



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter August 30, 2015

www.BluffParkUMC.org



It's September at Bluff Park UMC, and that means our fall programming is about to kick off. We'll be starting a renewed Wednesday night program with Midweek Meetup, starting September 9th, and we will begin a new sermon series in morning worship on September 13th. During this sermon series, we will be exploring the new purpose and vision statements adopted by our Board of Stewards at the end of July. You'll be hearing more about these statements and about the Vision Steering Team as we begin a new school year this fall at Bluff Park UMC.

One area of emphasis this fall will be on exploring what it means for all of us to be a church family, united around a common purpose and vision. In this article, I want to emphasize that word family. In the church, we understand ourselves to be brothers and sisters in Christ. In baptism, we are adopted into God's family and grafted into the promises made so long ago to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And even today, we in the church organize ourselves into classes and groups that serve as the main area of care and support. When I went around to each Sunday school class two years ago after I first arrived, I constantly heard that the Sunday school classes were the main point of contact for each and every person in the church where we are often divided into ages and stages.

While that is a wonderful and beautiful thing, we also need times in which we can, as a large church of over 1500 members, join together and build bridges and relationships. One of our goals for the renewed Midweek Meetup is to create opportunities for our church family to bond over a meal as well as over fellowship activities and programs. We will still offer a few Bible studies and classes as we normally do, however, we hope that you will find that Midweek Meetup as one of the many ways we will be offering in the coming years to be known and to know others in your church family!

Back to Church Sunday

Sunday, September 13th, will be a special day. We are asking every Sunday school class to encourage members to attend and have perfect attendance. Each class will have refreshments as they reconnect with each other after summer travels. For those who are not members of a Sunday school class, we will have a special gathering in the Fellowship Hall. During worship, there will special music and also an opportunity for each and every person to come forward and remember their baptism with water from the baptismal font in the Sanctuary.



News of the Week

NEW CHURCH ORGANIST

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis will join Bluff Park as our Organist beginning Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Dr. Curtis holds the Bachelor of Arts, Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts all from The Julliard School in New York. In addition, she earned a Master of Divinity from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, and was ordained as a United Methodist elder. We look forward to welcoming her to Bluff Park UMC next month.

MISSION PROJECT: HEALTH KITS

Our August mission project has been a fantastic success. Individuals, families, Sunday School classes, young, and old have taken part in this project. This Sunday, the children will spend their Sunday School hour assembling health kits. This is the final week to make your contribution. Instructions can be downloaded from our website:

BluffParkUMC.org/healthkit

COVENANT BIBLE STUDY

Would you like to learn how to love God—and each other—better? Then join Becky Walker as she leads a unique Bible study focused on "Living" our relationships. The study is offered twice each week on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 am (starting on September 15th) in the Fellowship Hall and Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm (starting September 9th) in the Friendship classroom. Call Becky for more information 987-0404 or 531-7237.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

The pastor's Bible study returns on Wednesday, September 9th at 4:30pm. This weekly study meets in Hudson Hall and will focus on the Sermon on the Mount.

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: September 13, October 11, and November 8, 15, and 22. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Louise White—Mount Royal Rehab

Rollina Oglesbay—Columbiana



New Sunday School Class Starting

Young professionals from Bluff Park UMC are starting a new Sunday school class meeting each week at 10:00 am. If you're a young adult, or young professional, consider joining this new class on our special kick-off Sunday on September 13, 2015, in the Parlor.

BPUMC
Midweek

MEETUP

WEDNESDAYS 5-7 PM | BluffParkUMC.org

BPUMC Midweek Meetup

As the summer comes to a close, we begin to look ahead to fall activities here at the church. On Wednesday, September 9th, we begin our mid-week gatherings. This year, we are going to change things up a bit with a focus on fun activities and theme nights that give us an opportunity to have some fun as a church family. It will also be a great opportunity to invite friends and neigh-

bors to a church event.

