



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter January 10, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



It is the start of a new year at Bluff Park UMC and that means a new year of possibilities as a church family! At the beginning of the year, we have decided to focus in our morning worship services on two themes. We began a three-week sermon series this past Sunday on “Breaking Bad Religion.” We will continue for the next two Sundays as we try to determine what it means to have good religion as we compare it to religion that is void of meaning and purpose as it has turned inward. Then, starting in late January, we will move into a three-week sermon series on Forgiveness. We have so many instances in our lives together where we have damaged one another by our actions or by our inaction.

Forgiveness not only sets things right, but it also heals the wounds over time. This is true not only in the wounds of those we have damaged, but also in our own hearts as well.

My family moved into a new home in 2015 and I was told by the previous resident that the recycling truck only came every other week and only took items inside the large recycling bin. They would not, he said, take any other recyclables outside of the bin. I wanted to test this out, and did recently, and it is absolutely true. On Monday, they came to take our recycling and it is 3/4 of the way full now with recyclable materials from Christmas and New Year’s. We still have two more weeks before the next pick up is scheduled and so, we will have to simply be patient until then.

In a way, our spiritual core is much like that recycling bin. It can become full very quickly with all of the distractions and to do lists that take our focus away from God. That is, unless we regularly empty our spiritual bin. What this means is that we as human beings need to regularly forgive one another and make amends lest our hearts begin to drown under the weight of it all. And like those recycled items which have great worth once they are mended, our forgiving one another creates a second chance and a new life for each of us. So you see, a life without forgiveness is cluttered in pain and filth, but a life lived to forgive is a life well lived and well loved.

A New Year of MidWeek Meetups

A new year of MidWeek Meetup activities has already begun. In addition to our weekly meal time and fun activities, we have a number of learning opportunities. The Pastor’s Bible Study resumes at 4:30pm and 6:30pm. We are starting a Screamfree parenting seminar, a special UMW sponsored mission study on Latin America, led by Tom Duley, and a women’s study led by Angela Martin.



In addition to these new learning opportunities, we continue to have activities for the kids, Youth Worship, choir rehearsals, and Prayer Shawl Ministry, or you can just hang out and have a little coffee and conversation. We look forward to meeting up with you on Wednesday nights!

News of the Week

BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULE FOR 2016

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Bluff Park UMC gym on Sunday, January 10th, from 7:30am–12:30pm. Please make time to stop by and give the gift of life. A Red Cross Donor Card or photo ID is required to make a donation. To schedule an appointment to donate, call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit their website at RedCrossBlood.org and use the keyword BPUMC.

MISSION STUDY: LATIN AMERICA

On Wednesdays in January, the UMW will be sponsoring a church-wide mission study on Latin America. We will explore the history of the region, its people, and their faith, from pre-Colombian times until colonization and the struggle for independence. Classes will be led by Tom Duley in the Fireside Room starting at 6:00pm.

NEW WOMEN'S STUDY

Beginning on Wednesday, January 13, Rev. Angela Martin will be leading this new study in the Fireside Room. The new study is titled "Anonymous."

STATE OF THE CHURCH

We will hold a State of the Church meeting during the Sunday school hour on January 31st in the Sanctuary. Our church leadership will bring everyone up to speed on where we are with our 2016 pledges and budget as well as providing any other new information as we begin a new year together as a church. All classes are requested to attend.

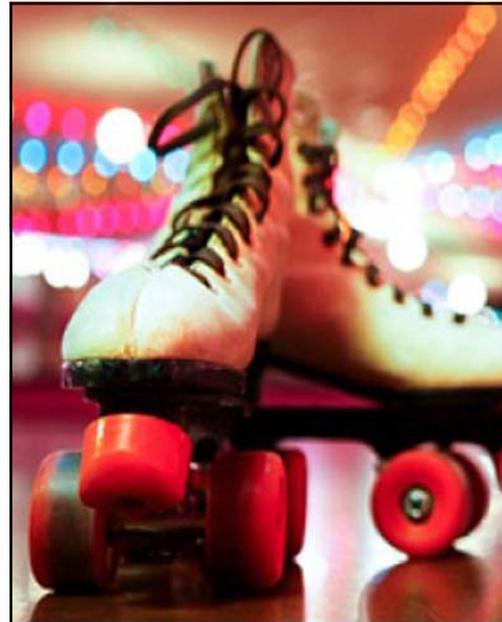
VIM SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

In September/October of 2015 the State of South Carolina was hit with catastrophic flooding due to Hurricane Joaquin. The recovery effort from this disaster is now in the rebuilding stage. Bluff Park Volunteers in Mission will be travelling to South Carolina to assist in the rebuilding efforts there. The dates are March 13-

19, 2016. At this time it looks like we will be in the Columbia area but this could change as we get closer to the date. We will be travelling in the church van. Please let Tom Duley know if you would like to be a part of this team.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Sam Prudhomme—UAB



SKATE NIGHT! Church -Wide Skate Party

January 17th from 5:00-7:00pm

@ Roller Motion
2474 Morgan Road
Bessemer, Alabama

Memorials

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Jewell Riley by Ellen Ferrell, Yvonne Kirkland, Sue Crunk, Myra Gray

Trudy Lawyer by Bill Lawyer

Hazel Drake by Sue Crunk, Myra Gray

Thelma Skeahan by Sue Crunk, Myra Gray

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Louise Sturdivant by Bob Sturdivant

FOOD PANTRY

Bobbie Jo Ashworth by Kenny Adams

Mr. and Mrs. Emmet McFadden by Daniel and Jimmie Faye McFadden

CHRISTIAN CROCKETT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Darla Brown by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hill

WHITE CHRISTMAS

John Pearson by Jack and Sue Pearson

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Abston, Sr. by Daniel and Jimmie Faye McFadden

Michael Thompson by Pony Thompson

Honorariums

FOOD PANTRY

Becky Walker by Pony Thompson, Fred von Herrmann
Norma and Ray Thweat by Beth, Michael, Nathan, and Amelia Johnston

MUSIC FUND

Mahala McKinney by Gene and Jean Brown

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MIDWEEK MEETUP IS BACK!!! Midweek Meetup happens every week from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more. Each week this winter/spring a Bible verse will be given to everyone who attends. A prize will be given every week to anyone who has memorized their weekly verse. Then, on one of the last Midweek Meetups of the fall, any child who has memorized all of the Bible verses will get to play during recreation on a giant inflatable water slide! Will you accept the challenge?!?!?!?

