



733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter February 5, 2017*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



Dear Church Family,

Three events stand out for me this week. The first was the 2017 Chili Cook-Off that was held on Sunday, January 29th. Our Fellowship Hall was completely full of people enjoying twelve different batches of chili submitted by our church members. Caper's on Park Avenue also participated! Members also submitted cornbread and desserts. The Church Life Committee led by Randy and Judy Smith and Rev. Angela Martin did a wonderful job and I cannot wait for the 2018 competition!

We also held our State of the Church meeting this past Sunday evening. I am writing a letter to our congregation and plan to send it out very soon in order to share the news with each of you, especially if you could not attend the meeting. Our church's finance committee has not finalized a budget for 2017 because we are still waiting on several households to submit their 2017 pledge. If your family has not yet participated in faithful planned giving to your church, I hope that you will consider doing so very soon.

Finally, this coming weekend (February 3-5, 2017), our youth program will host a spiritual formation retreat for our junior high students. The senior high and college students from our church will serve as mentors and leaders throughout the weekend. All of the speakers will be students sharing with one another what their faith means to them. They will share with us in worship on February 5th what they have experienced and learned during the weekend. I hope you will all come and support our student ministry!

Blessings,

## **Discovery Weekend**

This weekend, February 3-5, is an important time in the Student Ministry at Bluff Park UMC. High school and college students come together to lead middle school students on a spiritual formation retreat. Together, they will worship, talk, pray, and play together. Young people who have matured in their faith through the ministries of our church are coming together to encourage the students following behind them.

Discovery Weekend is an opportunity for the middle school students to experience the love that our congregation has for them. They are reminded, in very tangible ways, that they are an important part of the church. Church members are providing snacks, volunteering time, participating in a prayer service, and more.

The weekend closes on Sunday morning as the students participate in the morning worship service and then return home.

Please keep our students, and the student ministry at Bluff Park UMC in your prayers



# News of the Week

## LITTLE IMAGINATIONS REGISTRATION

Looking for a Preschool or Parent's Day Out program for your sweet child/children? The answer may be closer than you think. Registration for the 2017-18 school year at Little Imaginations begins on Wednesday, February 1 at 10:00 am. Little Imaginations Preschool is a half-day program offering classes for infants (6 months and up) through 4K. School hours are 9:00-1:00. For information or program details, please call the preschool office at 822-5813, or email our director, Tracy Estes, at [imagination@bpumc.org](mailto:imagination@bpumc.org).2017

## LOVING OUR LGBTQ NEIGHBORS

Join a discussion about loving our neighbors and what that means specifically for understanding and loving our neighbors who are LGBTQ. This 4-week study meets Wednesdays in February at 6:00pm in the Faith Classroom. Speakers during this study include Rev. Mike Holly, Kathryn Coltrane, Angela Stowe, PhD, Director of Student Counseling Services and Wellness Promotion at UAB, member of Alabama Safe Schools Coalition and Highlands UMC, Dr. Morissa Ladinsky, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at UAB/Children's Hospital, Brett Vebber, Chaplain at Children's Hospital of Alabama, and Rev. Emily Freeman Penfield and members from Woodlawn UMC.

## TRAVEL TO ISRAEL IN 2018

We are planning a trip to Israel in early 2018. The dates are January 30–February 8. There are options available that could extend those dates should you choose. An information meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7th at 7 pm in the library and again on Sunday, February 12th in the library. You only need attend one of the meetings. If you can't attend either meeting contact Tom Duley at 822-0910 ext. 112 or [tduley@bpumc.org](mailto:tduley@bpumc.org) for more information.

## GARDENS ON THE BLUFF WORK DAY

Our new community garden project is taking shape. On Saturday, February 11th, from 8:00am-Noon, we will be cutting and pruning trees to prepare the space. This is an adults only day due to the use of heavy equipment. Call the office for more details.

## 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: February 12, 19, and 26. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Worship Committee will be Meeting on Sunday, February 19th, at 3:00pm in the library.

## MEMBER UPDATE

Johnnie Drennen has temporarily moved in with her son in Montgomery.

**Space Is Limited**

**AN AUTHENTIC CHILEAN CELEBRATION**

**Tuesday, February 14  
6:00-8:00pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Special Guests  
John & Cristina Elmore**

**Chilean Dinner \$20  
Cueca Dance Performance  
Hear stories of Chile  
from our Mission Volunteers**

Call the church office for reservations (205) 822-0910

## Memorials

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Fred McCool by Ray and Norma Thweatt

PASTORS DISCRETIONARY  
Fred McCool by Bob and Ann Nelson

WHITE CHRISTMAS FUND  
Betty Hutto McWilliams by Richard and Kay Bridges

## Honorariums

FOOD PANTRY  
Jim McCrary by the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham

WHITE CHRISTMAS FUND  
Wayne and Peggy Williams by Matt and Pat Reeder

SENIOR MINISTRY  
Betty Hottenstein by Preston and Jo Ann Huddleston

Please Note: Some Memorials and Honorariums are not listed by the request of the donors.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**MISSION/FIELD TRIP:** Our next mission trip/field trip will be on Presidents Day, February 20th. We will be working on a Bargains on the Bluff appreciation project in the morning, eating a pizza lunch, and then going bowling 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.

