



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter February 19, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Last week, I shared with you the second rule for general societies in the Methodist movement as written by John Wesley. By doing good, John Wesley instructed, we have the opportunity to be a blessing to God and others.

Today, I want to go back and share the first rule for the general societies: Doing no harm. John Wesley advised that early Methodists should strive to avoid evil of every kind, “especially that which is most generally practiced.” His emphasis on generally practiced evil was important. He wanted Methodist Christians to avoid living like everyone else. He didn’t want us to blend in with culture, but to stand out as radically different.

Wesley advised early Methodists not to take the name of God in vain or to waste a Sabbath by doing ordinary work. He didn’t want Methodists to buy or sell slaves or to take advantage of others through unfair interest in loans. He advised his people to avoid fighting, quarreling, brawling and other forms of taking a simple disagreement to the extreme. By avoiding evil of every kind, Wesley believed that we had a fighting chance at creating space for God and God’s grace in our lives. And by seeking to do no harm to others, we could create space in our lives and activities for the second rule from last week: to do good.

In our culture today, we could all use a dose of the first two rules to help order our relationships – to do no harm and to do all the good we can.

Mike



Our annual Children’s Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 8th from 9-11. One of our goals is to invite as many children from the community as possible! We have set an ambitious goal of collecting and hiding 10,000 Eggs, and we need your help!

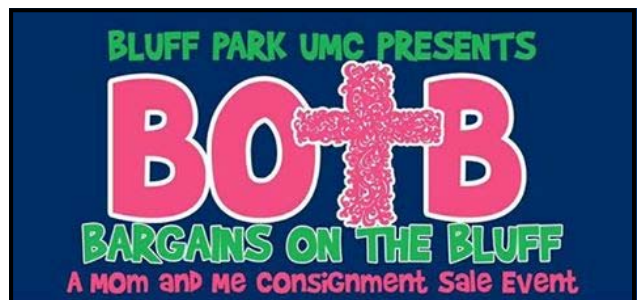
If you would like to help, you can do so in one of two ways:

Way #1: Bags of plastic eggs can be picked up at both entrances on the

first floor or in the Narthex. Fill them with candy and return them to the same spots when completed.

Way #2: Make a monetary donation to help us offset the price of purchasing Easter Eggs and candy. Make donations to BPUMC with “Easter Eggs” placed in the memo line.

Thank you for helping us make this an exciting and fun event for both our children and those of our community!



BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF

Spring/Summer Sale
February 24-25

Please help us spread the word. This sale is a great blessing to the families in our community who take part in it, and it also raises money to support the preschool and the children’s ministry here at the church. The doors open at 9:00am both days.

For more details visit the website:
BluffParkUMC.org/botb

News of the Week

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

For centuries, Christians have begun a forty day season of spiritual preparation for Easter by observing a holy Lenten season. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year begins on March 1, 2017. For forty days (not counting Easter), we spend time dealing with the reality of our lives and contemplating the ways we separate ourselves from God. The hope lies at the end of Lent - where we find that Jesus defeats death and sin and allows us the opportunity to renew our faith. During this Lenten season, we will provide weekly prayers, daily Scripture readings and other ideas for spiritual disciplines. We hope that for this season of Lent, you will join us on this journey!

LENTEN STUDIES COMING IN MARCH

Beginning March 8th and running through April 12th, two Lenten studies will be offered. *On the Road to the Cross* by Rob Burkett will be taught during the Pastor's Bible Study at 4:30pm on Wednesday afternoons. This class will be taught by Mike Holly and Angela Martin in room 268. *Restored: Finding Redemption In Our Mess* by Tom Berlin will be taught on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm. This class will be taught by Angela Martin in room 140. There is a book for this class so if you plan to participate, kindly email amartin@bpumc.org so that enough books can be purchased.

LENTEN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Beginning March 5th and running through April 9th, *Restored: Finding Redemption in our Mess* by Tom Berlin will be offered during the Sunday School hour in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome, especially those who are not already part of a Sunday School class.

SERVERS NEEDED FOR MID-WEEK MEALS

We need servers for our mid-week meal for 4th Wednesdays of the month. Meal service begins at 5:00 pm and runs to 6:30pm. If you can volunteer your service for this ministry of hospitality email Angela at amartin@bpumc.org.

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.

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 19, 26, and March 12, 18, and 26. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

MAINTENANCE CREW

The Maintenance Crew meets on the *second Tuesday* of the month at 8:30am to work around the church. All retirees, and/or soon to be retirees, or anyone willing to help around the church are welcome. You do not need a special skill, just a willingness to help in any way you can. Come when you can and enjoy the fellowship while helping to defray the costs of maintaining the buildings and grounds of the church. May God continue to bless Bluff Park UMC as we strive to be a beacon of hope to our community and world as we share the love of Christ. J.B. Thrasher jbrare5@yahoo.com.

