



Joy to the World

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street Hoover, AL 35226 205.822.0910

November 27, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

Worship Services

Sunday Morning Worship

Sundays @ 8:45am and 11:00am

Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday, December 4th @ 8:45 am and 11:00 am

Advent Morning Prayer

Wednesday Mornings @ 7:30am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24th @ 4:00pm and 6:00pm

Christmas Day Sunday Worship

December 25th @ 11:00am

No Sunday School or Nursery

Holiday Events and Activities

Advent Wreath Family Workshop

Sunday, November 27th @ 4:45pm

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 4th @ 5:00pm

Christmas on the Bluff Choir Concert

December 11th @ 6:30pm

www.ChristmasInBluffPark.com

Advent at Bluff Park UMC is one of my favorite times of the year! From the Children's Pageant to Christmas on the Bluff. From the Sanctuary being filled with joyful music to the excitement of lighting a new candle each Sunday in the Advent wreath. The Advent season reminds us that God's goodness and grace are on the way. We can anticipate God's arrival with smiles and warm hearts.

However, the season of Advent is also a season of introspection and critical self-examination. We must not only make room for the arrival of the Christ child; we must also do some pruning in our own lives. The Scripture readings for Advent speak plainly to us about how we need to change so that we will be able to truly welcome Jesus Christ into the world and into our lives.

I hope you will spend the entire Advent season with us as we read the Scriptures, look closely at our own lives, and wait with anticipation as God yet again pledges to invade into our lives with His grace and love.

Mike



News of the Week



Narthex. Ham Mountain is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

POTATO DROP

We are having a Society of St. Andrew Potato Drop on Saturday, December 3rd from 8 AM to Noon. The drop will be in the parking lot of the church in front of the columbarium (close to where the vans are parked). We will be bagging up 1,500 pounds of potatoes into 5 pound bags that will be distributed through the Food Pantry on Wednesday, December 7th. This is a family friendly mission project. The work is appropriate for children as well as adults so plan to bring the whole family.

A CELEBRATION OF BETTY HOTTENSTEIN'S MINISTRY AT BPUMC

Sunday, December 11th from 9:30 - 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a special time of celebration to honor Betty. Please feel free to bring cards or gifts.

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: November 27 and December 11. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Advent Morning Prayer will begin on Wednesday, November 30th at 7:30 AM in the sanctuary. This is a service of Prayer, Scripture and Holy Communion. The service will be held on each Wednesday morning of Advent (November 30, December 7, 14 and 21). The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.

HAM MOUNTAIN

November 27th is the last Sunday of our annual collection of canned hams for Ham Mountain. These hams will be distributed through the Bluff Park UMC food bank on December 7th. Our goal this year is 500 1 pound hams and we have a ways to go to reach it. We need the support of the whole congregation. Place your donations on the Ham Mountain display in the

HOLY LAND TRIP INFO MEETING

If you are interested in joining Bluff Park UMC and Canterbury UMC on an exciting 10-day trip to the Holy Land in May 2017, there will be an informational meeting Dec 4, 2016 at 6 pm in the new Seekers class across from the library. We will be joined by Stephen Ingram from Canterbury UMC to discuss details of the trip, the itinerary, cost, and any other questions you might have. For more information, contact jchas-tings@bpumc.org.

FESTIVAL OF THREE KINGS REMINDER

Festival of Three Kings gifts are due by Sunday, December 4th? Please bring them to the church office.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Janis Cox who passed away on November 18th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Elizabeth and Richard Hill on the birth of a son, Patrick on November 14.

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Claire and John Huddleston on the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Sims on November 15.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Ann Rabb—Lakeshore



Christmas Poinsettias

Reserve your beautiful poinsettia now to remember or honor a loved one at Christmas. The cost is \$15.00 per plant payable to the church.

Deadline for ordering is December 12th.

