



733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter April 16, 2017*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



## BECAUSE OF EASTER

How many Easter worship services have you attended in your lifetime? I am always so moved by seeing so many people with smiles on their faces, waiting anxiously to hear the story of Easter and to sing that Christ the Lord is Risen Today! I am so moved by the power that is in the story itself and how it changes everything for humanity.

And yet, I wonder what has happened in your life...because of Easter. The power of this story is in how the victory of God over sin and death goes beyond the amazing details that we read on Easter morning. Those words themselves have great power. But it is what comes next that shows us that the resurrection changes everything.

The disciples of Jesus go from cowering in fear to being passionate missionaries. The small crowds following Jesus become thousands that are baptized (both Jews and Greeks). Eventually, the movement that becomes known as “the Church” grows to the point that it even concerns the powerful Roman Empire.

All because of Easter. So what powerful and revolutionary thing is God going to do in your life...because of Easter?

Is God getting ready to free you from the powers that hold you down? Is God getting ready to show you how to live with radical generosity and forgiveness? Or is God getting ready to empower you to start something new that will bless others?

God is at work all because of Easter.

# Celebrate EASTER

Easter Sunday Worship, April 16 @ 8:45am & 11:00am  
The Gathering Preview Service, April 16 @ 11:00 am—In the Chapel

# 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](http://thegatheringatbluffpark.org), on Facebook at [facebook.com/thegatheringbp](https://facebook.com/thegatheringbp), or by emailing Rev. John Carl Hastings at [jchastings@bpumc.org](mailto:jchastings@bpumc.org). Hope to see you there!

## 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](mailto:serveteam@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: 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

## THANK YOU...

Thank you to everyone in the BPUMC family who has shown me such kindness during my recent back ailment.—Xanthi Hahamis

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Alice Marie Cordes—Grandview  
Marianna Sturdivant—Grandview  
Sue Pearson—Brookwood



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](http://BluffParkUMC.org/riseagainsthunger)

## 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.

## 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. Special next week: the Preschool and Elementary Children's Choirs will be singing at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall during the dinner portion of Midweek Meetup.

**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 Easter!

**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. 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.

**SERVE OTHERS IN APRIL - SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND & SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD** Our church's annual spring service day begins at 8am on Saturday, April 22nd. You can serve with friends or as a family, as we spread out through our community to work on projects for neighbors. Shirts and supplies will be provided. Contact Rev. Angela Martin [amartin@bpumc.org](mailto:amartin@bpumc.org) for more information. Then on the next day, Rise Against Hunger begins at Vestavia Hills UMC. Volunteers from across the area will meet to pack tens of thousands of meals to be sent overseas to impoverished communities. You can register for shifts at [www.bpumc.org/riseagainsthunger](http://www.bpumc.org/riseagainsthunger) and our youth group has chosen 5-7pm on that Sunday, April 23rd as our target shift. Register ASAP as these spots fill up fast!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30TH - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** Join us at the 11am worship service that day to welcome our 6th grade confirmands as full, professing members of the Christian faith.

**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](mailto:kdavis@bpumc.org)) for the links or more details.

**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, April 16th, 10:00am	Sunday School
Sunday, April 16th	No Afternoon/Evening Activities
Tuesday, April 18th, 7:00pm	HS Girls Small Group at Dover Home
Wednesday, April 19th, 6:00pm	Guys/Girls/Coed Small Groups
Wednesday, April 19th, 6:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 18

**TRIP TO BIRMINGHAM SOUTHERN COLLEGE** Tour beautiful BSC and UMC Conference Center with friends from BPUMC. Meet at 10:00 AM at Bus Park. Lunch will be at Bottega Café.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

**SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY TEAM MEETING 4 PM - LIBRARY**

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 20

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER - 10:00 AM** Fireside Room Christian Cooper will speak on "How Prayer Sustained My Life." Christian experienced a life threatening car crash and was not expected to live. Come and hear how his Christian faith and God's power saved him.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 25

**SHEPHERD'S CENTER BOARD MEETING 2 PM - LIBRARY**

#### TUESDAY, MAY 2

**TRIP TO DECORATOR'S SHOWHOUSE 10:00 AM - Bus Park** Enjoy the gorgeous artistry of this Mountain Brook home decorated by professional artist. Lunch will be provided at the home. Shop for unique gifts at the Symphony Gift Shop. Tickets \$15—Lunch \$15 RSVP Fran@ 822-0103 or at [FGATCH@BPUMC.ORG](mailto:FGATCH@BPUMC.ORG)

"Those who withhold kindness from a friend forsake the fear of the Almighty." Job 6:14



## Bluff Park United Methodist Church

733 Valley Street  
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(205) 822-0910

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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### Pastors

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Tom Duley, tduley@bpumc.org, ext. 112  
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Lonnie Parsons

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Jay Tumminello, jtumminello@bpumc.org

**Preschool Director**,

Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org

**Facilities Manager**,

Chad Malcolm, cmalcolm@bpumc.org

## The Week of April 16—22

**Sunday, April 16—Easter Sunday**  
8:45 am Morning Worship Service  
9:45 am Sunday School  
10:00 am Confirmation  
11:00 am Morning Worship Service  
11:00 am The Gathering Preview Service  
4:00 pm Confirmation  
**Monday, April 17**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**  
**Tuesday, April 18**  
9:30 am Half Truths Study  
10:00 am Senior Day Trip  
6:00 pm Under The Bridge  
6:00 pm Permanent Endowment Committee  
**Wednesday, April 19**  
4:30 pm Pastor's Bible Study  
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup  
Children's Choir Program  
5:45 pm Men's Chorus  
6:00 pm Handbell Choir  
6:00 pm Youth Small Groups  
6:15 pm Elementary End Of Year Party  
6:30 pm Choir  
6:30 pm Holy Strollers  
6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study  
6:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study  
6:30 pm Youth Holy Ground  
**Thursday, April 20**  
9:30 am Shepherd's Center  
**Friday, April 21**  
1:00 pm Ladies Sewing Group  
**Saturday, April 22**  
7:00 am Day Of Service

**SUNDAY, April 16, 2017**  
8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship  
Colossians 3:1-4  
*"The Easter Mindset"*  
Rev. Mike Holly  
  
**Lectionary Scripture Readings**  
Acts 10:34-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4  
John 20:1-18  
  
**SERVING SUNDAY**  
**Ushers**  
8:45 Adams, Footsteps 11:00 Davis  
**Cross**  
8:45 Lena Holly 11:00 Kate Ryan Black  
**Acolyte**  
8:45 Lily Matheson 11:00 Penny Rose Pearson  
**Greeters: Covenant**  
  
**Meal on Wheels: White**  
**Food Pantry May 3rd: Dallam/McCrary**  
**Midweek Meetup April 19th: Menu—TBA.**

## Last Week's Record

April 9, 2017

Children	264
Morning Worship	606
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$22,579.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$29,633.24
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,174,109.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$338,685.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$368,080.05
New Members in 2017	8

### 10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017—December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$2,095.00
Received to Date	\$200,141.99

**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.