



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
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BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter March 6, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Lent and Easter Schedule

Lenten Morning Prayer

Wednesday Mornings @ 7:30am

Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast

Saturday, April 8 @ 9:00am

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 9 @ 8:45am &
11:00am

Maundy Thursday Worship and Foot Washing

Thursday, April 13 @ 6:30pm

Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 14 @ 6:30pm

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 16 @ 8:45am &
11:00am

Dear Friends,

The Easter Love Offering is one of the beautiful traditions of the Lenten season at Bluff Park United Methodist Church. The Easter Love Offering goes to support mission agencies that do work locally as well as internationally. This year the Missions Committee has chosen to support the same agencies that we supported last year. They are: Urban Ministry, Inc., McCoy Older Adult Day Care, United Community Centers, Firehouse Men's Shelter, First Light Women's Shelter, Meals on Wheels, Never Thirst, Habitat for Humanity and Stop Hunger Now.

These agencies were chosen for three reasons. First, because they all work in one or more areas of our church's mission focus of "food, water, shelter." Second, because there is significant involvement by members of Bluff Park UMC in each of these ministries. Third, because each ministry is committed to meeting the spiritual needs of the people they serve and because they give us the opportunity to support both charity (meeting short-term needs) and development (providing long-term solutions).

In 2016 we received a very generous offering of \$21,401.00. This year we would like to reach \$25,000.00. Our desire is to help make the mercy and grace of God's Kingdom a reality for as many people as we possibly can. We believe that each of these agencies does this in their own particular way so we ask that you be as generous as you possibly can.

The 2017 Easter Love Offering is sponsored by the BPUMC United Appeal Fund. Please make your checks out to "BPUMC United Appeal Fund" and designate them with Easter Love Offering in the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

May God's richest blessing always be yours,

Mike Holly
Senior Pastor

Tom Duley
Minister of Missions and Pastoral Care

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 began on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 1st. 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 STARTING 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.

LENTEN MORNING PRAYER

Lenten Morning Prayer begins on Wednesday, March 8th. We will meet in the sanctuary for this service of Prayer, Scripture and Holy Communion. These services take place weekly throughout the season of Lent. The last service will be Wednesday, April 12th. The service begins at 7:30 AM and lasts for approximately half an hour. This is a great way to focus on spiritual growth during the season of Lent.

GARDENS ON THE BLUFF

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has a community garden and you are invited to garden with us. The garden is located between the columbarium and the Korean Catholic Church. For several years a small group of church members has been preparing the space while conducting educational garden programs for children. Now, we are ready to invite the whole community to join us. If you would like to reserve one or more beds for your own personal garden you can do so by contacting Tom Duley at 822-0910 ext. 112 or tduley@bpumc.org. The cost is \$20.00 per year per bed.

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.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Shirley White who passed away on February 22nd. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to Joan Dunn on the passing of her husband Stretch on February 26th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of sorrow.

CONGRATULATIONS...

Congratulations to Kathryn and Matthew O'Neal on the birth of a son, Jack Allan on February 22nd.

MISSING KITCHEN ITEMS

Items are being removed from the kitchen but aren't being returned. Please return any items you have temporarily borrowed as soon as you are able.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Linda Bailey—UAB West

Memorials

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Fred McCool by Mrya Gray, Julia Dunne

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT
Bill Walker by Dolly McPherson, Mrs. H. Jack McDonald

BUILDING FUND
Fred McCool by Jack and Sue Pearson, The Opportunity Class

FOOD PANTRY
Lurlean Bush Hartley by JB and Frankie Thrasher

VICTOR HARBOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Fred McCool by the Shepherd's Center

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Fred McCool by Sue Crunk

Honorariums

SHEPHERD'S CENTER
Betty Hottenstein by JB and Frankie Thrasher

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BARGAINS ON THE BLUFF THANK YOU! Thank you so much to all the Bargains on the Bluff volunteers for your hard work and dedication this past week! Because of all that you do, the Children's Ministry at BPUMC is able to offer a high quality Vacation Bible School experience to our children and the children of our community—at no cost. We could not do it without you, and we can't thank you enough!

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.

Way #2: Make a monetary donations 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!

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 Elementary Sunday School lesson will be on "Lazarus" and the Preschool Sunday School will be participating in their monthly mission project!

CHILDREN'S WEEKLY EMAIL: If you would like to start receiving our Children's Weekly Email to find out all of the fun and exciting things that are going on in the Children's Ministry at BPUMC, please email Melissa Hendon at mhendon@bpumc.org and let us know!

