



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter April 9, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Lent and Easter Schedule

Lenten Morning Prayer

Wednesday Mornings @ 7:30am

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

The Gathering Preview Service

Sunday, April 16 @ 11:00 am
In the Chapel



The season of Lent already has a sense of seriousness about it, for we are dealing with our sin and our lack of faith. The final week of Lent takes on even a more serious tone as we are set to follow Jesus into Jerusalem for the final time.

On Sunday, Holy Week begins with a celebration as we remember how the crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem as he rode in upon a colt. Our children will gather to wave palm branches just as those who walked ahead of Jesus shouted "Hosanna" and waved the branches of nearby palms. They anticipated that Jesus was about to say and do great things.

In his daily visits to the Temple, Jesus did say and do great things, but they were the kind of things that further drove a wedge between him and the establishment. Rather than to come and talk with Jesus and to see what he was doing, they plotted to silence him. They plotted to kill him.

During the next week, we invite you to come on this final journey with Jesus. We will have Maundy Thursday worship and Good Friday worship at 6:30 pm on both days in our Sanctuary. An optional yet wonderful service of foot washing will follow Thursday's service of Holy Communion. And of course, we gather together on Easter Sunday ~ to celebrate how God defeats death and dead ends in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Mike

Maundy Thursday Foot Washing Service Opportunity for Spiritual Growth and Blessing

In the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John we see Jesus humbly washing the feet of his disciples. This act of humility portrays Jesus' character and the character he desires for all of us believers. In this Scripture He commands all those who follow Him to do the same!

"If I then, your Master and Rabbi, have washed your feet, it is also your duty to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example in order that you may do what I have done to you." John 13:14-15.

Just as Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, we believers are commanded to perform this same service, and many churches offer this opportunity during the yearly Easter observances. Following our Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 p.m., April 13, our church will offer an opportunity for believers to follow Jesus' command to "do what I have done"—"to wash one another's feet" as each of us continues on his/her journey to become more "Christ-like."

After Jesus' command "to wash one another's feet" is this promise.

"If you know all this, blessed are you if you act accordingly."

The humble life of service exemplified in footwashing is in contrast to our former lives centered in pride and selfishness.

See you at the Maundy Thursday Foot Washing Service!

News of the Week

THE GATHERING AT BLUFF PARK PREVIEW

The Gathering at Bluff Park, BPUMC's new worship service, is excited to announce an Easter Preview service to be held in the BPUMC Chapel on Easter Sunday at 11am. This service will give members of the church and the community an opportunity to worship God and participate in the celebration of Easter in a brand new way, to experience how God is moving at BPUMC through this service, and to invite members of the community to come and experience our church. The Gathering seeks to reach out to the Bluff Park community, especially young adults and young families, to connect them with the life of BPUMC through finding belonging around God's table, growing in faith, and serving the world in love. You can learn more at thegatheringatbluffpark.org, on Facebook at facebook.com/thegatheringbp, or by emailing Rev. John Carl Hastings at jchastings@bpumc.org. Hope to see you there!

EASTER LOVE GIFT

At Bluff Park UMC, the Lenten season is the time of year when we receive our Easter Love Gift Offering for missions. The Easter Love Offering supports several ministries and missions that we, as a church, are involved in. Your generosity allowed us to do a great many things in 2016. We would like to do as much, or more, in 2017. We want to make a difference in the lives of many people as we support projects that are consistent with the "food, water, shelter" mission emphasis that the church has established. Please mark your check 'Easter Love Offering' so that we can make sure that it goes to the right place. Your generosity will make a great difference for many people. Thank you for all the ways that you support the mission outreach of Bluff Park UMC. The Easter Love Gift is sponsored by the BPUMC United Appeal Fund.

SPRING SERVE DAY

Our Spring Serve Day is coming up on Saturday, April 22nd, and the BPUMC Serve Team is looking for people in our neighborhood who could use a helping hand with Spring cleanup. If you know someone in our community who could use help with yard work or light exterior projects, call the church office or email us and share their contact information. Do you want to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Bluff Park? Become a serve team volunteer! We'll have a sign-up table

in the Narthex on Sunday mornings, or you can call the office or email us—serveteam@bpumc.org

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

This Sunday, April 9th, we celebrate the baptisms of Jack and Luke Calametti at the 11:00am worship service.

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: April 23 & 30 and May 14 & 21. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910

Rise
AGAINST HUNGER



On April 23rd–25th, Bluff Park UMC will join with several other churches, schools, and civic organizations from the Vestavia/Hoover area to pack 300,024 nutritious meals (one full shipping container) to be sent overseas to relieve hunger. This project will be carried out in conjunction with Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now), an organization dedicated to eradicating world hunger.

