



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter April 26, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



On Sunday morning, Rev. Tom Duley explained in his sermon that God's grace is one and the same. God's grace is underserved and unmerited. It is a free gift from a loving God. While there is one grace, there are four "movements," Tom taught us. There is prevenient grace that is God's work in every human life. There is justifying grace which is offered to each and every person – a grace that seeks to make right the relationship between God and each person. Then there is sanctifying grace, whereby each and every follower of Jesus Christ grows in their love of God and neighbor so that he, or she, grows to become more and more like God each and every day.

If there was one idea that Jesus gives to humanity that sums up the main focus of United Methodism, it is the concept of the Greatest Commandments. Found in the Gospels, the Great Commandment is the response Jesus gives to an inquiring mind as to how to sum up all of the commands of God into the greatest commandment. "Love God with all of your heart, mind, soul and strength...and love your neighbor as yourself," Jesus teaches. God's grace is freely given to each and every one of us. Our loving response to God's grace is the first half of the Great Commandment. We are to love God with all of who we are and all of what we have. Finally, we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves. We are to take the grace and love that God provides us and to spread that around to each and every person in our lives.

This coming Sunday, we turn our attention to how we as United Methodists deal with those questions and situations that are not clearly explained in Scripture. Sometimes the questions we face are black and white (right or wrong). But what about those grey areas that seem so difficult to deal with? The United Methodist Church gives us a tool that assists us as we wrestle with those God-sized questions! Join us this Sunday in worship as we explore this great tool!

251,364 Nutritious Meals and More

Thanks to the efforts of the Stop Hunger Now meal packing event, 251,364 meals are headed to Haiti and Belize. They will provide essential nutrition primarily to children struggling with access to food. The church family here at Bluff Park UMC stepped up to this challenge. Young and old, men and women—we were there with our hairnets on making a difference.

Food ministries are a big part of the life of our church. In addition to special events like Stop Hunger Now, we serve Meals on Wheels every week, and Under the Bridge and the Pantry on the Bluff each month. There are many opportunities to get involved.

This Sunday there is a luncheon for the food pantry volunteers and those interested in joining that ministry.



News of the Week

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

On Sunday, April 26, at 11:00 am there will be a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. All current food pantry volunteers, and those who want to volunteer, are invited. RSVP to Theresa Richerson at 637-4760 or theresaricherson@gmail.com by April 20. If you need childcare, please let us know.

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL

The Children's Musical is coming on Sunday, April 26th, at 5:00pm in the Chapel. They will be performing a program titled, "King of the Jungle." The musical will take the place of evening worship that week.

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 Hottenstein.

VETERANS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Bluff Park UMC is in the early planning stage of a new ministry reaching out to War on Terror Veterans (WOTV). While we will always embrace everyone as a guest, our journey to provide a promise home for autistic adults has proven our willingness to be a safe haven of hope, love, and compassion for those with unique needs. We are looking for members of the congregation interested in helping "birth" this new community outreach program to welcome all veterans—specially

those with physical or invisible wounds. If you are interested in learning more about this new ministry opportunity, please contact Stretch Dunn by email (dunnst@bellsouth.net) and leave the phone number you wish to be contacted on so he can follow-up with you.

HABITAT HOME BUILDERS BLITZ

Bluff Park UMC will be participating in Habitat for Humanity's "Home Builders Blitz" on Friday, May 1st, and Saturday, May 2nd.

Habitat will be building two homes over a 7 day period beginning April 30th. The homes will be built in Clay. We will be taking the church vans. Habitat will provide breakfast and lunch.

If you are available on either or both of these days please contact John Irwin or Tom Duley.

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: July 5, 12, 19, and 26. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Looking for a fun way you can help support the preschool program at Bluff Park UMC? On May 2nd, the wonderful people at the Tip Top Grill will be donating 20% of the proceeds from sales to support our preschool! So, by enjoying a nice

lunch with a beautiful view, you can help us care for the children of our community.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Bill Walker—Brookdale
Ben Cathers—University
Laura Lee Boren—St. Vincent's



Meet Our New Director of Children's Ministry

May 6th

MidWeek Meal and Fellowship

Stanley Davidson is joining the staff here at Bluff Park UMC as the Director of Children's Ministry. On May 6th, the final MidWeek before summer break, we will have a special time to welcome Stanley and get to know him.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: This week we will finish our unit on the Seven Helpers. We will start the morning by dividing into equal groups of older and younger kids mixed together. We will then watch a scene from the movie "Finding Nemo." This is a lesson geared more towards the younger elementary kids. The older kids in each group will assist the older kids after the video. One group will be coming up with ways that characters helped Nemo's Dad. The Other group will come up with ways that characters help Nemo.

4K GRADUATION TO THE THIRD FLOOR will be May 31st. Details soon!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS: The Musical will be held on Sunday April 26th in the chapel at 5pm. All participants need to be there by 4pm for a finale walk through. Costumes are what you might wear to go to a Safari Theme Park Field trip. Blue Jean or Khaki long pants or shorts. Colored t-shirts. Visors, sunglasses, hats, bandanas (any combination there of) If you like bandanas but might not have one, Ms. Melissa has some left over from Bible School.

4TH/5TH FELLOWSHIP The end of the year is fast approaching. There will be an end of the year party on April 29th 6:30-7:30 on the playground. Word has it ice-cream will be involved. All current 4th and 5th graders will be invited.

MAY 6TH 5:50PM-6:25PM 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. **All 5th Graders (AKA Rising 6th Graders) can start attending youth activities on May 31st!!**

SPLISH SPLASH! THE PRESCHOOL SPLASH PARTY is Tuesday June 9th from 10am-12pm. Bring a chair and come join the fun on the preschool playground. Online registration coming soon!