In Honor Of: _____ by _____
In Memory of: _____ by _____

Return order form and payment to the church office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ADVENT WREATH FAMILY WORKSHOP: Start a new family tradition and join us on November 27th from 4:45-6:00 for an evening of family fellowship at BPUMC's Annual Advent Wreath Family Workshop. We will be making Advent Wreaths, eating dinner, and doing a short Advent Wreath devotional together. Cost is \$20 per family and includes Advent Wreath, Dinner, and a family devotional book centered around your newly made wreath that can be used by your family throughout the Christmas season. Register online at BluffParkUMC.org/AdventWreathFamilyWorkshop. We hope to see you there!

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS STORY TIME: All of our Preschool children and their families are invited to a Christmas Story time on Friday, December 2nd from 6:00-7:30 in Hudson Hall. Children can come in their Christmas PJ's and enjoy making Christmas ornaments and crafts, decorating and eating Christmas cookies, and hearing Christmas stories and singing Christmas songs with Mrs. Clause! You don't want to miss it! Register online at <http://bluffparkumc.org/preschool-christmas-storytime/>

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND PARTY: The Children's Christmas Pageant and Party will be held on Sunday, December 4th. The Pageant will begin at 5:00 in the chapel and will be immediately followed by a Party in the gym that will include snacks, Santa (!!!!), crafts, and a mission project! We hope to see you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Our Preschool Sunday School lesson will be on "Gabriel's Good News" and our Elementary Sunday School will be having their monthly "Mission Sunday."

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Our Children's Church lesson will be on "The Candle of Hope."

STUDENT MINISTRY

TURKEY BOWL! Our students are competing in a flag football tournament in the game field behind Bluff Park Elementary School. Each team must have a middle school student, high school student and post-high school player on the field at all times. No matter how the Iron Bowl turned out, you are welcome to come cheer the teams on, Sunday November 27th starting at 2pm.

FALL SMALL GROUPS Continuing on Tuesdays in December, HS Girls small group meets at the Dover home (4743 Marywood Circle). Our Wednesday night small groups will take a break until midweek meal starts back in January.

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 Saturday, December 10: *Festival of Three Kings*, Friday-Sunday, February 3-5, 2017: *Discovery Weekend*, Sunday-Saturday, July 2-8, 2017 (tentative): *Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip*. (Contact Kathryn Davis kdavis@bpumc.org if you have any issues.)

THIS WEEK

Sunday, Nov 27, 10:00am

Sunday, Nov 27, 2:00pm

Sunday School

Turkey Bowl! (BPES Game Field)

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER—Bring a covered dish and join us! 11:00am-2:00pm. We furnish the turkey and ham. Program by Jerry Ryan. Invite a friend!

SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Rev. Tom Duley will share his missions with us.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Delores Hydock—Christmas Stories

SHEPHERD' CENTER—Christmas Party with Mystery Guest???? Bring a white elephant gift and a can of food for the food pantry.

Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone!

"Eat Lots!"



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

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BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816

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The Week of November 27—December 3

Sunday, November 27

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:45 pm Advent Wreath Workshop

Monday, November 28

9:00 am UMW Joy Circle
10:00 am UMW Hope-Love Circles
10:00 am Prayer Shawl
6:30 pm UMW Friendship Circle

Tuesday, November 29

12:30 pm Lay Servants Meeting

Wednesday, November 30

7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer
4:30 pm Elementary Children's Choir
5:30 pm Pageant Rehearsal
5:45 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Youth Holy Ground Worship

Thursday, December 1

9:30 am Shepherd's Center
6:00 pm Preschool Spirit Night @
Chick-fil-a Hoover Commons

Saturday, December 3

8:00 am Potato Drop Mission Project

SUNDAY, November 27, 2016

8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship

Matthew 24:36-44

"The Waiting is the Work"

Rev. John Carl Hastings

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45am Chatterton 11:00am Youth

Cross

8:45 Caroline Marshall 11:00 Abby Gray

Acolyte

8:45 Cadence Ward 11:00 Ellie Blanchard

Greeters: New Horizons

Meals on Wheels: Davis

Food Pantry December 7th:

Steve Lawson

Last Week's Record

November 20, 2016

Children/Youth	83/57
Morning Worship	410
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$16,087.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,251,747.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,222,056.84
New Members in 2016	22

LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013—December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$100.00
Received to Date	\$985,117.87

**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.