We are encouraging groups from the church to volunteer together, but *each individual must register separately*. If you have any problems accessing the website to register, contact the church office for assistance.

To sign-up as a volunteer visit:

BluffParkUMC.org/riseagainsthunger



Easter Lilies

Reserve your beautiful Easter Lily now to remember or honor a loved one at Easter. The cost is \$15.00 per plant payable to the church. Deadline for ordering is April 10th.

In Honor Of: _____ **by** _____

In Memory of: _____ **by** _____

Return order form and payment to the church office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

EASTER EGG HUNT THANK YOU: Thank you to everyone who helped out with the Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast in any way! Whether you helped stuff Easter Eggs with candy, hid Easter Eggs, decorated the gym, helped serve breakfast, or prayed for us, we could not have done it without you! Because of your help, we were able to reach out to and serve many children and their families in our community! I am proud to serve at such a loving and giving church!

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: Both the Preschool and Elementary Sunday Schools will be studying the Easter Story.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: The Children's Church lesson this week will be on "Palm Sunday."

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 - APRIL - IT'S ELEMENTAL Our theme next month focuses on "elemental" changes in our lives and the world around us. We'll have two guest speakers including our logistics coordinator Kathryn Davis on April 5th and youth alumni/Alabama student Hannah Thomas on April 12th! 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, APRIL 9TH - SUMMER TRIP PREVIEW & WORSHIP EXPERIENCE We have two great trips coming up this summer: our Adventure Camp in June for all students and our ASP Mission Trip in July for rising 9th graders and up. To kick start our preparation, we'll have a short preview of the trips for students and families on Sunday night. There will be an opportunity to turn in deposits, fill out forms, student testimony on how these trips have changed lives and then we'll wrap up with FREE ice cream treats. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5pm. Ends at 7pm.

SUMMER TRIP REGISTRATIONS! Students can now register online for our Adventure Camp (June 9-11) and ASP Mission Trip (July 2-8). Check with Kathryn Davis (kdavis@bpumc.org) for the links or more details.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING SPRING SCHEDULE. There's so much going on as we move further into 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

Saturday, April 8th, 10:30am
Sunday, April 9th, 10:00am
Sunday, April 9th, 4:00pm
Sunday, April 9th, 5:00pm
Tuesday, April 11th, 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 12th, 6:00pm
Wednesday, April 12th, 6:30pm

Car Wash Fundraiser
Sunday School
Holy Ground Team Rehearsal & Confirmation Class
Summer Night & Worship with FREE Ice Cream
HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home
Guys/Girls/Coed Small Groups
Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - 10:00 AM - Fireside Room - James Lowery, Project Coordinator Historic Birmingham Railroads

LENTEN STUDY led by Bob Nelson - 11:00 - Fireside Room

"Twenty-Four Hours that Changed the World" by Adam Hamilton—Last Week

DAY TRIP—10 AM—Trip to Birmingham Southern College. Meet at the Bus.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

SHEPHERD'S CENTER - 10:00 AM - Fireside Room



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

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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 Senior Ministries, ext. 103

Fran Gatch, fgatch@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 April 9—15

Sunday, April 9—Palm Sunday

8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Lenten Sunday School Class
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Confirmation
5:00 pm Youth Snack Supper

Monday, April 10

9:00 am UMW
10:00 am Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, April 11

8:30 am Maintenance
9:30 am Half Truths Study
6:00 pm Under The Bridge

Wednesday, April 12

7:30 am Lenten Morning Prayer
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:00 pm UMW Program
5:45 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Youth Small Groups
6:15 pm Flashlight Egg Hunt
6:30 pm Choir
6:30 pm Holy Strollers
6:30 pm Lenten Bible Studies
6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study
6:30 pm Youth Holy Ground

Thursday, April 13

9:30 am Shepherd's Center
6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 14

12:00 pm Friendship Class Dinner
1:00 pm Ladies Sewing Group
6:30 pm Good Friday Worship

SUNDAY, April 9, 2017

8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship

John 12:20-36

"Which Way"

Rev. Mike Holly

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14-27

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers

8:45 Footsteps 11:00 Alley

Cross

8:45 Ian Chatterton 11:00 Abby Gray

Acolyte

8:45 Caroline Marshall 11:00 Charlie Redding

Greeters: Canterbury

Meal on Wheels: McDonald
Food Pantry May 3rd: Dallam/McCrary
Midweek Meetup April 12th: Menu—TBA.

Last Week's Record

April 2, 2017

Children	63
Morning Worship	512
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$22,579.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$35,515.25
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,174,109.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$316,106.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$338,446.81
New Members in 2017	8

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017—December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$2,730.00
Received to Date	\$198,046.99

**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.