



Joy to the World BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street Hoover, AL 35226 205.822.0910

December 6, 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

As we enter into the final month of 2015, we are also moving into the last month of the Living Our Legacy campaign that began three years ago. This capital campaign began just a little more than half a year before I arrived at Bluff Park UMC. It started in response to the needs of our church, and its ministry and mission in that we have outgrown our current Fellowship Hall, and our children and youth have outdated spaces for their ministries. A Building Team is currently working on a plan to create and renovate ministry space, and we hope to be able to present a plan to the congregation in 2016. If you have made a pledge to the Living Our Legacy campaign, we hope that you will faithfully complete your giving in December. We know that some families will need to continue giving in 2016 to reach their commitment and we are thankful for their continued faithfulness. If you have not made a gift to this campaign, please consider doing so by giving a financial gift to either "Living Our Legacy" or the "Building Fund."

For the first time in a very long time, our church is not going to start a new capital campaign in 2016. While we still will need financial contributions to our building fund to begin the preparations for construction and to continue paying for our current ministry space, we did not want to begin a new campaign without plans for the proposed new spaces. This means that many will have the opportunity to invest their capital campaign giving into new opportunities. First, you may choose to continue to give to the "Building Fund" just as you always have. This is an important and needed option. Second, you may choose to move your capital campaign giving into the General Budget by increasing your pledge. This will help us in starting new missional opportunities and ministries in 2016. Or third, you may choose to invest your capital campaign giving into a specific mission opportunity such as the Imagine No Malaria Campaign or the Easter Love Gift.

When our church is ready to move forward on the plans for new space for mission and ministry, we will need to begin a new capital campaign. This will most likely occur as we move closer to 2017. In the meantime, our giving can continue to make an impact in and through our church. Thank you for your generosity!

Mike



News of the Week

CELEBRATING GIFTS AND YEAR-END GIVING

Churches typically receive as much as 25% of our gifts in the last two months of the year. As you make your plans to complete your 2015 financial commitment, here are three additional possibilities for resources beyond cash gifts. Please note that these possibilities are listed for educational purposes. Please consult your personal advisor for your specific information.

Gifts of Appreciated Stocks or Bonds

You can transfer ownership of stocks, bonds or mutual funds to the church and receive a charitable tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the securities on the date of the transfer. This avoids the capital gains tax while giving the church the benefit of the full value of the security. To receive this benefit, it is important to transfer ownership before the security is sold. For your gift to apply to the current tax year, the securities must be in the account of the local church (or our Foundation) by December 31st. So, allow plenty of lead time for your broker to complete this transaction.

Gifts of Real Estate

A charitable gift of real estate can be especially tax advantageous. If a home, vacation home, acreage or farm property has appreciated in value over the years - its sale could result in a sizable capital gains tax. If the real estate is given to the church prior to the sale, you can avoid the tax and realize a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the real estate. One could even consider a bargain sale transaction with half of the funds to the church and the other half to the donor.

Gifts of Life Insurance

When you name the church as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy, it usually offers you a tax advantage in the year you make the gift. You can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift. Additionally, continued payments of premiums qualify as charitable tax deductions each year.

FESTIVAL OF THREE KINGS REMINDER

Festival of Three Kings gifts are due by Sunday, December 6? Please bring them to the church office.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

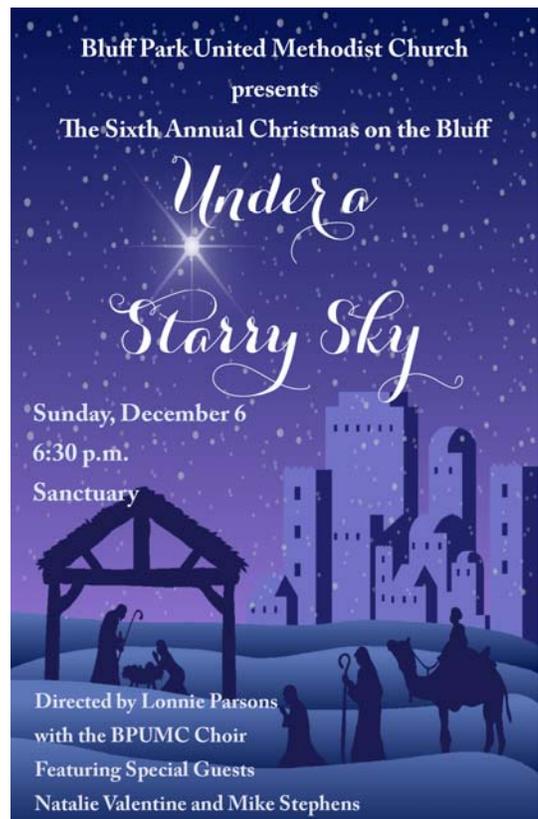
The fun and famous Chick fil-a cows are here to help the Little Imaginations Preschool raise money. Their 2016 Cow calendar is now available through our program. Each calendar costs only \$7.00 and features 12 great offers for free Chick fil-A items.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Advent Morning Prayer has begun on Thursdays 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.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Elaine Clinton—University
Butch Hopper—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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CHRISTMAS REHEARSAL NIGHT: On Wednesday, December 9th, there will be a choir practice with Miss Rebecca from 5:00-6:00 for those children who would like to sing a song in both worship services on December 20th, and then a Christmas Pageant rehearsal from 6:00-7:00 for those children who will be participating in the Christmas Pageant. A snack will be provided for the children who attend. We hope to see you all there!

