



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter August 28, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



If someone were to ask me why I am proud to be a pastor at our church, I would have many reasons to share from the last month alone. Seventy-two children received a blessing and a book bag tag for their first week of school. Our student ministry is leading the way in providing food, supplies, clothes and resources to students in need at a local middle school. Our congregation saw the great need for assistance after the devastating floods in Louisiana and donated \$2000 in one Sunday morning alone. Bags of groceries have been handed out to over 260 households, and children at local elementary schools are already beginning to receive weekend bags of food from our backpack ministry.

Those are just the outward and visible signs of the Holy Spirit working in and through our people. Behind the scenes, we have teams forming this fall to be in ministry with those in the hospital or those that are isolated to their homes. We have a Capital Campaign team that is already hard at work bringing creative ideas to informing our congregation about our plans for the future. And we have more small groups ready to launch on Wednesday and Sunday evenings this fall thanks to our staff and volunteers.

You may be ready to jump in and make a difference! And if you are, please contact the church office and we will help connect you to a place to grow and a place to serve.

**10,000
REASONS
1,500 PIECES
ONE VISION**

ROMANS 8:28 BLUFF PARK UMC

October 2—30, 2016



United Methodist Committee On Relief

Louisiana Flooding Offering

August 28, September 4 and 11, 2016

News of the Week

SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM UPDATES

If you have checked in on the church's Facebook page this week you know that renovation work on the 3rd floor of the education building is nearly complete. Once finished, a number of Sunday School classes will be moving. The Cornerstone class has moved to room 134 under the Chapel. The Faith Builders, has settled into their new room, 370, and the Footsteps class has moved into room 368. There are more room moves underway, and we will provide updates as they are completed.

MIDWEEK MEET RETURNS

The kids are back in school and Labor Day is right around the corner. That means fall programming will be starting soon. September 7th will be the first Mid-week Meetup of the new season. Lots of exciting new programs and classes are coming. The theme for the first night is 'Tailgate Night.' Make sure to mark your calendar and get your team colors ready.

FAITH BUILDERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

A new Sunday school class has been formed for older young couples....or younger middle aged couples. They have kids from preschool to college. This class uses discussion-style Bible studies. They are dedicated to service in the church and community. Mission efforts include: serving at First Light shelter, stocking Week-ender Bags for Gwin Elementary, Feed My Starving Children, Festival of 3 Kings, among others. The Faith Builders class meets in room 370.

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, October 16, November 6 and 20. 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

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!

BIBLES FOR 3RD GRADERS: We will present Bibles to all of the children who have entered the 3rd grade this year on Sunday, September 18th at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services. If your child plans on participating that Sunday, please contact Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org and let us know which service they will be attending and give us their full names?

NEW ACOLYTE TRAINING: On Wednesday, September 14th, there will be a new acolyte training meeting for any elementary students 3rd grade or older who would like to begin serving as acolytes in our Sunday morning worship services at BPUMC this Fall. This training will be held from 6:00-6:20 in the sanctuary. This is a great way for our children to serve in their church! We hope to see you there!

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: This Sunday is Mission Sunday! We will be making a thank you banner for Bargains on the Bluff, which helps support our mission projects throughout the year!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH THIS WEEK: Our lesson this week in Children's Church will be on "Jacob and Esau!"

STUDENT MINISTRY

WATER SLIDE & COOKOUT NIGHT - SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 There will be a water slide, games, snack supper and a short devotion in the Youth Wing parking lot on Sunday night as we say goodbye to the summer. Cost is \$5 per student.

HOLY GROUND IN AUGUST Students will continue worshiping on Wednesday nights on the Youth Wing at 6:30pm. Once we get into September, there will be church-wide events, such as Fellowship Supper, adult small groups and children's programming as well. Until then, we encourage to bring something for dinner and hang out with us starting at 5:30pm.

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 to coordinate your family's effort and arrange a drop-off time of items.

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).

SAVE THESE DATES Thursday-Friday, November 10-11: *One Night for the Homeless*; Friday-Sunday, November 18-20: *Fall Retreat at Sumatanga*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, Aug 28, 10:00am

Sunday, Aug 28, 4:00pm

Sunday, Aug 28, 5-7pm

Wednesday, August 31, 6:30pm

Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Worship Team & Vocal Ensemble Rehearsal

Water Slide & Cookout in the Youth Parking Lot (bring \$5)

Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY AUGUST 25

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Frank Donaldson , former US Attorney General.

SUNDAY AUGUST 28

PEACH PARK - Ice Cream, BBQ, and Rocking Chairs. 4:00pm-7:00pm.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Libby O'Neil, Turning your brain around—Galleria Woods.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - The Alexanders: Wayne and Margaret—Musical program. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Jinni Lacey, Lakeshore HealthSouth.

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.

MESSAGE FROM BETTY:

"Love to all, and I miss you. Hope to see you soon."

SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS

Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one. Matthew 5:37



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NON-PROFIT ORG.
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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
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 28—September 3

Sunday, August 28

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Peach Park Trip
5:00 pm Youth Group

Monday, August 29

10:00 am Prayer Shawls

Wednesday, August 31

5:45 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Communion Service
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Choir
6:00 pm Youth Small Groups
6:30 pm Holy Ground Worship

Thursday, September 1

9:30 am Shepherd's Center

SUNDAY, August 28th, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Hebrews 11:8-9

"Autopilot"

Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalm 81:1, 10-16

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Montz 11:00am Lawson

Acolyte

8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Mary Lynn Williamson

Greeters: New Horizons

Meals on Wheels: Thomas

Food Pantry September 7th:

Theresa Richerson

Last Week's Record

August 21, 2016

Children/Youth	75/54
Morning Worship	525
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$17,754.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$897,991.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$900,464.49
New Members in 2016	19

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$995.00
Received to Date	\$972,352.87

**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.