



# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

Newsletter April 10, 2016

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



## Risen: Encounters with the Resurrected Jesus

Did you know that the season of Easter lasts for fifty days leading up to Pentecost Sunday (which is May 15, 2016)? According to Christian tradition, the initial purpose of these fifty days was "to continue the faith formation of new Christians." Instead of celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on one Sunday, we celebrate for seven Sundays in a row.

During the time in-between that first Easter and the ascension of Jesus, Christ visited with his disciples and other friends. These visitations are documented in the Gospels and in the Book of Acts. Rev. Angela Martin so beautifully described the first encounter that Jesus has with Mary at the tomb this past Sunday. Mary does not initially recognize Jesus, but she knows his voice. While several see the empty tomb itself, Mary sees the risen Jesus first.

During the Sundays of Easter in worship, we will be studying these visitations as Jesus appears to his disciples behind a locked door or as he appears to doubting Thomas reveals his wounds or as he breaks bread with lesser known disciples on their way to Emmaus. These visitations reveal the wonder of the Resurrection and the power it had over those whom knew Jesus the best. We hope you will join us during Eastertide in worship!

*Mike*

## 285,120 Nutritious Meals, and More

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](http://BluffParkUMC.org/stophunger)



**STOP HUNGER NOW.**

# News of the Week

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## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

This Sunday, April 10th, is Confirmation Sunday. This year's class will be confirmed and received into the United Methodist Church during the 11:00am service.

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

"The Christ-Centered Woman: Finding Balance in a World of Extremes" is meeting on Wednesdays in April beginning at 9:15am in the Fisherman's classroom.

## 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](mailto:serveeam@bpumc.org).

## KONSENSUS MAY BE GOOD...

Peter Kirchikov, author of "Konsensus May Be Good But Still You Need To Have a Common Sense", will be making presentations based on his book Wednesday evenings during April at 6pm in the Vitality Classroom. This latest book is a book of Soviet-era political humor and satire.

## VLM VOLUNTEERS

Mark your Calendar for Sunday April 24th at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage everyone to come to be updated and realign the teams to conform to our simplified approach to serving our neighborhood veterans and their families.

## 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 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.

## 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: May 1, 8 and 29. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Christian Cooper—Still Burn Center, Augusta GA



**American Red Cross**

**Blood Drive**



There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in honor of Christian Cooper, who was severely burned in a car wreck this past February. The blood drive takes place on Sunday, April 17, from 7:30am—12:30pm in the gym. 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 [Red-CrossBlood.org](http://Red-CrossBlood.org) and use the keyword BPUMC.



## Fast and Secure Online Donations With EasyTithe

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has implemented a new set of online giving tools, powered by [easyTithe.com](http://easyTithe.com). They provide the ability to donate on our website and through a mobile app! After creating an account, you're able to give a donation or schedule a series of donations directly using your debit or credit card. You can also make a pledge and track your online giving. You can also make Midweek Meetup meal payments.

To create your online account, visit the church website and select 'Donate Online' under the 'Give' link in the top menu. Step-by-step tutorial videos are available on the main 'Give' landing page.

[www.BluffParkUMC.org/give-online](http://www.BluffParkUMC.org/give-online)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTY:** All preschoolers and their families are invited to a Pajama Party on April 22 from 5:30-7:30. There will be dinner (spaghetti and meatballs!), crafts, story time, and more! Please register online at [BluffParkUMC.org/preschoolpajaparty](http://BluffParkUMC.org/preschoolpajaparty) or email Marcie Walters at [nursery@bpumc.org](mailto:nursery@bpumc.org). We hope to see you all there!

**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?

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in need of volunteers for Children's Church on the following dates and times over the next two months: 11:00 on April 17, 8:45 on May 15, and 8:45 and 11:00 on May 8, 22, and 29. 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](mailto:sdavidson@bpumc.org).

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** For the month of April we will be learning about Pentecost in Sunday School through discussion, science, and cooking!

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**MISSION PREVIEW & ICE CREAM NIGHTS - SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 5-7PM** Before everyone scatters for summer vacations, we will meet up, collect forms for summer trips, have a notary public present AND eat FREE Goodies Ice Cream! Plus, Anna Quinn (one of our student alumni who has spent the past 3 summers working at Appalachia Service Project) will share her testimony. Whether you're definitely going or are just interested in serving, you'll want to come.

**HOLY GROUND IN APRIL** We will begin a worship series on change and transitions in April. Whether we are moving from middle school to high school, on to college, or are experience changes in our relationships, God is with us 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*; Friday-Monday, August 5-8: *Beach Retreat*.

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, April 10, 10:00am  
Sunday, April 10, 4:00pm  
Sunday, April 10, 5:00pm  
Wednesday, April 13, 6:30pm

Sunday School  
Worship Team Rehearsal  
Missions Preview & Goodie's Ice Cream (with FREE Snack Supper) in the Fellowship Hall  
Holy Ground Worship

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY APRIL 7

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - The Welch Group. Seniors, Finances, Wills, Trust.

TUESDAY APRIL 12

**GEE'S BEND**, Quilting Ladies, Gaine Ridge Plantation, Museum, Ferry Ride to Camden and so much more. Bus arrives at 7:00am and departs at 7:30am.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 13

**COOKING CLASS 6:00-7:00PM** - Fireside Room. Bare Naked Noodles with Linda Croley. Come see, Come hear, Come sample.

THURSDAY APRIL 14

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Peter Kirchikov will be here discussing his new book "Consensus May Be Good But You Need To Have Common Sense." Everyone invited.

TUESDAY APRIL 19

**STOP HUNGER NOW** - Vestavia United Methodist Church 9:am - 11:00am. Fun, laughter and excitement packing meals for feeding programs around the world. We participated last year - lets go again. Lunch afterwards. Call Betty to reserve a seat on the bus.

THURSDAY APRIL 21

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER - MYSTERY ?????** - You will love - come see, come hear, come prepared for a morning of fun. Invite a Friend.

### 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, Tablescape. Save the date **SATURDAY MAY 14**. Invite a friend! Tickets, \$15.00. Sign-up for Tablescape at the Welcome Center... you may win a prize.

### Special Moment with Jesus

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16



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AUTO  
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  
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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 April 10—16

### Sunday, April 10

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

### Monday, April 11

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

### Tuesday, April 12

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

### Wednesday, April 13

4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
4:30 pm Children's Handbell Choir  
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup  
5:30 pm Children's Choir  
6:00 pm Becky Walker Bible Study  
6:00 pm Konsensus Book Review  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:30 pm Choir

### Thursday, April 14

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

### SUNDAY, April 10th, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

John 20:19-23

*"Unlocked"*

Rev. Mike Holly

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

### SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45am Adams 11:00am Alley

Cross

8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Jackson Boyd

Acolyte

8:45 Vivi Shanlever 11:00 Avery Edwards

Greeters: Canterbury

Meals on Wheels: White

Food Pantry May 4th: Steve Lawson

### Midweek Meetup April 13:

Ice Cream Time Machine—Main course TBA.  
Baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar.  
Corn Dogs for the kids.

## Last Week's Record

April 3, 2016

Children	55
Morning Worship	445
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$58,269.48
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$380,963.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$430,712.91
New Members in 2016	6

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$2,640.00
Received to Date	\$959,130.87

**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.