



733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter February 14, 2016

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

[www.BluffParkUMC.org](http://www.BluffParkUMC.org)



Lent begins on Wednesday, February 10th (Ash Wednesday). So, what is Lent? According to the Upper Room Ministries website:

*Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God. Lent is always the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (like a tithe of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday. This year it's from February 10 (Ash Wednesday) to March 27 (Easter), 2016.*

## Top Ten Things You Can Do During Lent

10. **Try an electronic fast.** Give up TV, Facebook, texting, tweeting, e-mail and all things electronic for one day every week. (Or everyday of Lent!) Use the time to read & pray.
9. **Start a prayer rhythm.** Each day of Lent, set a specific time and place and ritual for prayer.
8. **Go deeper into the Bible.** Begin a daily devotional
7. **Forgive someone who doesn't deserve it (maybe even yourself.)**
6. **Give up soft drinks, fast food, tea or coffee.**
5. **Create a daily quiet time.** Spend 10 minutes a day in silence and prayer.
4. **Cultivate a life of gratitude.** Write someone a thank you letter each week and be aware of how many people have helped you along the way.
3. **Volunteer one hour or more each week** with a local shelter, tutoring program, nursing home, prison ministry, etc.
2. **Participate in the Spiritual Formation Plan at BPUMC by signing up to receive a prayer journal.**
1. **Pray for others you see as you walk to and from classes or drive to and from work.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Where do the ashes for Ash Wednesday come from?*

On what we now call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem while people waved palms and cheered him on. Less than a week later, Jesus was killed. The palms that were waved in joy became ashes of sorrow. We get ashes for Ash Wednesday by saving the palms from Palm Sunday, burning them, and mixing them with a little oil. It's symbolic.



# News of the Week

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## MISSION FAIR

There will be a Mission Fair in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 14th from 8 AM to Noon. The mission fair will serve to introduce the congregation to the ministries and agencies which the Missions Committee has chosen to receive funding from the 2016 Easter Love Offering. Please take some time to come by and learn about the agencies and the work that they do. The 2016 Easter Love Offering is sponsored by the BP UMC United Appeal Fund.

## CARE'N'CONTACT SUNDAY

Help care for our sick/shut-ins - Sunday School Classes and individuals. Send Cards, make a Phone Call, Easter Baskets, Christmas Stocking, Visit, Etc. Stop by the WELCOME CENTER to sign-up. If you would like to keep the same person you, or your class now care for - just let us know.

## LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

During the season of Lent, we will gather together each Thursday morning at 7:30 am, starting on February 18th, for a service of prayer. We invite you to join us in the Sanctuary as we prepare ourselves to meet the risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

## 14TH ANNUAL ORGAN RECITAL

Gail Archer, the college organist at Vassar College, and director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University, will perform an organ recital at Bluff Park United Methodist Church on February 28 at 4:00 pm. A reception will follow the performance.

## OVER THE MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL CHORUS

The Over the Mountain Festival Chorus and Chamber Orchestra will be performing in the Sanctuary at Bluff Park UMC on Sunday, February 14, at 4:00 pm.

## ROCK-A-THON AND SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, February 27 the McCoy Adult Day Care Center will be hosting its annual fundraiser event at St. Marks UMC. The event includes food, music by the Beatlads, and a silent auction. The Bluff Park Rocking Team will be visiting Sunday School classes over the next few weeks with more information. McCoy provides a variety of services to allow fragile and frail adults to main the highest level of independence with dignity, and this event provides the support they need to serve these seniors.

## CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 21st, we're having a Chili/Cornbread/Cookie Cook-off! Adult and youth/children's prizes will be awarded for best entry in each category. Participants arrive at 4:00pm, judging will begin at 4:30pm, dinner served at 5:00pm. Everyone welcome! Sign-up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex on Sunday.

## 2016 ALTAR FLOWERS

There are dates left on the 2016 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: February 21, March 6, and 20, and April 3. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to Jack and Carole Armistead on the passing of their daughter, Elaine Clinton, on February 7th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

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## Prayer Shawls Ministry at Bluff Park UMC

Do you know someone in need of a tangible reminder of God's comfort? Why not bring them a Prayer Shawl? They are available in the library - packaged in gift bags and ready to deliver.

Each shawl is a hand made gift of love that begins with silent prayers and blessings for the recipient. When completed, hands are laid on the shawl and a final group prayer is said over it before the shawl is sent on its way.

**Shawls can be used for:** individuals undergoing medical procedures, as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress, during bereavement, to wear during prayer or meditation, commitment or marriage ceremonies, to celebrate a newborn baby, during an illness and recovery.

If you have any questions or would like to join us in making Prayer Shawls, call Kandis at 985-9463 and leave a message. (If you have a sewing machine we have a project for you, too.)

*We are always grateful for donations of yarn and knitting & crochet tools.*



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**FIELD TRIP/MISSION TRIP:** Our next field trip/mission trip will be on Tuesday, February 16th. We will be making "Thank You" signs, banners, and/or cards for the two ministries that have partnered with us and allowed us to offer these Mission/Field trips over the last year, the Silent Auction and Bargain on the Bluff. Following this, we will be eating lunch at Pizza Hut and then going to see a movie (Kung Fu Panda 3)! Drop off will begin at 7:30, we will start making the signs around 10:00, and pickup will be at the church between 4:30 and 5:30. Please RSVP with Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible as we only have 26 spots available.

