



Joy to the World BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street Hoover, AL 35226 205.822.0910

November 29, 2015

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

Worship Services

Sunday Morning Worship

Sundays @ 8:45am and 11:00am
featuring our Advent Sermon Series

Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday, December 20th @ 8:45 am and
11:00 am

Advent Morning Prayer

Thursday mornings @ 7:30am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24th @ 4:00pm and 6:00pm

Holiday Events and Activities

Christmas on the Bluff Choir Concert

December 6th @ 6:30pm

Festival of the Three Kings

Saturday, December 12th

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 13th @ 5:00pm

This coming Sunday, we begin the season of Advent at Bluff Park UMC. This is a special time of year when we place the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary along with the Advent Wreath and many other signs of Advent and Christmas. Technically, the season of Advent is the beginning of a new year in the life of each liturgically-centered church. Our new year begins with four Sundays looking forward to the coming or arrival of the Christ child. In that way, Advent is the time of preparing our hearts, our minds, and our congregations to receive God's great gift of His own self...His own Son...for us.

In our celebration of Advent this year, we will focus on the way in which God invested Himself into His creation. We read in the Scriptures that God chose to gift His Son to us in order to grant us grace, grant us His divine presence, and to correct our paths. Much like in the season of Lent where we are asked to consider how our lives are either in tune, or out of tune with God, Advent is also a time for self-reflection.

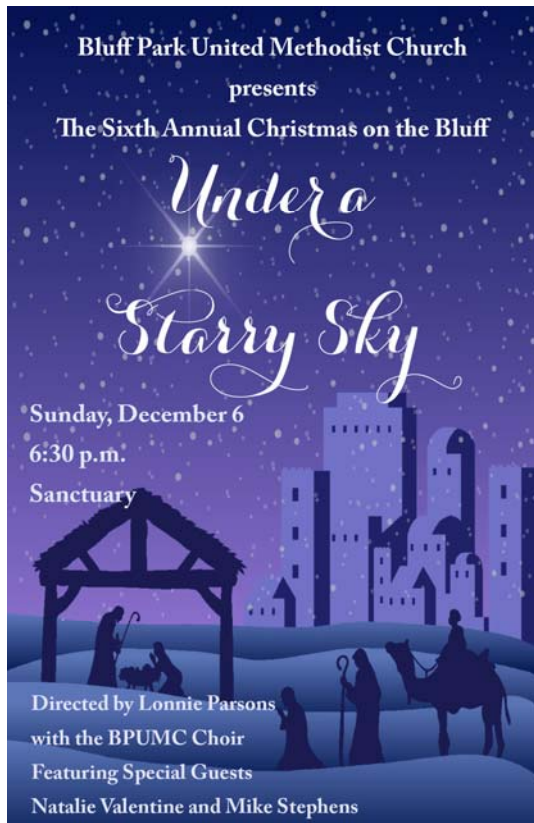
We will be inviting our congregation to consider one main question: What are we putting out into the world? When Jesus Christ was born, joy spread like wildfire. Good news was proclaimed throughout the region. Are we passing along joy and good news in our lives? If not, this Advent is a time for us to recommit to living in God's reality instead of slipping into the world striving to exist without Him.

We begin the season of Advent with hope as we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. That is fitting isn't it? For it is by hope and by faith that we gain the courage to fully commit to God's kingdom and to God's future for us all.

Mike



News of the Week



IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AT BLUFF PARK

The decorations are up, and the Christmas season is shifting into high gear here at the church. The Ham Mountain hams will be distributed through the food pantry on December 2nd. December 6th, we present our 6th annual Christmas on the Bluff choir concert at 6:30 pm. Festival of the Three Kings gifts are arriving and the event is coming up on December 12th. The Children's Ministry is preparing for the Christmas Pageant on December 13th, and the Senior Ministry has a full slate of trips and events during the month of December.

Our special Christmas worship services include a weekly Advent Morning Prayer Service on Thursdays at 7:30 am, Lessons and Carols at 8:45 am and 11:00 am on December 20th, and Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm on December 24th. Make sure to extend an invitation to a friend or neighbor to join us as we celebrate Christ's birth this season.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends in Mission, Your generosity during our campaign to raise funds for community service projects at Birmingham Southern College touched us all. Thanks to you, our "Loafing for Service-Learning" was successful. There are many issues that face the Church today, and teaching generosity remains central. Thank you for being a living reminder of generous hearts. Sincerely yours, Kristin Harper, Director of Bunting Center for Engaged Study and Community Action, Rev. Julie Holly, Chaplain, and Laura Sisson, Director of Church Relations.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

The fun and famous Chick fil-a cows are here to help the Little Imaginations Preschool raise money. Their 2016 Cow calendar is now available through our program. Each calendar costs only \$7.00 and features 12 great offers for free Chick fil-A items.

HAM MOUNTAIN

There are just a few more days left to build the mountain. During the month of November, we are collecting canned hams for Ham Mountain. These hams will be distributed through the Bluff Park UMC food bank on December 2nd. Drop off your hams in the Narthex on Sunday. Ham Mountain is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Advent Morning Prayer will begin on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:30 AM in the sanctuary. This is a service of Prayer, Scripture and Holy Communion. The service will be held on each Thursday morning of Advent (December 3, 10, 17 and 24). The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Jewell Riley who passed away on November 23rd. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Elaine Clinton—University



Christmas Poinsettias

Reserve your beautiful poinsettia now to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas. They cost is \$15.00* per plant payable to the church.