In recognition of this change, we are giving Wednesday nights a new name: BPUMC Midweek Meetup. You'll be seeing the new logo on posters and flyers. The first theme, on September 9th, is Tailgate Night. We'll have burgers and hotdogs. Come in your team colors, hang out, and have some fun with your church family.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BIBLES FOR 3RD GRADERS: We will be presenting Bibles to all of the children who have entered the 3rd grade on Sunday, August 30th at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEER TRAINING: On Wednesday, September 2nd from 5:30-7:00, there will be a training session for all people volunteering for Children's Sunday School in the 2015-2016 school year. We need all Sunday School volunteers to be there for Safe Sanctuary Training and Curriculum Training! Dinner and childcare will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

MIDWEEK MEETUP BEGINS: Wednesday night programming will return on September 9th!!! The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more. Our teachers this year will be Lori Beasley with Kindergarten and 1st graders, Carole Roegner and Betsy Britain teaching a Bible Skills Class with the 2nd and 3rd graders, and Stanley and Stephanie Davidson with the 4th and 5th graders. New this year will be a Memory Verse Challenge, with prizes each week for those who memorize their weekly Bible verse and a grand prize for those who memorize all of their verses for the Fall. Be on the lookout for more information!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015/2016. Recruitment for Elementary and Preschool Sunday School is still under way. We have just a few more slots to fill! If you would like to volunteer please go to <http://vols.pt/PFzJ4t> to sign up. Thank you for your help!

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: This week (8/30) will be our Mission Sunday: we will be putting together UMCOR health kits. Next week (9/6) will be lesson three of our Sunday School Series Spy Chase: we will be studying the prophet Jeremiah.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 30 Bibles for 3rd Graders
September 2 Sunday School Volunteer Training
September 9 Midweek Returns

STUDENT MINISTRY

BROOMBALL TONIGHT! Meet us Sunday night in the Fellowship Hall at 5pm. We'll eat a quick snack supper. Then we'll head down to the Pelham Ice Plex for Broomball - a game similar to hockey played on ice in tennis shoes. We'll play broomball from 6:30-7:30pm and then come home. Bring a long-sleeve shirt, wear long pants and athletic shoes. All students will wear helmets on the ice. Cost is \$10.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING FALL SCHEDULE. There's so much going on as we leave the summer and get ready for the fall: small groups, Holy Ground worship, Fall 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.

DINNER & TRAINING FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS IN CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND Hey parents, we'll have a free dinner just for you. We'll feed you in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm, then after that, you'll learn more about our approach to student ministry and receive training to better equip you to teach a class, lead a small group or chaperon a retreat or evening activity. PLUS any parent who attends the training and volunteers for an upcoming activity or event will receive a discount on an upcoming trip for their student!

SAVE THESE DATES: Wednesday, September 2: *Parent Volunteer Dinner & Training*; Wednesday, September 9: *Holy Ground Worship Returns!*; Wednesday, October 28: *Halloween Carnival*; Friday-Sunday, November 20-22: *Fall Retreat at Camp Sumatanga*; Saturday, December 5: *Festival of Three Kings*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 30, 10:00am Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, August 30, 4:00pm Holy Ground Team Info Meeting
Sunday, August 30, 5:00pm Snack Supper in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, August 30, 5:45pm DEPART for Broomball at Pelham Ice Plex (\$10 per person)

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 22
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25

SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Music by The Alexanders. BINGO after lunch.
HOLIDAY—Church Office Closed
SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Leonette Slay will be here sharing her Mission Trip to Chile.
AARP SAFETY DRIVING.
YELLOW DOT SIGN-UP
SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Robert Verdi, Flamenco Guitarist - music of Spain.
MYSTERY TRIP Church Tour/Lunch
SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Rick Karle, Fox6 Sports Time
SENIOR FUN DAY with Mike, Angela and Tom The fun starts at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall Lunch \$6.00pp...EVERYONE'S INVITED.

MACKINAC CITY and MACKINAC ISLAND

Sunday August 30—Saturday September 5
Please keep our group of 44 in your prayers as we travel each day.

SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS

Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.
Proverbs 3:3



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
Preschool Director,
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The Week of August 30—September 5

Sunday, August 30

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
12:00 pm Nursery Staff Safe Sanctuary
Training
3:00 pm Bargains on the Bluff
Planning Meeting
5:00 pm Evening Worship

Monday, August 31

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Wednesday, September 2

5:30 pm Sunday School Volunteer
Training
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, September 3

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

SUNDAY, August 30, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"Inside Out: Joy"
(Scripture - Psalm 126)
Rev. Mike Holly

5:00pm Evening Worship Service
Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 72
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
8:45 Doran 11:00 Arthur
Acolytes
8:45-Will Thompson
11:00-Carolyne Hecklinski
Greeters: New Horizons
Communion Setup 5pm: Lois Truss
Meals on Wheels: Schultz/Hardy
Food Pantry September 2: Theresa Richerson

Last Week's Record

August 23, 2015

Children	74
Morning Worship	516
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$18,026.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$906,882.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$890,312.23
New Members in 2015	15

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$11,853.34
Received to Date	\$797,027.54

**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.