



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter January 15, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



As we begin this New Year together, I wanted to share with you some of the good news that we received by the end of the year. Our 10,000 Reasons Capital Stewardship Campaign that launched in October focused on the community around us and how we as a church family are called to step out in faith to create new ministries and to build new facilities to reach and bless others. We have received over 200 pledges for the 10,000 Reasons Campaign with an estimated \$1,099,000 in gifts over three years. We have already received over \$100,000 in gifts towards this campaign!

While this is a tremendous response to our vision and plan, we know that there are several households that are still prayerfully considering their pledge towards the new building for youth and community ministries as well as for our annual church budget. We hope that these households will turn in their pledge very soon. Our church's pastoral and financial staff are ready to answer any questions that you may have!

Finally, I want to share with you that in order to be as transparent of a church as we can be, we will hold a State of the Church meeting on Sunday, January 29th at 5:00 pm. This important meeting is the time in which we share with you up to date information about our plans, budget, and financial health. We also try to answer any questions that our church family may have about the ministries and missions of our church. I hope that you will make note of this meeting and make sure to attend!

Mike

MISSION & MINISTRY GUIDE WINTER/SPRING EDITION

The Winter/Spring 2017 guide to missions and ministries is now available. The guide highlights the major events, mission opportunities, Bible studies, holiday worship schedules, and other important activities happening in the life of our church. Our planned distribution schedule was upset by the recent icy weather, but the new guide was mailed last week and is also available to download on the church website with additional printed copies available in the office and at the welcome station in the Narthex.



SAVE THE DATE

STATE OF THE CHURCH MEETING
January 29th @ 5:00 pm
Sanctuary—Nursery Provided

News of the Week

THE BIBLE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

On Wednesdays, from January 11 - February 1, the UMW is sponsoring a church-wide study exploring the Bible and human sexuality as two essential components of our Christian faith. The Bible is part of the foundation of our faith. Human sexuality is part of who we are as human beings, created by God and called good. This study invites us to explore the complexity of the biblical text and our varied understandings of it in light of human sexuality. Classes are being led by Tom Duley in the Fireside Room starting at 6:30pm.

UPCOMING VIM TRIP

We will be taking a Volunteers in Mission trip to South Carolina from February 26 to March 4, 2017. If you would like to be a member of this team please let Tom Duley know by January 15th so that he can get our team registered with the folks in South Carolina. He can be reached at 822-0910 ext 112 or tduley@bpumc.org.

2017 ALTAR FLOWERS

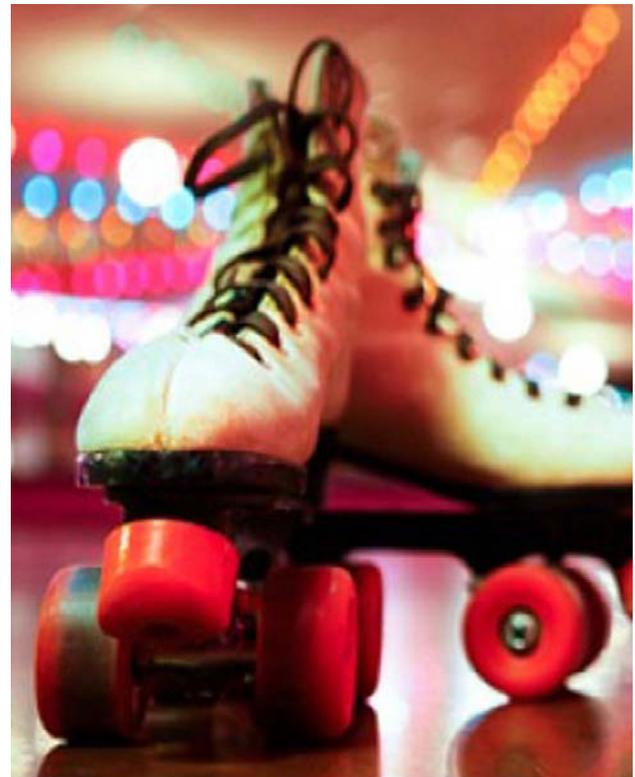
There are dates left on the 2017 Flower Calendar. Please sign up to remember a loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. One arrangement is \$50.00; both \$100.00. We have two arrangements each Sunday. Dates available include: January 22 and 29. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE ONE WARM COAT

Girl Scout Troop 746 is collecting new and used winter coats to be donated through the Jimmy Hale Mission to people in need. A donation box will be in Hudson Hall until January 22nd.

UPCOMING BAPTISM

This Sunday, January 15th, we welcome Jen Johnston into our community of faith through adult baptism at the 11:00am worship service.



SKATE NIGHT! Church -Wide Skate Party

January 15th from 5:00-7:00pm

@ Roller Motion
2474 Morgan Road
Bessemer, Alabama

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Pat Lyle—Princeton

Bonnie Nelson—Grandview



Fast and Secure Online Donations With EasyTithe

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has implemented a set of online giving tools, powered by easyTithe.com. This provides the ability to make donations 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 throughout the year. You can also use this service to make Midweek Meetup meal payments.

To create your online giving 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

SKATE PARTY: We will be having a Church-Wide Skate Night on Sunday, January 15th, at Roller Motion (2474 Morgan Road in Bessemer.) The party goes from 5-7pm. All skate rentals and dinner are free! We encourage you to attend as a family and bring your friends.

