



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter March 27, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; **you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth**, who was crucified. He has been raised; **he is not here**. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, **just as he told you.**”

- Mark 16:5-7

News of the Week

ANNUAL CHURCH WIDE BBQ

The Bluff Park UMC annual barbecue has raised funds for the past 20 years to help with the maintenance and expansion of our church building and grounds. The event is happening Friday, April 8th from 4-6pm and Saturday, April 9th from 10am-3pm (Boston Butt pickup on Saturday.) It's time for Sunday school classes to sell BBQ tickets. Call Ed Cater (223-7833) if you need more tickets. You can help by giving door prizes to the church office, or by purchasing tickets from your Sunday school class or at the main office! To reserve a Boston Butt, call Catherine in the Church Office.

SPRING SERVE DAY

The BPUMC Serve Team is looking for people in our neighborhood who could use a helping hand with Spring cleanup on April 16th. If you know someone who could use help with yard work or light exterior projects, call the church office or email serveeam@bpumc.org.

2016 CHILE TRIP

If you are interested in finding out more information about the 2016 Chile VIM trip there will be an information meeting on Wednesday, April 13th at 5:30 PM in the church library. You will not be asked to make a commitment at the meeting. If you have any interest at all in being a member of the team please make plans to



On April 17th–19th, Bluff Park UMC will join with several other churches, schools, and civic organizations from the Vestavia/Hoover area to pack 285,120 nutritious meals (one full shipping container) to be sent overseas to relieve hunger. This project will be carried out in conjunction with Stop Hunger Now, an organization dedicated to eradicating world hunger.

We are encouraging groups from the church to volunteer together, but *each individual must register separately*. If you have any problems accessing the website to register, contact the church office for assistance.

To sign-up as a volunteer visit:

BluffParkUMC.org/stophunger



attend. The dates for our 2016 trip are September 7-21.

LADIES DAY RETREAT TICKETS

Tickets for the Ladies Day Retreat can now be purchased on Sunday mornings at the Welcome center. Tickets are \$15.00. The event takes place Saturday, May 14, from 9:00am - 2:00pm.

EASTER LOVE GIFT

The Easter Love Offering supports several ministries and missions that we, as a church, are involved in. Your generosity allowed us to do a great many things in 2015. We would like to do as much, or more, in 2016. We want to make a difference in the lives of many people as we support projects that are consistent with the "food, water, shelter" mission emphasis that the church has established. Please mark your check 'Easter Love Offering' so that we can make sure that it goes to the right place. Your generosity makes a difference for many people. Thank you

for all the ways that you support the mission outreach of Bluff Park UMC. *The Easter Love Gift is sponsored by the BPUMC United Appeal Fund.*

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Christian Cooper—Still Burn Center, Augusta GA

Barbara Brannum—St Vincents

Shirley White—Brookwood



Easter is more than a special day in worship. It is the greatest news humanity could and has ever received. The very course of our lives was headed in a very different direction and then God out of His love for the world and everyone and everything in it defeated that last foe: death. Death is the last thing any of us wants to dwell upon. It either brings sadness and mourning to our minds as we remember the loved ones we have already lost. Or it brings fear and anxiety to our minds as we contemplate our own mortality. Death is inescapable. But what changed is the power of death over us.

You see, each and every one of us will face death. And yes, we will still suffer loss of loved ones and we will still be fearful of our own mortality. But we have a God who sent His own self in His Son, Jesus. And Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and promised that each and every one of us could anticipate our own future with God there. Even though death still stings, it cannot, or at least should not, create panic in our hearts because what is on the other side of death is eternal love. This news created such joy and passion in the early disciples and apostles that they did not fear punishment or capital punishment because they knew what is on the other side.

Easter, then, is the best news we could ever receive. The one last enemy may take our very bodies in the end. But on the other side is God. He is risen and that means everything has changed.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

EASTER EGG HUNT: Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast in any way! Whether you helped stuff Easter Eggs with candy, hid Easter Eggs, decorated the gym, cooked and served breakfast, or prayed for us, we could not have done it without you! Because of your help, we were able to reach out to and serve over 200 children and their families in our community! I am proud to serve at such a loving and giving church!

