



Joy to the World BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street Hoover, AL 35226 205.822.0910

December 13, 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

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 13th @ 5:00pm

The Christmas on the Bluff presentation this past Sunday was just wonderful. I know our choir and volunteers worked for many hours on putting the entire production together and it showed. Hopefully, all who attended last Sunday night were touched with the good news that each and every one of them is deeply loved by God. When you discover what that truly means (that you are deeply loved by God), I think that puts you on a journey of falling in love with God. When you embark on that journey, I believe that the end result is that you find life along the way. Lonnie Parsons and the whole crew, including our special guests, did a wonderful job helping us all remember where we are on the journey from "Why" to Bethlehem.

This coming Sunday, we will turn our attention to the Old Testament Lectionary reading from Isaiah 12. This psalm of thanksgiving and praise reminds us that we are to trust in God, and to let fear fall away from us. As we heard from an un-muted Zechariah last Sunday, the light will shine in the darkness as God's new dawn breaks in, eliminating both darkness and fear. Isaiah reminds us that God is both strength and might. His love and protection allow us to live with joy as long as we can learn to lose ourselves and live for Him.

Let's join together again this Sunday to sing praises of thanksgiving and trust to God on December 13th. Don't forget that we will have a special worship service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 20th, at both 8:45 and 11:00 am.

Mike



News of the Week

Memorials

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Hazel Drake by Sally Furse

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND
Louise Sturdivant by Bob Sturdivant

FOOD PANTRY
Ann Bass by Mary B. Wyatt
Earl Harper by Pony Thompson

NEVERTHIRST
Jim and Tom Lyle by Pony Thompson

Honorariums

PASTORS DISCRETIONARY FUND
Richard Joiner by Helen Stewart
JB Thrasher by Helen Stewart

Please Note: Some Memorials and Honorariums are not listed by the request of the donors.

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—Lakeshore

INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR...

Christmas is a time of year when people are often receptive to an invitation to church. We have prepared a color postcard with an invitation to our Lessons & Carols service on one side and Christmas Eve worship on the other that you can use to invite someone to church. The cards are available at the Welcome desk in the Narthex, and also in the church office. One fun idea is to tape a mini candy cane to each card before sharing them.

FLOWER MINISTRY THANK YOU

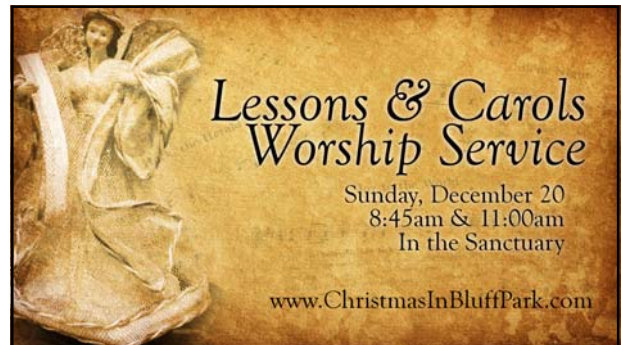
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They have brightened our day. Thanks to Pam for the nice visit. We are so blessed to belong to such a caring church.—Charles and Carolyn Arthur

2016 ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2016 Flower Calendar is now posted in the office and there are plenty of dates open (for now!) 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: January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

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.



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 look forward to seeing 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 (12/12) will be our third Sunday School lesson on Advent. We will be lighting the candle of Joy on our Advent Wreath and talking about how Jesus brought and continues to bring joy at Christmas.

STUDENT MINISTRY

HOLY GROUND HOMECOMING - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH We finish our Advent-themed worship series on Wednesday, December 16th. This is also our Homecoming for all of our college students. So make sure to join us for FREE New China (while it lasts) before we worship. Food starts at 5:30pm. Worship at 6:30pm.

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.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING WINTER/SPRING SCHEDULE. There is 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: Friday-Sunday, January 29-31: *Discovery Weekend*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 13, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, December 13, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 16, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 16, 5:30pm	Hang Out & Dinner on the Youth Wing
Wednesday, December 16, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Homecoming on the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>THURSDAY DECEMBER 10</u>	SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Christmas around The world with Niki Sepsas.
<u>TUESDAY DECEMBER 15</u>	SHEPHERD'S CENTER Santa's Workshop Huntsville Day Trip. Call Betty
<u>WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16</u>	ALABAMA NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY Christmas Wreath Tour, in Montevallo, with Jeff Jones and Mystery Lunch??? Call Betty.
<u>THURSDAY DECEMBER 17</u>	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. Bring a white elephant gift and a bar of soap. The soap will be given to the Church of the Reconciler.

Special Moment with Jesus

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Psalm 98:4



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUTO
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816**

Pastors

- Mike Holly, mholly@bpumc.org, ext. 104
- Angela Martin, amartin@bpumc.org, ext. 107
- Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112
- Director of Senior Ministries**, ext. 103
- Betty Hottenstein, bhottenstein@bpumc.org
- Director of Student Ministries**, ext. 118
- Bart Styes, barts@bpumc.org
- Director of Children's Ministries**, ext. 105
- Stanley Davidson, sdavidson@bpumc.org
- Director of Finance and Administration**, ext. 117
- Jason McCrory, jmccrory@bpumc.org
- Financial Manager**, ext. 101
- Joe Pitard, jpitard@bpumc.org
- 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**,
- Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
- Preschool Director**,
- Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of December 13—December 19

- Sunday, December 13**
- 8:45 am Morning Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Morning Worship Service
- 2:00 pm Vision Steering Team
- 3:00 pm Cornerstone Cookie Swap
- 5:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant
- 6:00 pm Children's Christmas Party
- Monday, December 14**
- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Wednesday, December 16**
- 11:00 am Preschool Christmas Party
- 5:30 pm SPRC Meeting
- 6:00 pm Men's Chorus
- 6:00 pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30 pm Choir
- Thursday, December 17**
- 7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer
- 9:30 am Shepherd's Center
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee

- SUNDAY, December 13, 2015**
- 8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
- "Drawing Water with Joy"*
- (Scripture - Isaiah 12:2-6)
- Rev. Mike Holly
- No Evening Worship Service**
- Lectionary Scripture Readings**
- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Philippians 4:4-7
- Luke 3:7-18
- SERVING SUNDAY**
- Ushers**
- 8:45 Thompson 11:00 Vitality
- Cross**
- 8:45 Lauren Gates 11:00 Abbey Gray
- Acolyte**
- 8:45 Caroline Marshall 11:00 Preston Scott
- Greeters: Seekers**
- Meals on Wheels: Kaufhold**
- Advent Communion Setup:**
- Betsy Guy

Last Week's Record

December 6, 2015

Children	76
Morning Worship	555
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$29,860.04
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,306,937.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,300,070.41
New Members in 2015	25

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$5,572.00
Received to Date	\$923,294.54

**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.