STUDENT MINISTRY

MIDWEEK MINISTRIES - MARCH - THE POWER OF PRAYER Our theme for the next month focuses on prayer and includes guest speakers Christian Cooper and Doris who makes all of our meals! 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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5TH - DISCOVERY REUNION It's been one month since Discovery Weekend. So we'll celebrate by eating together in the Youth Wing. Then we'll move to the Holy Ground Room for a special glow stick worship experience. Rachel Pope and Tanner McReynolds will share how their lives have been different over the past few weeks, thanks to living out the Great Commission.

GUYS SMALL GROUP STARTS, MONDAY, MARCH 6TH All 6th-12th graders are invited to Mark Hearn's house from 7-8pm for a new weekly small group. Check your emails and texts for more details.

SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATIONS! Students can now register online for our June summer camp and ASP Mission Trip in July. Check with Kathryn Davis (kdavis@bpumc.org) for the links or more details.

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, Confirmation, Senior Recognition 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, June 9-11, 2017: *Whitewater Express Summer Trip*, Sunday-Saturday, July 2-8, 2017: *Appalachia Service Project Mission Trip*.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 5, 10:00am
Sunday, March 5, 4:00pm
Sunday, March 5, 5:00pm
Monday, March 6, 7:00pm
Tuesday, March 7, 7:00pm
Wednesday, March 8, 6:00pm
Wednesday, March 8, 6:30pm

Sunday School
Holy Ground Team Rehearsal & Confirmation Class
Discovery Reunion
All Guys Small Group at Hearn Home
HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home
Guys/Girls/Coed Small Groups
Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 - Week 1 - The Last Supper - Mark 14:12, 22-25

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - 10:00 AM - Rev. Angela Martin, "My Life in Music and Faith"

A LENTEN STUDY, led by Bob Nelson 11:00 AM - Week 2 - The Garden of Gethsemane - Mark 14:32-36

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

DAY TRIP - 9:30 AM-4:00 PM - Pell City, The Ark Restaurant, Catfish, Pink Barn, Antiques and more.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - 10:00 AM - Dr. Geoffrey Dye - Maintenance of Feet

A LENTEN STUDY, led by Bob Nelson 11:00 AM - Week 3 - Condemned by the Righteous - Mark 14:53-72.

SPECIAL MOMENT WITH JESUS

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Mark 14:22



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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NON-PROFIT ORG.
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BIRMINGHAM, AL
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Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org
Facilities Manager,
Chad Malcolm, cmalcolm@bpumc.org

The Week of March 5—11

Sunday, March 5
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Lenten Sunday School Class
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
3:00 pm Board of Stewards Meeting
4:00 pm Confirmation
4:00 pm Organ Recital
4:30 pm Children's Council Meeting
5:00 pm Gospel of Mark Study
Monday, March 6
10:00 am Prayer Shawl
Tuesday, March 7
7:00 am County-Wide Tax Renewal Election
9:30 am Covenant Bible Study
2:30 pm Building Team Meeting
6:00 pm Church Life Meeting
Wednesday, March 8
7:30 am Lenten Morning Prayer
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:45 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Gardening Class
6:00 pm Half Truths
6:00 pm Youth Small Groups
6:30 pm Holy Strollers
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study
6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm Youth Holy Ground
Thursday, March 9
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
Friday, March 10
12:00 pm Friendship Class Luncheon
1:00 pm Ladies' Sewing Group
Saturday, March 11
8:00 am Community Garden Work Day

SUNDAY, March 5, 2017
8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship
Matthew 4:1-11
"Take It On"
Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
Psalm 32
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

SERVING SUNDAY
Ushers
8:45 Carlisle 11:00 Lawson
Cross
8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Avery Edwards
Acolyte
8:45 Spencer Schillaci 11:00 Riley Jones
Greeters: Opportunity
Meal on Wheels: Ed & Nan Thomas
Food Pantry March 1st:
Adams/Richerson
Midweek Meetup March 8th: Menu - Fried fish, baked beans, potato wedges, baked chicken, baked potatoe, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

February 26, 2017

Children/Youth	112/50
Morning Worship	509
Weekly Contributions Expected*	\$27,212.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$15,169.00
Annual Contributions Expected*	\$1,415,000.00
Contributions Expected to Date*	\$244,908.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$197,097.25
New Members in 2017	6

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017–December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$1,279.00
Received to Date	\$181,968.66

**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.