FAMILY SKATE NIGHT: We will be having a Church-Wide Skate Night on Sunday, January 17th, at Roller Motion (2474 Morgan Road in Bessemer.) The party goes from 5-7pm. All skate rentals and dinner are free! We encourage you to attend as a family and bring your friends.

MISSION TRIP/FIELD TRIP: Our next mission trip/field trip will be on Martin Luther King Day, January 18th. We will be going Ice Skating at the Pelham Civic Center in the morning, eating lunch at Chow Town, and then spending the afternoon shopping for supplies to help a local backpack ministry that sends food home with elementary aged children who are not getting enough to eat at home. Drop off will begin at 7:30, we will leave the church at 10:00, and pickup will be at the church between 4:30 and 5:30. Please RSVP with Melissa Hendon atmhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible as we only have 26 spots available.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates over the next two months: January 24, 31 and February 14, 21, 28. 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 contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: For the month of January, we will be studying the baptism of Jesus in our Sunday School Rotation through discussion, art, food, and science!

STUDENT MINISTRY

BLUFF PARK SKI PARTY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 5-7PM We're turning the youth parking lot into our very own ski resort....minus the snow. We'll have hot chocolate and cider, games, food and a bonfire. As well, we'll be sharing some really fun options for future events that students can vote on. Then later in the year, we'll do the one with the most votes. If you haven't come before on a Sunday night or even if it's just been awhile, then we'll see you at the party. This winter is all about making new memories with your friends in our youth group in 2016. (If it rains, we'll move inside!)

DISCOVERY WEEKEND - FRIDAY-SATURDAY, JANUARY 29-31 This is the single most important spiritual formation in our student ministry each year. High school and college students will work to serve our middle school students - modeling them what it means to live out the Great Commandment of Matthew Chapter 22. There will be games, gifts, snacks, meals and free t-shirts which the students enjoy. But most importantly, there will be worship, prayer, discussions and testimony - all provided by our older students for our younger students.

- ⇒ We want you and your friends to experience this great example of God's love for them
- ⇒ Visit www.bpumc.org/msdiscovery to register your 6th-8th grader
- ⇒ Visit www.bpumc.org/hsdiscovery to register your 9th-12th grader

Discovery Weekend IS OPEN to non-members. Just remember: Because you serve as leaders, high school students attend for FREE. Please make sure your friends understand this before they register.

The cost for middle school students is only \$75 for the weekend. You can register now and pay later. We want you to invite all your friends so please don't let the price be a roadblock. We are happy to provide financial assistance for anyone who wants to attend. Just email Bart at barts@bpumc.org to set that up.

We know that there are scheduling conflicts almost every weekend of the year. Students can come and go if they have a recital, practice, audition, game, etc. We just need to know before that weekend.

SAVE THESE DATES: Friday-Sunday, January 29-31: *Discovery Weekend.*

THIS WEEK

Sunday, January 10, 10:00am

Sunday, January 10, 4:00pm

Sunday, January 10, 5:00pm

Wednesday, January 13, 4:30pm

Wednesday, January 13, 5:30pm

Wednesday, January 13, 6:30pm

Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Bluff Park Ski Party

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Hang Out & Dinner on the Youth Wing

Holy Ground Homecoming on the Youth Wing

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

THANKS to everyone who filled and delivered Christmas Stockings to our sick/shut-ins. To Stanley and the Children's Department for the beautiful Christmas cards - to Bart and the Youth for visiting and sharing our beautiful Christmas Carol's. What a wonderful Christmas Gift you delivered to our sick/shut-ins.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY JANUARY 12

THURSDAY JANUARY 14

THURSDAY JANUARY 21

MYSTERY TRIP/LUNCH - Call Betty.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Program by Buddy Majors, McCall Baptist Church.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - A Medicare Benefit Advisor will bring up-date information on Medicare.

Special Moment with Jesus

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. James 1:17



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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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 January 10—16

Sunday, January 10

7:30 am Blood Drive
8:30 am Safe Sanctuary Training
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
6:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting

Monday, January 11

9:00 am UMW Executive Committee
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
10:00 am UMW General Meeting

Tuesday, January 12

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

Wednesday, January 13

9:00 am Anonymous Bible Study
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
6:00 pm UMW Mission Study
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, January 14

9:30 am Shepherd's Center
6:00 pm Finance Committee

SUNDAY, January 10, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Acts 27:16-34

"Spiritual, But Not Religious"

Rev. Mike Holly

No Evening Worship Service

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Nelson 11:00 Dover

Cross

8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Harrison Winter

Acolyte

8:45 Vivi Shanlever

11:00 Carolyne Hecklinski

Greeters: Canterbury

Meals on Wheels: McCallum

Midweek Meetup January 13th: Hamburger steak, green beans, rice, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

January 3, 2015

Children	102
Morning Worship	488
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$24,573.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$26,673.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$24,573.00
New Members in 2016	0

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$575.00
Received to Date	\$942,882.87

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2016 budget.*

**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.