ROCK-A-THON 2017

Rock-A-Thon 2017 benefitting the McCoy Adult Day Care. Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 10:00am to 12 noon at St. Mark UMC. Entertainment, Food, Fellowship - and rocking! If you would like to donate, make checks payable to MADC (all contributions are tax deductible.) If you would like to participate, see Rev. Angela for a Sponsor Form.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Linda Bailey—UAB West
Shirley White—Grandview

15TH ANNUAL ORGAN RECITAL

Lester Seigel, the Joseph Hugh Thomas Professor of Music at Birmingham - Southern College, will perform an organ recital at Bluff Park United Methodist Church on March 5th at 4:00 pm. A reception will follow the performance.



The performance features selections from the 19th-century Romantic era, with works by John Stainer, Johannes Brahms, Cesar Franck, Camille Saint-Saens, Clarence Dickinson, and Julius Reubke, from England, Austria, Germany, France and the USA. The music was chosen specifically for the Moller organ at Bluff Park.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

PRESCHOOL PAJAMA PARTY: We will be having a Pajama Party and Dinner for all of our Preschool aged children and their families on Friday, March 3rd. This years theme will be "The Farm" and the kids who attend will enjoy a farm themed dinner, crafts, and storytime. Dinner will be from 5:30-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall and the Party will happen from 6:00-7:30 in Hudson Hall. Please register online at BluffParkUMC.org/preschoolpjparty or e-mail Marcie Walters at nursery@bpumc.org if you plan to attend. Don't forget to wear your pajamas!

EASTER EGG HUNT: Our annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 8th from 9-11. Again this year, one of our goals is to invite as many children from the community as possible! Because of this, we have set an ambitious goal of collecting and hiding 10,000 Easter Eggs at the hunt, and we need your help!

If you would like to help, you can do so in one of two ways:

Way #1: Bags of plastic eggs can be picked up at both entrances on the first floor or in the Narthex. Fill them with candy and return them to the same spots when completed.

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Thank you for helping us make this an exciting and fun event for both our children and those of our community!

MIDWEEK MEETUP: Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday night from 5:00-7:30. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, age focused Bible Study/Classroom time, and more.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Preschool Sunday School and the Elementary Sunday School lesson will be on "Jesus and the Ten Lepers."

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: The lesson this week will be on "Jesus Heals a Blind Man."

STUDENT MINISTRY

MIDWEEK MINISTRIES - FEBRUARY - THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PIXAR 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.

Sunday, February 19th - Serve Night After Snack Supper, we will have several opportunities to serve others. Then after those, we will head to Krispy Kreme on 31.

DUGOUT MINISTRY We already have over forty members of our congregation ready to participate in this new program. Each participant will get a card in a few weeks with the name, face and some basic info on a student whom they can pray for and encourage throughout the year. If you'd like to be part of the Dugout but missed signing up last Sunday, don't worry. We'll have signup sheets out again this week.

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 19, 10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday, Feb 19, 4:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, Feb 19, 5:00pm	Serve Night
Tuesday, Feb 21, 7:00pm	HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home
Wednesday, Feb 22, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, Feb 22, 6:00pm	Girls, Guys & Coed Small Groups
Wednesday, Feb 22, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 make the most of your visit to the doctor.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - Riverchase Community Gospel Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - 10:00 AM - Dr. James Irwin, Veterinarian - Interesting Animal Stories; Auburn University's contributions to Science and Technology

A LENTEN STUDY, led by Bob Nelson 11:00 AM - "24 Hours that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton.

SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS

For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last just as it is written:
"The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:17



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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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, jmcrrory@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 19—25

Sunday, February 19
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
3:00 pm Worship Committee
5:00 pm Gospel of Mark Study

Monday, February 20
7:00 am Children's Field Trip
10:00 am Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, February 21
9:30 am Covenant Bible Study
1:00 pm Community Garden Committee
6:00 pm Under the Bridge

Wednesday, February 22
9:30 am Gospel of Mark
9:30 am Food Pantry Committee
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 Holy Strollers
6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Holy Ground Worship

Thursday, February 23
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
9:30 am Friendship Circle
6:30 pm Fiance Committee

Friday, February 24
9:00 am-6:00 pm Bargains on the Bluff
5:00 pm Fisherman Class Social

Saturday, February 25
9:00 am-2:00 pm Bargains on the Bluff

SUNDAY, February 19, 2017
8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship
Matthew 5:38-48
"If You're Angry And You Know It..."
Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

SERVING SUNDAY
Ushers
8:45 Footsteps 11:00 Davis
Cross
8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Mary Lynn Williamson
Acolyte
8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Rebecca Rice
Greeters: New Light
Meal on Wheels: Betsy Britain
Food Pantry March 1st:
Sumners/McCrary

Midweek Meetup February 22nd: Bingo Night. Menu - Taco salad, refried beans, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

February 12, 2017

Children/Youth	100/66
Morning Worship	521
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$27,047.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$190,484.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$153,355.25
New Members in 2017	6

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017–December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621 .00
Received Last Week	\$2,057.00
Received to Date	\$176,722.33

**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.