



# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

*Newsletter May 29, 2016*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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

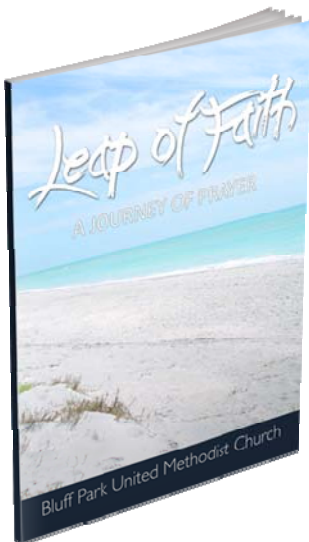


I wrote two weeks ago that the United Methodist Church was gathering together for General Conference in Portland, Oregon. Most of the delegates have made it home from the 11-day Conference and all United Methodists are grappling with what was decided and accomplished. Many were able to tune in to General Conference through a live stream of the sessions at UMC.org while others read daily news briefings or followed along using social media accounts. There were moments of beautiful worship and global compromise. However, there were also moments of confusion and episodes of disappointment as well. Ultimately not much has changed in the United Methodist family in the past week. There were decisions made to withdraw from a pro-abortion rights group, to elect five new bishops from the growing church in Africa, and we strengthened our health initiatives to combat diseases like malaria as a denomination. However, we as United Methodists still have to grapple with bigger issues and so a commission will gather to help us find ways to seek out clarity and faithfulness in those areas.

One disheartening thing that we encountered the past two weeks was a rise in sarcastic and hurtful comments made online. These comments were made by people who are most likely frustrated or upset and instead of finding an appropriate way to communicate their feelings, they decided to poke fun at the process or even hurl insults at others. We are seemingly more comfortable to do that when we can hide behind vague social media accounts or even anonymous postings. When we have such a loving God and such serious business, it is disappointing to see folks resort to poor manners and immoral speech.

The good news is that for every negative comment, there seemed to be many more comments that truthfully expressed feelings and emotions or who praised the good things that were happening. What that says to me is that unfortunately negative stories have a power to them. They seem to have the ability to unravel everything good that is occurring. What we need to remember is this: negative stories are just a small part of what is truly going on. Whether it is at school or in the office or even at church, there is always something amazing happening just out of view in which God is at work. The next time you hear a piece of negative news, look deeper and closer and see if there is something else that will lift your spirits and remind you that God is not through with us yet!

*Mike*



## **LEAP OF FAITH SUMMER PRAYER JOURNAL**

The Summer Leap of Faith Prayer Journals are here. The journal picks up right where the first one ends, so you can keep your new habit going. But, even if you did not participate the first time around, it's not too late to start! Pickup your copy at the church office, or at the Welcome Center on Sunday morning. The first day of the new prayer journal begins on Sunday, May 29th. There is no cost for the journal. A digital PDF version of the journal can be downloaded from the church website.

# News of the Week



## GROW IT 2 EAT IT

*Grow It 2 Eat It* is a four day camp experience. Each day we will work in the garden and learn something new. Kids will harvest fresh produce and cook it for lunch, followed by a craft or activity that reinforces all that we've learned that day. Camp dates are June 13th-16th from 9:30am-12:30pm. The cost of the camp is \$10 per child with a family max of \$15. Register online at:

[bluffparkumc.org/grow-it-2-eat-it-registration/](http://bluffparkumc.org/grow-it-2-eat-it-registration/)

will be published soon. This is a project in partnership with the United Methodist Committee on Relief and our United Methodist missionaries working in the region.

## 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: June 19, and 26 and July 10, 17, 24, and 31. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## 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. 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)

## SILENT AUCTION TICKETS

The date has been set for the 2016 Legacy Gala and Silent Auction. It will be held on August 12th, at The Club. Ticket sales begin on Sunday, May 29th. Reserve your spot early. We look forward to seeing you there!

## URBAN MINISTRY NEEDS A VAN

Urban Ministry is looking for a van to be donated (or sold at a reasonable price) for their mission and ministry. If you can help, please contact the church office.

## SHOE BOXES ARE COMING!

This summer we will be putting together Shoe Boxes to be distributed to children throughout Latin America at Christmas time. The Shoe Boxes have small items that many of the children our missionaries work with have a hard time getting. We are setting aside the months of June and July to collect the items and assemble the Shoe Boxes. The list of needed materials

## YOUTH CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Bring your dirty car to church Sunday, June 5th, and our youth will wash it in the waters of BPUMC. They will be setup in the parking lot by the Youth Wing. Proceeds from the car wash help pay for summer youth trips.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Christian Cooper—Still Burn Center, Augusta GA

Pat Reese—Aspire

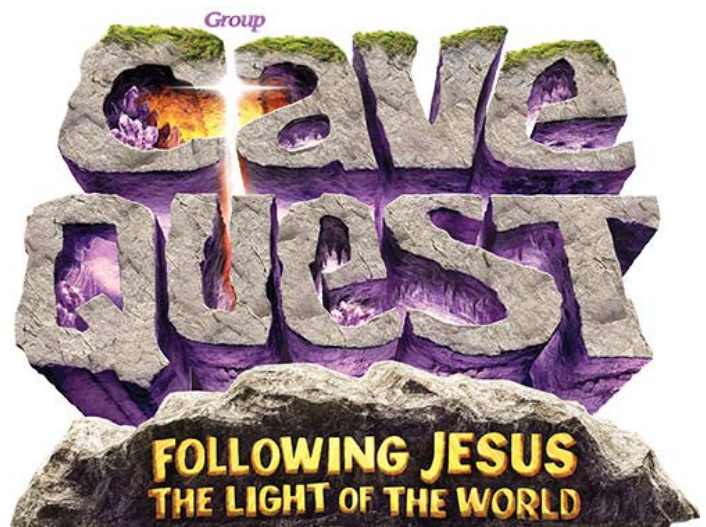
Cary Moore—Aspire Rehab

Chuck Arthur—St. Vincents

## REGISTER FOR VBS 2016!

Excitement is building in Children's Ministry!! Vacation Bible School for summer 2016 takes place July 18th-22nd. Daily sessions will run from 5:15-7:50pm. Dinner will be available each night of VBS, from 4:45pm-5:15pm, in the Fellowship Hall, at a cost of \$2 per plate. This is not part of the programming but a service to our parents, students, and volunteers. Parents must stay with their kids during dinner as programming begins in the Sanctuary at 5:30pm. Online registration is now open. To register visit:

