



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter February 28, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



What does it mean to take a leap of faith? The very word "leap" says to me that we intend to move forward beyond where we have been. To leap forward is to go farther than a step. It requires greater effort to move such distance. The word "faith" says to me that this leap will require us to step out of our comfort zone. It will require us to trust in more than our own capabilities and instead rely on God's goodness and empowerment. Thus, to take a leap of faith is to move such a length forward that we our out of our own control and under God's control.

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged daily in our Leap of Faith prayer journal to take such a leap of faith as we pray the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer together. I hope that you will join me today as you read this in praying along with us. This is the kind of prayer that stretches us beyond a step and into that leap forward that requires great trust because we are literally in God's hands and at His disposal in this prayer.

May God bless you as you take the leap!

Wesleyan Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Lent & Easter Schedule

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

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.

JOHN ELMORE VISIT

Our missionary partner, John Elmore will be visiting 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 has begun 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/

UMW COMPASSION CIRCLE

On Friday, March 11th, the UMW Compassion Circle will be preparing a meal at First Light. Any ladies (children welcome) interested in going please contact Tina Hardy. Tina.hardy@elpaso.com

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Jamie and Joe Mikol on the birth of a daughter, Alexandra Faith, on February 18th.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Laverne Boles—St. Vincents



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.

Ms. Archer's recordings include The Muse's Voice, Franz Liszt: A Hungarian Rhapsody, Bach: The Transcendent Genius, An American Idyll, A Mystic In the Making (Meyer Media), and The Orpheus of Amsterdam: Sweelinck and his Pupils (CALA Records).

The performance Sunday will include selections from Nicolaus Bruhns, Johann Sebastian Bach, Johanna Senfter, Libby Larsen, Samuel Barber, and Jeanne Demessieux.



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** _____

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

4TH/5TH GRADE BUBBLE SOCCER: Our 4th/5th graders are invited to play bubble soccer in the gym on Sunday, February 28th for FREE. Our time slot in the gym is from 5:00-5:30, but we will be playing games on the playground before (starting at 4) and after (ending at 6) if you need to drop off early or pick up late! We hope to see you there!

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 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: This Sunday will be our mission Sunday in Hudson Hall! We will be making Easter cards and a craft for our church's shut-ins.

STUDENT MINISTRY

SUNDAY, FEB 28 - BUBBLE SOCCER IN THE GYM From 5-7pm, we'll have FREE snack supper, a short devotion and FREE Bubble Soccer in the gym. Did I mention that this is all free?! Meet us in the Fireside Room.

HOLY GROUND IN MARCH Starting on March 2nd, we begin a Lenten-themed worship service on Wednesday nights.

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, April 10: *Confirmation Sunday*; Sunday-Friday, July 10-15: *Urban Ministries Middle School Mission Trip*; Sunday-Saturday, July 24-30: *ASP High School Mission Trip*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 28, 10:00am
Sunday, February 28, 4:00pm
Sunday, February 28, 5pm
Wednesday, March 2, 5:30pm
Wednesday, March 2, 6:30pm

Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Bubble Soccer in the Gym
Hang Out & Dinner
Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Amazing Pirate Stories with Ray Phillips.

THURSDAY MARCH 3

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Dr. Larry Michaels will be here...Loving Yourself

TUESDAY MARCH 8

MYSTERY GARDEN TOUR and Lunch??? Call Betty to sign-up...this will fill up quickly..

THURSDAY MARCH 10

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

TUESDAY MARCH 15

MYSTERY LUNCH AND FUN.

FRIDAY MARCH 18

*****RE-SCHEDULED*** RATTSNLEAKE SALOON**, Helen Keller Museum, Coldwater Stage Coach, Coon Dog Cemetery to ****FRIDAY, APRIL 1**** so that we may use both buses. 10/seats available. Call Betty.

TUESDAY APRIL 12

GEE'S BEND - We'll visit the Quilting Ladies of Gees Bend, Ride the Ferry to Camden, have lunch at Gaine Ridge Plantation, visit the Museum. Traveling by tour bus. Cost: \$65.00. Call Betty.

SATURDAY, MAY 14

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

Special Moment with Jesus

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.
Proverbs 15:32



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BIRMINGHAM, AL
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Director of Worship Music,
Lonnie Parsons
Organist,
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org

The Week of February 28—March 5

Sunday, February 28

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Board of Stewards
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Organ Recital
5:30 pm Building Committee

Monday, February 29

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, March 1

7:00 am Presidential Primary Voting
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study

Wednesday, March 2

9:00 am Food Pantry
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
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Communion Service
7:00 pm 30 Minute Theology

Thursday, March 3

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

SUNDAY, February 28th, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Isaiah 55:6-12

"Leap of Faith: Lost in Babylon"

Rev. Angela Martin

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalms 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Montz 11:00 Lawson

Cross

8:45 Jonathan Kerns

11:00 Carolyne Hecklinski

Acolyte

8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Harrison Winter

Greeters: New Horizons

Meals on Wheels: Guy

Food Pantry March 2nd: Kay Adams

Midweek Meetup March 2nd: Hamburger steak, rice, sweet peas, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

February 21, 2015

Children/Youth	105/58
Morning Worship	519
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$26,673.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$33,629.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,386,978.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$213,384.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$244,971.82
New Members in 2016	6

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$395.00
Received to Date	\$951,026.87

**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.