



# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

*Newsletter August 14, 2016*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



**T**his coming Sunday marks the beginning of a new school year for our church family. Promotion Sunday is our opportunity to have our students and children assist in leading worship as well as a time for all of us to pray for them, their teachers and all faculty at the beginning of a new school year. Each child in attendance will receive a book bag tag from our church family. They are also encouraged to give these tags to their friends at school, letting them know that our church prayed over them. Rev. Stanley Davidson will preach this Sunday and he will help us all understand the importance of loving, developing and nurturing children in the faith.

A new addition to our calendar this year also begins this Sunday, a Churchwide Meet and Greet. You have the option to attend one of two events in the Fellowship Hall on August 14 and August 21 at 10:00 am. It is your choice! On each Sunday, many of our pastoral staff will be there so that we can get to know you and talk about this next year in the life of our church. Coffee and doughnuts will be served! At the same time, we will have sign ups for fall Bible studies, classes, and small groups. You'll be excited to see that we are offering learning opportunities throughout the week, including Sunday evening. There will also be sign ups for Care Teams, Serve Teams and other ways of using your God-given gifts to help others. Please make every effort to attend this Meet and Greet on either August 14th or 21st during the Sunday school hour.

Finally, we want to make sure you are all aware that we will be announcing a few new important initiatives in the life of our church this fall. A new mission initiative in the Bluff Park community will begin very soon and I can't wait to share more information with you about how we hope to be a church that seeks to bless our zip code. We are also very close to sharing exciting news about our plans for renovation and new construction. Things have already begun on the third floor of our education building and that is just the start of our plans!

Blessings,

# News of the Week

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## BPUMC BLOCK PARTY

On September 25th, from 4:00-6:00pm, we will be hosting a party here at BPUMC. There will be free hotdogs, chips and drinks; carnival games and prizes, inflatables, a Velcro wall, a trackless train, music, and face painting! Mark your calendar and invite your friends and neighbors.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know you may be able to make a tax-free charitable contribution directly from your IRA?

Individuals 70 ½ or older may donate to a church or charity up to \$100,000 annually through their traditional Individual Retirement Accounts. Qualified Charitable Distributions (also called IRA Charitable Rollovers) are made from the IRA directly to the non-profit organization and can count toward the IRA owner's "required minimum distribution" (RMD), which would normally be taxable when distributed to the IRA's owner.

These contributions can be especially beneficial to those unable to itemize their charitable deductions and those whose charitable gifts are limited or reduced by certain tax provisions. These gifts cannot be made from other forms of tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as a 401k, 403b, SEP or Simple IRA.

Tax laws are complex and subject to change. You are encouraged to consult your tax advisor to determine whether this is appropriate for you and to discuss the process. Please notify the church finance office if you intend to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Bluff Park United Methodist Church.

## 2016 ALTAR FLOWERS

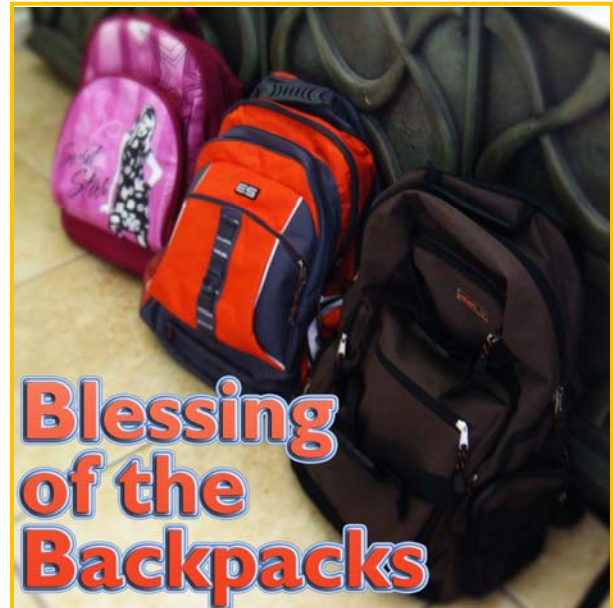
There are dates left on the 2016 Flower Calendar. Please sign up to remember a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. One arrangement is \$50.00; both \$100.00. We have two arrangements each Sunday. Dates available include: September 11 and October 2, 16, and 30. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## CANCELLATION

The Friendship class luncheon, scheduled for Friday the 12th, has been cancelled.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Betty Hottenstein



### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

On Sunday, August 14th, we will be blessing our children and their backpacks in both the 8:45 and 11:00 services. As part of this blessing, each child will receive a backpack tag that they can wear on their book bags throughout the year.



## 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)

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PARENT MEETING:** The Children's Ministry's annual parent meeting to discuss the upcoming calendar year of children's events and update children's contact/medical information will be held on Sunday, September 11th from 10:00-10:45 in the Fellowship Hall. If you have a child between birth-5th grade, please plan on attending this very important meeting!