[bluffparkumc.org/VBS2016](http://bluffparkumc.org/VBS2016)



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**PRESCHOOL SPLASH PARTY:** There will be a Preschool Splash Party for all Preschool aged children and their families on Tuesday, May 31st, from 10:00-12:00 on the playground! Come out and enjoy sprinklers, kiddie pools, squirt guns, snow cones, juice boxes, and more! We hope to see you all there!

**FIELD TRIP:** The Children's Ministry will be offering a field trip for our rising Kindergarten-5th graders on Thursday, June 2nd. We will be going to Desoto Caverns for the day, where we will take a cave tour and participate in some fun activities! Drop off will begin at 7:30, we will leave the church at 10:00, and pickup will be at the church between 5:00-5:30. Please RSVP with Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible as we only have 26 spots available.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH VOLUNTEERS:** 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! If you would like to sign up to join our rotating volunteer schedule or sit in with us one Sunday, please email Stanley Davidson at s davidson@bpumc.org.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** This Sunday is our Mission Sunday! We will be making thank you gifts for some of our behind the scenes staff members at Bluff Park UMC! We will be in Hudson Hall all summer.

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**BEACH RETREAT REGISTRATION IS OPEN** We'll be staying at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center, just west of Panama City Beach, Florida, leaving on August 5th and coming back on the 8th. The cost is \$175 and covers transportation, lodging, a shirt and all but three meals. The retreat is open to rising 6th graders through 2016 high school graduates. Registration closes on Wednesday, May 25th and you can reserve your student's spot with a \$50 deposit. The balance is due on Friday, July 22nd. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH - WORSHIP AT CHURCH OF THE RECONCILER & CAR WASH FUNDRAISER** We have a busy first Sunday in June, so get ready. Our student worship team will be leading worship at Church of the Reconciler downtown at 9:30am. And then from 11:00am to 3:00pm, we also have a car wash in the Youth Wing parking lot as a summer fundraiser for student trips. Hey parents: We'd LOVE your help on supervising students at the car wash. Parents who volunteer for a specific slot can earn extra money for their students!

**NO HOLY GROUND OR REACH EVENTS IN MAY** We will take a hiatus from evening programming, except for worship team rehearsal, and then start back in June with our summer calendar of events. Instead our staff and volunteers will use this month for planning and training.

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING SPRING/SUMMER SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we move deeper into 2016: Summer Mission Trips, the Beach Retreat 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** 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*; Friday, August 12: *Legacy Gala & Silent Auction*.

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, 10:00am, May 29

Sunday School, 10am in the Youth Wing  
No Afternoon/Evening Activities

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY MAY 26

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - "What is Baseball" Season Performers. 10:00am - Fireside Room.

TUESDAY MAY 31

UPPER SAND MOUNTAIN PARISH - we'll deliver the canning jars. If you would like to go with us call Betty.

THURSDAY JUNE 2

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - JABO WAGNER, State Senator will share his experience of 50 years in public service.

THURSDAY JUNE 9

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Blake Shultz, Realtor, will be here.

THURSDAY JUNE 16

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Ginny lacy, Lakeshore Rehab will be here.

### ENCORE!

#### A Community Respite Ministry

Enriching the lives of adults of all faiths, with memory loss, to live fully and well. They gather each Tuesday and Thursday at Canterbury United Methodist Church for fellowship and engaging activities, while providing resources and support for families and caregivers in the Birmingham community. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Kristen Snell at Canterbury. (205) 874-1525

#### NEW YORK, NEW YORK - AUGUST 28-SEPTEMBER 2

9-11 Memorial, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Trinity, Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Central Park, Broadway, Wall Street, Yankee Stadium, TT, Ferry, Window Shopping and much more. Overnight going and coming back in Virginia. If interested, call Betty.





## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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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  
Jason McCrory, jmccrory@bpumc.org  
**Financial Manager**, ext. 101  
Joe Pitard, jpitard@bpumc.org  
**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  
**Preschool Director**,  
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org



## The Week of May 29—June 4

### Sunday, May 29

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

Monday, May 30—**Memorial Day**  
Office Closed

### Tuesday, May 31

10:00 am Preschool Splash Party

### Wednesday, June 1

9:00 am Food Pantry  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm Men's Chorus  
6:00 pm Communion Service  
6:30 pm Choir

### Thursday, June 2

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

### SUNDAY, May 29th, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Luke 7:1-10

*"Nothing Is Impossible"*

Rev. Mike Holly

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

1 Kings 18:20-39

Psalm 96

Galatians 1:1-12

Luke 7:1-10

### SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45am Doran 11:00am Arthur

Acolyte

8:45 Michael Lagan 11:00 Tate Turner

**Greeters:** New Horizons

**Meals on Wheels:** Adams/Pearson

**Food Pantry June 1st:** Penny Burns

## Last Week's Record

May 22, 2016

Children	56
Morning Worship	453
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$12,847.73
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$571,447.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$612,369.58
New Members in 2016	13

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$437.00
Received to Date	\$964,859.87

**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.