FIELD TRIP/MISSION TRIP: Our next field trip/mission trip will be on Wednesday, March 30th. We will be helping the community garden on our church campus get ready to plant in the morning, eating at Chow Town for lunch, and going to see the movie Zootopia in the afternoon! Drop off will begin at 7:30, 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.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Did you know that we have been averaging 25 children in Children's Church since we started in November, with a high mark of 40 children one Sunday?! The children have loved having a service specifically geared towards them, learning how much God loves them, and talking about ways they can put their faith into action! We would love for some of you to come and worship with us! Would you prayerfully consider volunteering in Children's Church at some point soon?

We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates and times over the next two months: 8:45 and 11:00 on April 17 and 8:45 on April 24. There is no pre-planning for this volunteer spot: this person will simply worship with Mr. Stanley and the children and assist if necessary! If you would like to volunteer in Children's Church, please contact Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: For the month of March we will be learning about Easter in Sunday School through discussion, science, and cooking! We will be in Hudson Hall this week!

STUDENT MINISTRY

HOLY GROUND IN APRIL We will begin a worship series on change and transitions in April. Whether students are moving from middle school to high school to college or are experience changes in their relationships, God is with them through all things. We'll explore scripture where we find God active through times of change and celebrate these moments in our own lives.

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, May 15: *Senior Recognition 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, March 27, 10:00am

Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Spring Break: No Afternoon or Evening Programming This Week

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MARCH 24

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Father John Fallon, Prince of Peace Catholic Church, guest speaker. Maundy Thursday program. Everyone invited.

SUNDAY MARCH 27

EASTER SUNDAY - Bring Flowers for the Cross.

THURSDAY MARCH 31

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Niki Sepsas will be here—Cape Horn Passage.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 1

COOKING CLASS - WE HAVE DOUGHNUTS, with owner Sandy McKay. A company started by 4/friends - doughnuts made from scratch and sold at a doughnut stand downtown Birmingham. 6:00-7:00pm, Fireside Rm.

FRIDAY APRIL 1

RATTLESNAKE SALOON, Helen Keller Museum, Historical Church Tour and much more - time 8:00am-4:00pm..meet at the buses. Trip is Full...waiting list.

TUESDAY APRIL 12

GEE'S BEND, Quilting Ladies, Gaine Ridge Plantation, Museum, Ferry Ride to Camden and so much more. Tour Bus - \$65.00pp due April 1 - Call Betty.

LADIES DAY RETREAT

Saturday May 14 9:00am - 2:00pm

AMAZING GRACE FOR A WOMAN'S HEART

Plan to join us for a morning and afternoon of Bible Study with Becky Walker, Special Music by Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis (Rocket), Story time with Delores Hydock and Bobby Horton, Special Luncheon Guests and Entertainment, Tablesapes. Save the date **SATURDAY MAY 14**. Invite a friend! Tickets, \$15.00. Sign-up for Tablesapes at the Welcome Center... you may win a prize.

Special Moment with Jesus

And they sang the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and amazing are your deeds, LORD GOD the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, King of the nations!" Revelation: 15:3



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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(205) 822-0910

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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PERMIT NO. 1816

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Lonnie Parsons
Organist,
Dr. Lorna Lee Curtis
Preschool Director,
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



The Week of March 27—April 2

Sunday, March 27—Easter Sunday
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
Monday, March 28
10:00 am UMW Hope Circle
10:00 am UMW Joy Circle
Tuesday, March 29
9:30 am Becky Walker Bible Study
6:30 pm Church Life Meeting
Wednesday, March 30
7:30 am Children's Mission Trip
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, March 31
9:30 am Shepherd's Center

SUNDAY, March 27th, 2016
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship
Luke 24:1-12
Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

SERVING SUNDAY
Ushers
8:45 Chatterton 11:00am Youth
Cross
8:45 Natalie Self 11:00 Charlie Redding
Acolyte
8:45 Annabelle Eaton
11:00 Mary Lynn Williamson
Greeters: Wesley Forum
Meals on Wheels: Kaufhold
Food Pantry April 6th:
Becky McCrary and Rosemary Dallam

Midweek Meetup March 30:
SPRING BREAK—No Midweek Meetup

Last Week's Record

March 20, 2016

Children/Youth	243/53
Morning Worship	587
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$32,511.49
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$326,539.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$351,888.51
New Members in 2016	6

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$1,980.00
Received to Date	\$955,810.87

**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.