VBS-EVEREST IS COMING! Let's get excited!! VBS is July 13th-17th and will be 8:30am-12:30pm. *NEW this year- Registration will be online ONLY.* Go to BluffParkumc.org/VBS2015 to register! Cost is \$10 per child for up to two children. Three or more children is just a flat \$25 family rate. Payment is due the first day of the event. 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! Go to <http://vols.pt/fNszBT> to sign up.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26	Third Week of the "Seven Helpers"	May 6	Elementary MidWeek on Holy Ground	July 13-17	VBS "Everest"
April 26	Children's Musical 5pm	May 31	4K Graduation to the Third Floor		
April 29	Midweek end of year festivities	May 31	5th Grade to start worship with the youth		
May 6	3rd/4th/5th crossover event	June 9	Preschool Splash Party!		

STUDENT MINISTRY

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR WORSHIP TEAM. Over seventy members of our church family were present for our Evening of Praise & Worship last Sunday. As well, our student worship team raised over \$400 for their summer tour! We are grateful for your prayers, support and encouragement.

THANK YOU AMANDA ALLDREDGE. Amanda has served as an intern in our student ministry program since Spring 2012. This fall she will enter medical school at UAB. We are sad to lose her as part of our team but we are even more proud of who she is and where she is going. We know that God will continue to do great things through her and we are blessed for all that she's meant to our students.

WELCOME KACI BRASHER. We are very excited to welcome Kaci to our student ministry team. She has been serving in our children's ministry department as our 4th & 5th Grade Coordinator and we know that she will do an excellent job with our students. God is good!

SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY IS COMING SOON. We will recognize our graduating high school seniors on Sunday, May 17th with a breakfast in the fellowship hall at 10am and during worship at 11am. Make sure that your student is included in our program by contacting Becky McCrary at mccrary.becky@gmail.com if you have not yet confirmed your participation.!

SAVE THESE DATES: *Senior Recognition Sunday*, May 17, *Band Tour: Sunday-Wednesday*, June 7-10, *MS Mission Trip: Sunday-Friday*, June 21-26, *ASP Mission Trip: Sunday-Saturday*, July 5-11, *Beach Retreat: Friday-Monday*, July 31-Aug 3.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 26, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, April 26, 4:30pm	Worship Team Rehearsal
Sunday, April 26, 6:00pm	Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, April 26, 6:30pm	FREE Goodies Ice Cream Party!
Wednesday, April 29, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, April 29, 5:30pm	Hang Out Time in the Youth Wing & Gym
Wednesday, April 29, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship
Sunday, May 3, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
	No Afternoon/Evening Youth Programming on Mother's Day!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY APRIL 28
WEDNESDAY APRIL 29

THURSDAY APRIL 30
SATURDAY MAY 2

TUESDAY MAY 12

SAT-SUN JUNE 6-7

TUESDAY JULY 14

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 5

MYSTERY LUNCHEON - 10:00am-3:00pm - call Betty.

COOKING CLASS Tasting Party with Mike Clark, Owls' Hollow Farm Market. 6:00-7:00pm.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Ginny Lacey, Lakeshore.

LADIES DAY RETREAT - Breakfast Brunch and Tablesapes. Tickets, \$10.00, on sale each week. Special guest - Jamie Davis, Doreen Duley, Becky Walker and Delores Hydock.

CROSSVILL TN - Cumberland Playhouse - "Ring-of-Fire" Johnny Cash, the Man-in-Black, musical. Cost: \$50.00 ticket/gas donation. Lunch on your own. Call Betty.

SUNDAY SCHOOL with Jimmy Carter, our 39th President Plains, Ga. Over-night cost: \$220.00. Tour Bus. Balance due on May 15th.

TUPELO, MS - Elvis's Hometown Tour. Church, School, Hardware Store, Auto Museum and much more. Cost: \$80.00pp includes Breakfast Sandwich, Coffee, all Admission Tickets, Tour Guide, Lunch, Tour Bus.

MACKINAC CITY AND ISLAND - A week of Fun, Excitement, Tours, Good Food, Ferry Rides, and lots and lots of Laughter. Cost: \$800.00-900.00pp. Call Betty.



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Address Service Requested

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Pastors

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Director of Worship Music,

Lonnie Parsons

Organist,

Jamie Davis

Preschool Director,

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of April 26—May 2

Sunday, April 26

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
11:00 am Food Pantry Luncheon
5:00 pm Children's Musical

Monday, April 27

9:00 am Men's Bible Study
10:00 am Prayer Shawl
10:00 am UMW Love Circle
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
6:30 pm UMW Friendship Circle

Tuesday, April 28

7:00 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
10:00 am Senior Day Trip

Wednesday, April 29

4:30 pm Pastors' Bible Study
5:00-6:30pm Dinner
5:30 pm Disciple 1
6:00 pm Cooking Class
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, April 30

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

Saturday, May 2

9:00 am Ladies Day Retreat

SUNDAY, April 26, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
*"METHODISM: Don't Check Your Brain At
The Door"*
(Scripture - James 3:13-17)
Rev. Mike Holly

5:00pm Evening Worship Service
Children's Musical
"King of the Jungle"

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Acts 4:5-12

Psalms 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Montz 11:00 Lawson

Cross

8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Penny Rose Pearson

Acolytes

8:45 Lauren Gates 11:00 Patrick Williamson

Greeters: Faith

Meals on Wheels April 22: Slay
Food Pantry May 6: Becky McCrary

MIDWEEK MENU: April 29th

Lasagna, corn, baked chicken, baked potato,
and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

April 19, 2015

Children/Youth	87/55
Morning/Evening Worship	499/72
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$22,969.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$426,768.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$457,220.66
New Members in 2015	9

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$6,140.00
Received to Date	\$744,253.20

**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.