**MIDWEEK MEETUP RETURNS:** Midweek Meetup returns on Wednesday, September 7th!!!! The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, Bible Memory Verse Challenges, and more. Our teachers this year will be Lori Beasley and Susan Prueter with Kindergarten and 1st graders, Carole Roegner and Betsy Britain teaching a Bible Skills Class with the 2nd and 3rd graders, and Stanley and Stephanie Davidson with the 4th and 5th graders.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Our Elementary Sunday School lesson this week will be on "Sharing Jesus With Others!"

**NO CHILDREN'S CHURCH THIS WEEK:** There will be no Children's Church this Sunday due to the blessing of the back packs ceremony in worship, many of our 3rd-5th graders helping lead in worship, and Mr. Stanley preaching!

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**ROOM 35226** This new project is part of our student ministry's response to meet the needs of those in our community. Our vision is to have a room at Simmons Middle School stocked with school supplies, clothes, toiletries and food. Students and guidance counselors will have access to it throughout the day, for any needs that may arise. Each time a student takes something that they need, they will have the opportunity to post a note on the wall, not of what they took, but of what they plan to give back - to another student or to the community. Even now, we've already expanded to Bluff Park Elementary and we hope to eventually provide this to the Green Valley, Gwin and Shades Mountain Elementary Schools. We have letters explaining the program with a list of items needed which students can take to local businesses and neighbors. Contact our student ministry via email [youth@bpumc.org](mailto:youth@bpumc.org) to coordinate your family's effort and arrange a drop-off time of items.

**HOLY GROUND IN AUGUST** Students will begin worshipping on Wednesday nights on the Youth Wing starting on the 17th. Once we get into September, there will be church-wide events, such as Fellowship Supper, adult small groups and children's programming.

**FALL STUDENT PROGRAMMING NEWS** We will be rotating REACH, Service, Worship and "Wild Card" events on Sunday nights (5-7pm) starting in September with something for everyone from week to week. On Wednesdays, beginning on September 7th, there will be Girls, Guys and Coed Small Groups meeting (6pm) before Holy Ground worship (6:30-7:30pm).

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING FALL SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we move deeper into 2016: Holy Ground Worship, the Fall 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** Thursday-Friday, November 10-11: *One Night for the Homeless*; Friday-Sunday, November 18-20: *Fall Retreat at Sumatanga*.

### THIS WEEK

Friday, August 12	Legacy Gala and Silent Auction
Sunday, August 14, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, August 14, 4:00pm	Worship Team & Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
Sunday, August 14, 5-7pm	Church Scavenger Hunt w/ Free Snack Supper
Wednesday, Aug 17, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY AUGUST 11 SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Carol & Pat Westbrook Wesley Heritage Tour  
THURSDAY AUGUST 18 SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Virginia Jones, Lyric Theatre Slide Show

### ENCORE!

#### A Community Respite Ministry

Our Mission: To enrich the lives of adults with memory loss meets each Tuesday and Thursday at Canterbury United Methodist Church for fellowship and activities. We could use a few good volunteers from BPUMC.

### TRIP CANCELATION NOTICE:

The New York City trip has been cancelled. If you have reserved a space on this trip, please contact the church office to arrange for the refund of your deposit.

### SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS

Be not dismayed what'er betide, God will take care of you!  
Hymn No.130, UMH



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**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
- John Carl Hastings, jchastings@bpumc.org, ext. 120
- 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 August 14—20**

- Sunday, August 14**
- 8:45 am Morning Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Churchwide Meet and Greet
- 11:00 am Morning Worship Service
- 1:30 pm Scholarship Committee
- 4:00 pm Worship Team and Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal
- 5:00 pm Youth Scavenger Hunt
- Monday, August 15**
- 10:00 am Prayer Shawls
- Tuesday, August 16**
- 6:00 pm Under the Bridge
- Wednesday, August 17**
- 5:00 pm BOTB Committee Meeting
- 6:00 pm Handbell Choir
- 6:30 pm Choir
- 6:30 pm Holy Ground Worship
- 6:30 pm Chile Team Meeting
- Thursday, August 18**
- 9:30 am Shepherd's Center
- 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting

**SUNDAY, August 14th, 2016**  
**8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship**  
**Deuteronomy 6:4-8**  
*"Plugged In, Pumped Up, and Poured Out"*  
**Rev. Stanley Davidson**  
  
**Lectionary Scripture Readings**  
 Isaiah 5:1-7  
 Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19  
 Hebrews 11:29-12:2  
 Luke 12:49-56  
  
**SERVING SUNDAY**  
**Ushers**  
 8:45 Adams 11:00am Alley  
**Acolyte**  
 8:45 Jackie Fort 11:00 Kate Ryan Black  
**Greeters:** Home Improvement  
**Meals on Wheels:** McCallum  
**Food Pantry September 7th:**  
 Theresa Richerson

**Last Week's Record**

August 7, 2016

Children	43
Morning Worship	486
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$30,332.73
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$843,567.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$856,926.49
New Members in 2016	19

**LIVING OUR LEGACY**

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$675.00
Received to Date	\$971,072.87

**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.