



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter February 21, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



The response to the Leap of Faith Prayer Journal has been amazing! Almost 100 journals were picked up from Ash Wednesday to Sunday morning worship! As part of this commitment, we are encouraging members of our church to engage in daily Scripture reading and daily prayer through this prayer journal. However, that is just the beginning.

Along with these two daily spiritual formation disciplines, we are also encouraging our membership to grow in other areas. Below you will find the ways in which we are hoping that each disciple at Bluff Park will grow during this Lenten season. One of the things that we say each and every Sunday is that we are a church family. And as a family, we should care deeply about one another and the

ways in which we experience life together. We already see such amazing examples as to how Sunday school classes or small groups reach out in love and concern to other members during difficult times. But one thing that we sometimes neglect is that opportunity to reach out to someone and encourage them in their walk with Jesus Christ on a normal, average day.

In order to help set a basic plan for how we live out our lives as disciples together, the areas of covenant below are starting points for each of us. Our hope is to grow above and beyond the first stage of living in prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. But in order to do so, we have to start out at square one and experience the freedom, peace and blessing that comes from Living In Faith Everyday. My prayer is that we all would become a family of encouragers here at Bluff Park UMC!

Lent & Easter Schedule

LIFE I

- Lenten Morning Prayer February 25, 7:30am
- Lenten Morning Prayer March 3, 7:30am
- Lenten Morning Prayer March 10, 7:30am
- Lenten Morning Prayer March 17, 7:30am
- Easter Egg Hunt
and Breakfast March 19, 9:00am
- Palm Sunday Worship March 20, 8:45am & 11:00am
- Lenten Morning Prayer March 24, 7:30am
- Maundy Thursday Worship
and Foot Washing March 24, 6:30pm
- Good Friday Worship March 25, 6:30pm
- Easter Sunday Worship March 27, 8:45am & 11:00am

- PRAYERS** - begin to pray daily, including prayer requests from our church family
- PRESENCE** - regularly attend morning worship and a small group (such as a Sunday school class, Midweek Meetup class, UMW circle, etc.)
- GIFTS** - regularly give to the church to provide ministry and missional help to others.
- SERVICE** - serve in a couple of local mission projects such as Under the Bridge, the Food Pantry, the Day of Service, or others of your choosing.
- WITNESS** - invite at least five people to Sunday worship or another church event.

News of the Week

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

During the season of Lent, we will gather together each Thursday morning at 7:30 am 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.

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 maintain 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.

JOHN ELMORE VISIT

Our missionary partner, John Elmore will be visiting



Easter Lilies

Reserve your beautiful Easter Lily now to remember or honor a loved one at Easter. The cost is \$15.00 per plant payable to the church. Deadline for ordering is March 21st.

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



BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF

Spring/Summer Sale
February 26-27

Help to spread the word. This sale is a great blessing to the families in our community who take part in it, and it also raises money to support the children's ministry here at the church. The doors open at 9:00am both days. For more details visit the website:

BluffParkUMC.org/both

here at Bluff Park UMC on Sunday March 6 in morning worship and during Sunday School. If you would like to welcome him and learn more about his work in Chile, stop by the Fellowship Hall between 10-11:00 am.

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: March 20, and April 17 and 24. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

4:30 PM PASTORS' BIBLE STUDY

A new study is beginning at 4:30 pm called "A Disciple's Path: Deepening Your Relationship With Christ and the Church." We will be studying what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and what that means in our daily and weekly lives.

LEAP OF FAITH FACEBOOK GROUP

A new Facebook Group has been started for everyone participating in the Leap of Faith spiritual formation project. This is a dedicated place for people using our new prayer journal to discuss their thoughts and experiences. To join the group visit:

www.facebook.com/groups/leapoffaithbpumc/

TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH

We still have a few Prayer Journal kits available for anyone who would like to take part in our Leap of Faith journey this spring. Call or stop by the church office to get started.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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: 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 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 co-coordinating)*; Sunday, April 10: *Confirmation Sunday*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 21, 10:00am
Sunday, February 21, 4:00pm
Sunday, February 21, 5pm
Wednesday, February 24, 5:30pm
Wednesday, February 24, 6:30pm

Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
PREFIX Event at Shades Crest Baptist Church
Hang Out & Dinner
Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25

THURSDAY MARCH 3

TUESDAY MARCH 8

THURSDAY MARCH 10

TUESDAY MARCH 15

FRIDAY MARCH 18

SATURDAY, MAY 14

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

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..

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Dr. Geoffrey Dye, Podiatric Medicine will be here.

MYSTERY LUNCH AND FUN.

RATTLESNAKE SALOON and General Store/Tuscumbia

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

Thank you to our Sunday School Classes and individuals that participated in our Care n' Contact Sunday. Our sick/shut-in will be kept-up to date on what's happening at BPUMC with phone calls, cards, visits and maybe a surprise or two.

Special Moment with Jesus

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 1:2



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

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Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
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The Week of February 21—27

Sunday, February 21

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Gideon's Presentation
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Chili Cook-Off

Monday, February 22

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry
10:00 am UMW Hope Circle
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
6:30 pm UMW Friendship Circle

Tuesday, February 23

9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, February 24

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 Becky Walker Bible Study
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 25

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

Friday, February 26

9:00 am Bargains On The Bluff
6:30 pm Fisherman Class Social

Saturday, February 27

9:00 am Bargains On The Bluff

SUNDAY, February 21st, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Philippians 3:14-4:1

"Leap of Faith: Let Your Heart Hold Fast"

Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Footsteps 11:00 Davis

Cross

8:45 Vivi Shanlever 11:00 Ella Bowles

Acolyte

8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Patrick Williamson

Greeters: New Light

Meals on Wheels: McDonald

Food Pantry March 2nd: Kay Adams

Midweek Meetup February 24th: Fried chicken, rice, peas, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

February 21, 2015

Children/Youth	104/57
Morning Worship	515
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$64,677.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$186,711.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$211,342.82
New Members in 2016	6

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$3,312.00
Received to Date	\$950,631.87

**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.