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! If you would like to volunteer in Children's Church, please sign up at <http://vols.pt/22XY7w> or contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS WEEK: This Sunday (12/6) will be our second Sunday School lesson on Advent. We will be lighting the candle of Peace on our Advent Wreath and talking about how Jesus brought and continues to bring peace at Christmas.

STUDENT MINISTRY

HOLY GROUND IN DECEMBER - ADVENT We'll have an Advent-themed series on Wednesdays in December through the 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. Holy Ground will continue to be 6:30-7:30pm.

FESTIVAL OF THREE KINGS - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH Once again, our students are sponsoring a child this year. Bart will text students and email parents on the when and where for our shopping excursion for their gifts. There are service hour opportunities for students who want to organize and tag gifts as they are received at the church. Contact Bart to volunteer. Then we'll meet on the morning of December 12th to load and distribute the gifts. Youth parents: check your email for details for that date.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - HELP OUR STUDENTS SPREAD THE JOY Our students will go Christmas caroling to homes in our community on Sunday evening, December 20th. If you know someone who is a shut-in or who has experienced the loss of a loved one or who just enjoys the company of young people, please contact Bart at barts@bpumc.org with contact info. We will do our best to add them as a stop on our route that night.

THANK YOU ALLEN WORD! After many years volunteering with our students, Allen has stepped back in order to devote more time to his family. He will continue to coordinate our church's Bass Club. We are all grateful for his dedication to youth ministry throughout the years. Thanks Allen!

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, December 6, 10:00am
Sunday, November 6, 4:00pm
Wednesday, December 9, 4:30pm
Wednesday, December 9, 5:30pm
Wednesday, December 9, 6:30pm
Saturday, December 12

Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Hang Out on the Youth Wing
Holy Ground Worship on the Youth Wing
Festival of Three Kings

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8

SANTA'S WORKSHOP, lunch and maybe a surprise or two. Go with us for a day of fun and excitement. Call Betty.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas around The world with Niki Sepsas.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15

SHEPHERD'S CENTER Santa's Workshop Huntsville Day Trip. Call Betty

THURSDAY DECEMBER 17

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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NON-PROFIT ORG.
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Secretary, ext. 111
Catherine Ward, cward@bpumc.org
Director of Worship Music,
Lonnie Parsons
Organist,
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of December 6—December 12

Sunday, December 6

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
6:30 pm Christmas on the Bluff

Monday, December 7

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
4:00 pm UMW Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 8

8:30 pm Maintenance
9:30 am Becky Walker's Bible Study
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, December 9

6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Board of Trustees

Thursday, December 10

7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer
9:30 am Shepherd's Center

Friday, December 11

12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon
12:00 pm Opportunity Class Luncheon

Saturday, December 12

1:00 pm Festival of Three Kings

SUNDAY, December 6, 2015

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
"Preparing To Receive"
(Scripture - Luke 1:68-79)
Rev. Mike Holly

No Evening Worship Service

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
8:45 Thompson 11:00 Vitality
Cross
8:45 Jonathan Kerns 11:00 Tate Turner
Acolyte
8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Avery Edwards
Greeters: Opportunity
Meals on Wheels: Shultz/Hardy
Advent Communion Setup:
Janet Trucks
Food Pantry January 6:
Kay Adams/Penny Burns

Last Week's Record

November 29, 2015

Children/Youth	72/40
Morning Worship	433
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$16,094.64
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,280,264.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,270,210.37
New Members in 2015	24

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$880.00
Received to Date	\$917,722.54

**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.