FIELD TRIP/MISSION TRIP: Our next mission trip/field trip will be on Martin Luther King Day, January 16th. We will be making thank you gifts for Bargains on the Bluff (who helps support our mission projects throughout the year) in the morning, eating a pizza lunch, and then going to see a movie in the afternoon. Drop off will begin at 7:30 and pickup will be at the church between 4:30 and 5:30. Please RSVP with Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org as soon as possible as we only have 26 spots available.

MIDWEEK MEETUP: Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday night from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, Bible Study/Classroom time, and more. Our church is currently participating in a Scripture Reading Challenge to begin the new year, and we want the children to be involved! So, each week of Midweek Meetup, we will give the children a slip of paper with a Bible story on it at the end of the night. If they return the following week and the person signing them in lets us know that they read that Bible story (in any Bible they choose suited for their age!), they receive a prize that night. If they read all the Bible stories during the winter/spring, they will receive a special grand prize at our end of the school year water slide party. Will you accept the challenge?!?!?!?

STUDENT MINISTRY

SKATE PARTY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH Our church has rented out Roller Motion Skate Rink on Sunday from 5-7pm. There will be free food and skate rentals for all BPUMC members and our guests. A limited number of seats on the church bus will be available for students meeting at the church. We look forward to seeing y'all there! (Roller Motion, 2474 Morgan Road, Bessemer, AL 35022, 205-424-7000)

MIDWEEK MINISTRIES - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18TH As always, students are welcome to bring their meals down to the youth wing and visit with friends, play games, do homework or just relax. Small groups will meet at 6:00pm with Holy Ground worship at 6:30pm. Our message series this month has a seasonal theme. Each week a different speaker will incorporate a season of the year into their message: January 18th - Leslie Norris - Spring January 25th - Bart Styes - Summer

DISCOVERY WEEKEND - FEBRUARY 3RD-5TH This is the single most important spiritual formation in our student ministry each year. High school and college students will work to serve our middle school students - modeling them what it means to live out the Great Commission of Matthew Chapter 28. There will be games, gifts, snacks, meals and free t-shirts which the students enjoy. But most importantly, there will be worship, prayer, discussions and testimony - all provided by our older students for our younger students.

Discovery Weekend IS OPEN to non-members. Just remember: Because you serve as leaders, high school students attend for a discounted price of \$25. The cost for middle school students is only \$75 for the weekend. Please make sure your friends understand this before they register. You can register now and pay later. We want you to invite all your friends so please don't let the price be a roadblock. We are happy to provide financial assistance for anyone who wants to attend. Just email Kathryn at kdavis@bpumc.org to set that up. We know that there are scheduling conflicts almost every weekend of the year. Students can come and go if they have a recital, practice, audition, game, etc. We just need to know before that weekend.

SAVE THESE DATES Friday-Sunday, February 3-5, 2017: *Discovery Weekend*, Friday-Sunday, June 9-11, 2017: *Whitewater Express Summer Trip*, 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, Jan 15, 10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday, Jan 15, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, Jan 15, 5pm	Skate Night at Roller Motion (2474 Morgan Road, Bessemer, AL 35022)
Tuesday, Jan 10, 7:00pm	HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home
Wednesday, Jan 18, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, Jan 18, 6:00pm	Girls, Guys & Coed Small Groups
Wednesday, Jan 18, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

DAY TRIP, 10:00 AM-4 PM, Cypress Inn for lunch and afterwards, an ADVENTURE (ice cream is involved)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

SHEPHERD'S CENTER -Andy Meginnis - A program of music

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

SHEPHERD'S CENTER-Gene Smith, President, Hoover City Council

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Jack Owens, General FBI Matters

SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 1:3



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
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Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org
Facilities Manager,
Chad Malcolm, cmalcolm@bpumc.org

The Week of January 15—21

Sunday, January 15

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
5:00 pm Gospel of Mark Study
5:00 pm Church-Wide Skate Party

Monday, January 16

7:30 am Children's Ministry Field Trip
10:00 am Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, January 17

9:30 am Covenant Bible Study

Wednesday, January 18

9:30 am Gospel of Mark
4:30 pm Pastors Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:45 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Half Truths Study
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Youth Small Groups
6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm The Bible and Human Sexuality
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Holy Ground Worship

Thursday, January 19

9:30 am Shepherd's Center
6:30 pm Finance Committee

SUNDAY, January 15, 2017

8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship

John 1:29-42

"That Sounds Like God"

Rev. John Carl Hastings

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 McDonald 11:00 Lawson

Cross

8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Riley Jones

Acolyte

8:45 Caroline Marshall 11:00 Tate Turner

Greeters: Covenant

Meal on Wheels: Ken & Kay Adams

Food Pantry February 1st:

Richerson/Lawson

Midweek Meetup January 18th: Bingo Night!

Beef & mac casserole, collard greens, corn bread, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Corn dogs for the kids.

Last Week's Record

January 8, 2017

Children	NA
Morning Worship	NA
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$2,701.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$54,424.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$12,465.00
New Members in 2017	0

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017–December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$0.00
Received to Date	\$157,373.00

**Provisional figures pending approval of 2017 budget.*

**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.