Deadline for ordering is December 14th.

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

Return order form and payment to the church office.

*The plants this year will be a bit smaller than previous years, but no less beautiful!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND PARTY: The Children's Christmas Pageant and Party will be held on Sunday, December 13th. The Pageant will begin at 5:00 in the chapel and will be immediately followed by a Party in the gym that will include snacks, Santa, crafts, and a mission project! We hope to see you all there! If your child would like to be in the Pageant and has not signed up yet, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: In order to abide by the Safe Sanctuary Policy of our church, we are in need of one adult volunteer for each session of Children's Church. This person will assist Mr. Stanley in crowd control and leading the worship service. There is no pre-planning for this volunteer spot. Simply show up and worship with Mr. Stanley and the children! Please sign up at <http://vols.pt/22XY7w> if you would like to volunteer in Children's Church, or contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: This Sunday (11/29) will be our first Sunday School lesson on Advent. We will be lighting the candle of Hope on our Advent Wreath and talking about how Jesus brought and continues to bring hope at Christmas.

STUDENT MINISTRY

FALL RETREAT - CENTERED 2015 Our students returned on Sunday, November 22nd, from a weekend at Sumatanga. We joined with students from Mountain Chapel UMC in Vestavia, Trussville FUMC and Cullman FUMC to get away from the COMMOTION, reclaim our COMMUNITY, and be in COMMUNION with Christ. A number of our students who attended now want to attend summer camps at Sumatanga, some for the first time. If you'd like to help make this possible, please consider giving to our Youth Trip Fund through our church's financial office.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ONE NIGHT FOR OUR HOMELESS & VETERANS Twenty four students and four adults spent last Tuesday night and Wednesday morning outside on our church campus, collecting winter clothing for the homeless and distributing information on our church's new Veterans Leadership Ministry. We were all so moved by the support of our church family. We especially want to thank the Shepherd's Center who provided breakfast. We have just finished itemizing and packing all of the items for distribution to area homeless ministries and our students cannot wait to do this again next year!

HOLY GROUND IN DECEMBER - ADVENT We'll have an Advent-themed series on Wednesdays, December 2nd, 9th and 16th. Since there won't be dinner upstairs on the 9th and 16th, please bring \$5 for a light snack supper at 5:30pm. Our worship on the 16th will include a Homecoming for all of our college students home for the break. The worship service will continue to be 6:30-7:30pm.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING FALL SCHEDULE. There's so much going on as we end the fall and get ready for 2016: Discovery Weekend, Confirmation Class 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.

SAVE THESE DATES: Saturday, December 12: *Festival of Three Kings*; Friday-Sunday, January 29-31: *Discovery Weekend*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 29, 10:00am
Sunday, November 29
Wednesday, December 2, 4:30pm
Wednesday, December 2, 5:30pm
Wednesday, December 2, 6:30pm

Sunday School in the Youth Wing
NO AFTERNOON/EVENING EVENTS
Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Hang Out on the Youth Wing
Holy Ground Worship on the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30
THURSDAY DECEMBER 3
TUESDAY DECEMBER 8

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15
THURSDAY DECEMBER 17

NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS TRIP
SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas Memories
SANTA'S WORKSHOP, lunch and maybe a surprise or two. Go with us for a day of fun and excitement. Call Betty.
SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas around The world with Niki Sepsas.
SHEPHERD'S CENTER Santa's Workshop Huntsville Day Trip. Call Betty
SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas Party, Santa will be here and a very special Mystery Musical Group???? come see, come hear, come enjoy. The fun starts at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. This will be the last meeting of our Shepherd's Center until January 7, 2016..

Christmas Stockings for Our Sick/Shut-ins

Extend the spirit of Christmas to our shut-ins. Stockings will be available at the Welcome Center on Sunday, December 6. Please pick one up, fill it with surprises, and deliver at your convenience.

Special Moment with Jesus

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. Isaiah 2:2



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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Lonnie Parsons
Organist,
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of November 29—December 5

Sunday, November 29
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
3:30 pm Family Advent Night
Monday, November 30
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, December 1
9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
Wednesday, December 2
9:00 am Food Pantry
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
6:00 pm Family Movie
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, December 3
7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
Friday, December 4
2:00 pm Preschool Christmas Party

SUNDAY, November 29, 2015
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"And Yet, There Is Hope"
(Scripture - Jeremiah 33:14-16)
Rev. Angela Martin

No Evening Worship Service

Lectionary Scripture Readings
Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-36

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Doran 11:00 Arthur

Cross

8:45 Vivi Shanlever 11:00 Mary El Neal

Acolyte

8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Kate Ryan Black

Greeters: New Horizons

Meals on Wheels: Agent

Advent Communion Setup:

Joan

Food Pantry December 2:

Kay Adams/Penny Burns

Midweek Meetup—Wednesday, December 2
Christmas Dinner and Family Movie

Last Week's Record

November 22, 2015

Children/Youth	95/62
Morning Worship	431
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$21,635.50
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,253,591.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,254,115.73
New Members in 2015	24

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,276.67
Received to Date	\$916,842.54

**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.