



# Joy to the World

## BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street Hoover, AL 35226 205.822.0910

December 11, 2016

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

### Worship Services

#### Sunday Morning Worship

Sundays @ 8:45am and 11:00am

#### 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*

#### New Year's Day Sunday Worship

January 1st @ 11:00am

### Holiday Events and Activities

#### Christmas on the Bluff Choir Concert

December 11th @ 6:30pm

*Nursery provided during concert*

[www.ChristmasInBluffPark.com](http://www.ChristmasInBluffPark.com)

**A**s we prepare for the last few weeks of 2016, we are making plans for a new year of ministry and mission at Bluff Park UMC! We are so thankful for the over 250 households that have turned in their pledge card for next year. Pledging is an important part of being a part of a church family together because it helps the leadership of the church prepare a plan for the following year based upon what we expect to receive. With this information in hand, we can create a budget and make decisions about what new ministries and missions are possible in the new year. The pledges made at the end of 2015 helped our church family to put together a budget that included growth in our ministries to children, student ministry and young adult ministry. Please know that we are counting on each and every household to be generous as 2016 draws to a close so that we can finish the initiatives that we started together.

We are expecting to receive many more pledge cards in the coming weeks so that we can finish our budget in early 2017. The response to the 10,000 Reasons Capital Campaign for our new building was tremendous! Over \$1,000,000 was pledged to the campaign in the past month. While we continue to seek out pledges to this building campaign, we also hope that each and every person will prayerfully consider how they can give to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ in the coming year.

All persons are invited, but not required, to make a special offering this coming Sunday in morning worship: Sunday, December 11th. This special offering is a First Fruits offering towards the 10,000 Reasons Campaign. The goal is for each person who has pledged to this building campaign to make an initial and generous offering to get our campaign off to a good start! If you find that you are able to do, please bring your offering to worship this Sunday!

*Mike*



# News of the Week



**Christmas**  
**on THE BLUFF**  
*Would I Miss the Miracle?*  
BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR  
DECEMBER 11, 2016 @ 6:30PM - BPUMC SANCTUARY

## CHRISTMAS ON THE BLUFF CONCERT

The Bluff Park United Methodist Church Choir presents their seventh annual Christmas holiday concert at the church on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. This year's concert is titled "Would I Miss the Miracle". Lonnie Parsons, Director of Worship Music for the church, will direct and special guest Amy Johnson will join the choir. Nursery will be provided during the concert.



## 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.

## WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each Advent, our church takes up the White Christmas Offering in support of the United Methodist Children's Home. Their mission is to heal children, unite families, and change lives in northern Alabama. Through your support, children are placed in safe and loving foster homes and are able to continue to be cared for in college as they transition into independent

adulthood. Simply assign checks or envelopes to "White Christmas Offering" in morning worship throughout Advent, or by dropping off your gift in our Financial Office.

## COMMUNION TEAM

The Communion Team needs help for the Christmas Eve services this year. We need help setting up and cleaning up. If you are available to serve, please call Joan Davis to volunteer at 824-3415.

## ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS!

All college-aged students home for the holidays are invited to join the Young Professionals for Sunday School and refreshments in their classroom on the Third Floor, room 366, above the church office. See Rev. John Carl Hastings or the Welcome Desk for directions or any questions.

## ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Advent Morning Prayer has begun. Join us on Wednesday mornings 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. The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.

## SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on a Sunday this year. We will have a single worship service at 11:00 am both days and no Sunday School hour Christmas day. Make sure to mark your calendar.

## CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed after Christmas on Monday December 26th and Tuesday December 27th. The church office will also be closed following New Year's Day on Monday January 2nd and Tuesday January 3rd.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

DeAnn Bueoy—Aspire  
Bob Zachow—St. Vincent's  
Shirley White—Brookwood  
Terry Haltiwanger—Brookwood



## 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

**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST:** On Sunday, December 18th, we will be providing a Christmas breakfast for our children and their families in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. We hope to see you there!

**CHRISTMAS DAY/NEW YEARS DAY:** There will only be one worship service at 11:00 on both Christmas Day and New Years Day. We will provide a nursery during the worship services on both days, but there will be no Children's Church. There will be no Children's Sunday School on Christmas Day, but there will be a Children's Sunday School for both our Elementary and Preschool children on New Years Day from 10:00-10:45 for those that would like to attend.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Our Preschool and Elementary Sunday School lessons will be on the Christmas story!

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:** Our lesson in Children's Church will be on "The Candle of Joy!"