**EASTER EGG HUNT HELP:** Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 19th from 9-11. This year, one of our goals is to invite as many children from the community as possible! Because of this, we have set an ambitious goal of collecting and hiding 8000 Easter Eggs at the hunt, and we need your help! Our plan is to collect half of the Easter Eggs (4000) the way our church has traditionally collected them: bags of plastic eggs can be picked up at both entrances on the first floor or in the Narthex, stuffed with candy by those who pick them up, and returned to the same spots when completed. In the hopes of honoring any of our guests who might have allergies of any kind, we would like to purchase the other 4000 Easter Eggs online from a website that will deliver pre-stuffed candy and toy filled eggs to our church.

If you would like to help, you can do so in one of two ways: bags of Easter Eggs can be picked up starting this Sunday, February 7th, and monetary donations for helping us offset the price of purchasing Easter Eggs online can be made out to BPUMC with "Easter Eggs" placed in the memo line. Thank you for helping us make this an exciting and fun event for both our children and the children of our community!

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates and times over the next month: 11:00 on February 21, 8:45 and 11:00 on February 28, 11:00 on March 13th, and 8:45 and 11:00 on March 20 & 27. There is no pre-planning for this volunteer spot: this person will assist Mr. Stanley in crowd control 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 February, we will be studying the The Good Samaritan in our Sunday School Rotation through discussion, art, food, and science!

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**SUNDAY, FEB 14 - ANTI-VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY, 5-7PM** We'll have a snack supper, fun games, a contest where students compete to send Bart the funniest breakup text AND there will be a heart-shaped piñata. As well, some of the married couples from our young adult Sunday School class will participate in a Q&A session on dating/relationships/marriage for the students.

**SUNDAY, FEB 21 - PREFIX, 5:00-6:30PM AT SHADES CREST BAPTIST CHURCH** We are coordinating this event with SCBC and the Addiction Prevention Coalition to empower our community to protect our families, friends and neighbors from drug abuse and addiction. We will meet in their fellowship hall and then move to separate breakout sessions for parents and for students.

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING WINTER/SPRING SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we move deeper into 2016: Confirmation Class, Senior Recognition 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** Sunday, February 21: *PREFIX at Shades Crest Baptist Church (a family oriented Addiction Prevention Event we are coordinating)*; Sunday, April 10: *Confirmation Sunday*.

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 14, 10:00am

Sunday, February 14, 4:00pm

Sunday, February 14, 5pm

Wednesday, February 17, 5:30pm

Wednesday, February 10, 6:30pm

Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Anti-Valentine's Day Party in the Youth Wing (includes a FREE Snack Supper)

Hang Out & Dinner

Holy Ground Worship

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Valentines Day Party and Love Story by Delores Hydock.  
**CARE-N'CONTACT SUNDAY** - Help care for our sick/shut-ins - Sunday School Classes and individuals. Send Cards, make a Phone Call, Easter Baskets, Christmas Stocking, Visit, Etc. Stop by the **WELCOME CENTER** sign-up. If you would like to keep the same person you, or your class now care for - just let us know.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER...** Andy Meginniss and Dan Marson - Civil War and Jazz  
**CLASSIC CAR GARAGE SERVICE STATION MUSEUM, TRUSSVILLE.** Lunch at the Chocolate Biscuit.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25  
THURSDAY MARCH 3  
TUESDAY MARCH 8

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Amazing Pirate Stories with Ray Phillips.  
**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Dr. Larry Michaels will be here...Loving Yourself  
**MYSTERY GARDEN TOUR and Lunch???** Call Betty to sign-up...this will fill up quickly..

SATURDAY, MAY 14

**LADIES DAY RETREAT - SAVE THIS DATE** and plan to join us for a day of Bible Study, Music, Special Guest, Tablescares, Fun, Laughter, and Excitement.

### Special Moment with Jesus

Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.  
Matthew 11:28



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

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BIRMINGHAM, AL  
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### 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  
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**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 February 14—20

### Sunday, February 14

8:00 am Mission Fair  
8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service

### Monday, February 15

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

### Tuesday, February 16

7:30 am Children's Mission Trip  
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 17

9:00 am Anonymous Bible Study  
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
4:30 pm Children's Handbell Choir  
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:15 pm Scream Free Parenting  
6:30 pm Choir  
6:30 pm Communion Service  
7:00 pm 30 Minute Theology

### Thursday, February 18

7:30 am Lenten Morning Prayer  
9:30 am Shepherd's Center  
6:30 pm Finance Committee

SUNDAY, February 14th, 2016  
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Luke 4:1-13

*"Leap of Faith: Falling in Love"*

Rev. Mike Holly

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

### SERVING SUNDAY

**Ushers**

8:45 Adams 11:00 Alley

**Cross**

8:45 Annabelle Eaton

11:00 Mary Lynn Williamson

**Acolyte**

8:45 Natalie Self 11:00 Charlie Redding

**Greeters:** Home Improvement

**Meals on Wheels:** Moore

**Midweek Meetup February 17th:** Meatloaf, rosemary potatoes, lima beans, rolls, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

## Last Week's Record

February 7, 2015

Children/Youth	94/70
Morning Worship	559
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$32,161.54
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$160,038.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$146,665.82
New Members in 2016	6

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,915.00
Received to Date	\$947,319.87

*\*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.