals except Saturday lunch and a few surprises Everyone invited – call Betty.



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

Address Service Requested

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Pastors

- Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104
- Peter von Hermann, petervh@bpumc.org, ext. 107
- Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112
- Director of Senior Ministries**, ext. 103
- Betty Hottenstein, bhottenstein@bpumc.org
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- 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**, Jamie Davis
- Preschool Director**,
- Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of March 29—April 4

- Sunday, March 29—Palm Sunday**
- 8:45 am Morning Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Morning Worship Service
- 5:00 pm Evening Worship Service
- Monday, March 30**
- 9:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl
- Wednesday, April 1—No MidWeek Spring Break**
- 9:00 am Food Pantry
- 4:30 pm Pastors' Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Disciple 1
- 6:00 pm Men's Chorus
- 6:30 pm Choir
- Thursday, April 2—Maundy Thursday**
- 7:30 am Lenten Morning Prayer
- 9:30 am Shepherd's Center
- 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
- Friday, April 3—Good Friday**
- 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship
- Saturday, April 4**
- 9:00 am Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast

SUNDAY, March 29, 2015
 8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"Sign Up"
 (Scripture - Mark 11:1-11)
 Rev. Mike Holly

5:00pm Evening Worship Service
 Becky Walker

Lectionary Scripture Readings
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Mark 14:1-15:47

SERVING SUNDAY

- Ushers
- 8:45 Doran 11:00 Arthur Cross
- 8:45 Ellie Pomeroy 11:00 Mikey Lagan Acolytes
- 8:45 Will Thompson 11:00 Matt Lagan
- Greeters:** Wesley Forum
- Communion Set-Up 5pm:**
 Joan Davis
- Meals on Wheels April 1:**
 Shanlever
- Food Pantry April 1:**
 Penny Burns

THERE IS NO MIDWEEK MEAL ON APRIL 1ST.

Enjoy Spring Break. We will resume normal MidWeek activities next Wednesday..

Last Week's Record

March 22, 2015

Children	97
Morning Worship	526
Weekly Operating Needs*	\$29,189.36
Operating Receipts	\$39,969.00
2015 Operating Budget*	\$1,517,847.00
Expected to Date*	\$324,300.00
Received to Date	\$340,574.84
New Members in 2015	5

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$6,196.67
Received to Date	\$733,597.87

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2015 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.