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**Holy Ground Homecoming - Wednesday, December 14th** We'll have our last student-led worship event of the year. Since there won't be dinner upstairs, we'll have food from New China (please bring \$5) as our college kids join us for a Holy Ground Homecoming! Students are welcome to bring their study materials with them during worship. Come for dinner at 5:30pm and worship with us from 6:30-7:30pm.

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY & CAROLING - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH** We'll meet in the Youth Wing at 5pm and divide into vehicles to go Christmas Caroling. Then we'll return to the Church for a covered dish dinner and a game of Dirty Santa. We need your help to make the evening a success: Parents: We need a side dish or dessert. Students: we need a fun, goofy, inexpensive or FREE gift for Dirty Santa AND we need a monetary donation or a gift card to Publix or Target for a family in need we're helping this holiday season.

**DISCOVERY WEEKEND - FEBRUARY 3-5, 2017** Save the date for this incredible weekend of spiritual formation, when our high school students will lead our middle school students in worship, discussion, prayer and fellowship with the assistance of our college students and adults. We cannot wait to see what God has planned for our students! Registration is now open and all 6th-12th graders are welcome to attend. Contact Kathryn kdavis@bpumc.org for registration info.

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING WINTER SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we move closer to 2017: Holy Ground Worship, Discovery Weekend 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** 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, Dec 11, 10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday, Dec 11	No Afternoon/Evening Youth Programming
Wednesday, Dec 14, 4:30pm	HG Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, Dec 14, 5:30pm	New China & Hangout (bring \$5 for dinner)
Wednesday, Dec 14, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship
Sunday, Dec 18, 10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday, Dec 18, 5:00pm	Caroling & Christmas Party

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

**SHEPHERD' CENTER—Christmas Party** - Bobby, Jerry, and Brian (3 on a String) will be here. Surprise visit from Santa Claus, kindergarten child will sing for us, and Doris will have a wondrous lunch. Bring a White Elephant gift and a can of food for the food pantry. Come prepared for a morning of Christmas cheer. Invite a friend.

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

**NO SHEPHERD'S CENTER—Merry Christmas**

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

**NO SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Happy New Year**

### SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS

During this Christmas season, remember your care and contact person.

Count your blessings, name them one by one.

Count your blessings, see what God has done.

Count your blessings, name them one by one.

It will surprise you what the Lord has done.



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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  
**Organist**,  
Jay Tumminello, jtumminello@bpumc.org  
**Preschool Director**,  
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org  
**Facilities Manager**,  
Chad Malcolm, cmalcolm@bpumc.org



## The Week of December 11—17

**Sunday, December 11**  
8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:30 am Betty Hottenstein Reception  
9:45 am Sunday School  
10:00 am New Members Class  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
6:30 pm Christmas on the Bluff  
**Monday, December 12**  
9:00 am UMW Executive Meeting  
10:00 am Prayer Shawl  
6:00 pm UMW Christmas Party  
**Tuesday, December 13**  
8:30 am Maintenance  
6:00 pm Under the Bridge  
**Wednesday, December 14**  
7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer  
5:45 pm Men's Chorus  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:30 pm Choir  
6:30 pm Youth Holy Ground Worship  
**Thursday, December 15**  
9:30 am Shepherd's Center  
6:30 pm Finance Committee  
**Friday, December 16**  
12:00 pm Opportunity Class Luncheon

**SUNDAY, December 11, 2016**  
8:45am and 11:00am Morning Worship  
Matthew 11:2-11  
*"Where Are You Christmas?"*  
Rev. Mike Holly  
  
**Lectionary Scripture Readings**  
Isaiah 35:1-10  
Luke 1:47-55  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11  
  
**SERVING SUNDAY**  
**Ushers**  
8:45am Adams 11:00am Alley  
**Cross**  
8:45 Andrew Pitts 11:00 Tate Turner  
**Acolyte**  
8:45 Matthew Pitts 11:00 Beverly Redding  
**Greeters: Seekers**  
**Meals on Wheels: Fugit**  
**Food Pantry January 4th:**  
Adams/Cummings

## Last Week's Record

December 4, 2016

Children	120
Morning Worship	572
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$31,080.15
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,306,171.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,274,278.51
New Members in 2016	23

### LIVING OUR LEGACY

January 1, 2013–December 31, 2015

Amount Pledged	\$1,083,250.00
Received Last Week	\$440.00
Received to Date	\$985,857.87

**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.