**4TH/5TH GRADE RETREAT:** We would love to take a group of 4th and 5th graders to Exit 456 at Camp Sumatanga again this year! This retreat is scheduled for Friday, March 17th (we would leave at 4:30) and Saturday, March 18th (we would return between 4:30-5:00). It is a one night retreat full of fun, food, worship, and speakers. The cost for the retreat includes lodging at Camp Sumatanga, 3 meals, all snacks, and a T-shirt. The cost is \$75 per child and we need to know who is going by Wednesday, February 15th. We do have scholarships for anyone who would like to attend but is unable to pay the fee. Please email Stanley Davidson at sdavidson@bpumc.org as soon as possible if your child would like to attend 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?!?!?!?

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Preschool Sunday School will be participating in their mission Sunday and the Elementary Sunday School lesson will be "Jesus and the Ten Lepers."

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**MIDWEEK MINISTRIES - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST** 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 theme is the Gospel According to Pixar with a different movie-related message each week. Our monthly guest speaker will be Andrew Holder on the 15th.

**DISCOVERY WEEKEND** Thank you for supporting our students through this event through your prayers, your letters, and your gifts of snacks and scholarship funds. We are also very grateful to everyone in our church family who volunteered behind the scenes to make this weekend possible!

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING WINTER SCHEDULE.** There's so much going on as we enter 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** Tuesday, February 28th, 2017: *Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser*, Friday-Sunday, June 9-11, 2017: *Whitewater Express Summer Trip*, Sunday-Saturday, July 2-8, 2017: *Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip*. (Contact Kathryn Davis kdavis@bpumc.org if you have any issues.)

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, Feb 5, 10:00am

Sunday, Feb 5

Tuesday, Feb 7, 7:00pm

Wednesday, Feb 8, 4:30pm

Wednesday, Feb 8, 6:00pm

Wednesday, Feb 8, 6:30pm

NO Sunday School (join us for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall)

NO Afternoon/Evening Programming

HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home

Holy Ground Team Rehearsal

Girls, Guys & Coed Small Groups

Holy Ground Worship

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Rev. Julie Holly, Chaplain, Birmingham Southern College. What a chaplain does and the history of BSC

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Shane Miller, Manager, Piggly Wiggly - General Grocery Store operations

#### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**OUTING** - Lunch at The Shrimp Basket on Green Springs Highway and a Bargain Hunt

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER** - Dr. Ray Thweatt - How to get the most of your visit to the doctor.

### **SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS**

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. Proverbs 17:17





## 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 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 February 5—11

### Sunday, February 5

8:45 am Discovery Weekend  
Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
2:00 pm Vision Steering Team  
4:00 pm Gospel of Mark Study

### Monday, February 6

10:00 am Prayer Shawl

### Tuesday, February 7

9:30 am Covenant Bible Study  
6:30 pm Church Life Committee  
7:00 pm Israel Trip Info Meeting

### Wednesday, February 8

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 Hospitality Class  
6:00 pm Half Truths  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm Youth Small Groups  
6:30 pm Gospel of Luke  
6:30 pm Walk/Run with Laura Ann Pitts  
6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study  
6:30 pm Choir  
6:30 pm Holy Ground Worship

### Thursday, February 9

9:30 am Shepherd's Center  
6:30 pm Building Team Meeting

### Friday, February 10

12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon

### SUNDAY, February 5, 2017

8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship

Discovery Weekend  
Special Guest Speaker  
Leslie Norris

### Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:1-12  
Psalm 112: 1-10  
1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
Matthew 5:13-20

### SERVING SUNDAY

#### Ushers

8:45 Thompson 11:00 Youth

#### Cross

8:45 Vivi Shanlever 11:00 Kate Ryan Black

#### Acolyte

8:45 Natalie Self 11:00 Penny Rose Pearson

#### Greeters: Friendship

#### Meal on Wheels:

Julie Adams & Georgia Pearson

#### Food Pantry March 1st:

Sumners/McCrary

**Midweek Meetup February 8th:** iPad Pictonary. Menu - pork loin, cabbage, rosemary potatoes, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

## Last Week's Record

January 29, 2017

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Children/Youth                  | 101/52         |
| Morning Worship                 | 500            |
| Weekly Contributions Expected*  | \$27,212.00    |
| Weekly Contributions Received   | \$33,607.00    |
| Annual Contributions Expected*  | \$1,415,000.00 |
| Contributions Expected to Date* | \$136,060.00   |
| Contributions Received to Date  | \$100,145.75   |
| New Members in 2017             | 6              |

### 10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017–December 31, 2019

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Amount Pledged     | \$1,099,621.00 |
| Received Last Week | \$6,577.00     |
| Received to Date   | \$172,740.33   |

*\*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.