



BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

Newsletter July 30, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org



Our Lovingthe35226 initiative has been a big hit! If you haven't gotten a yard sign, you will find them in the Narthex just outside the main Sanctuary. There are many mission projects that fall under this ministry and one of the fastest growing areas of service is in our local schools. Room 35226 is the way that Bluff Park UMC ensures each and every child has access to the school supplies, healthy snacks, clothing and other resources that they need. We currently have these resource rooms at Simmons Middle School, Gwin Elementary and Bluff Park Elementary (with plans to expand very soon). Donations have been made that will ensure that our ministry will grow this fall but we always appreciate donations of supplies and financial gifts.

I asked Jennifer McEuen to share some wonderful recent news from the Room

35226 Initiative:

It is always a blessing to see how God expands an opportunity to become so much more than what we can envision. UMW's Compassion Circle takes on monthly service projects, and had slated May as the month for helping the Room 35226 project. That led to Bart's contact at the school telling us of a young teacher who could really use a helping hand, so we said YES. Just starting out, the teacher had no furniture at all, so a UMW member was able to put him in touch with an organization that said yes to furnishing his whole apartment. We postponed the original date to meet the teacher, because he had said YES to helping his hometown of Fairfield clean up from tornado damage. Our Food Pantry and Bundles of Hope said YES to sending supplies to Fairfield as well. When we did get to meet in July, we were able to provide food, diapers, clothes and linens for those impacted by the tornado, thanks and gift cards to the teacher to further furnish his classroom and apartment, and to encourage a wonderful role model that positively impacts children in the 35226 zip code.

What will your YES lead to?

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

On Monday, August 14th, at 6:30pm there will be a special program in the BPUMC Chapel on the topic of "Feeding the Hungry." Special guests Kathryn Strickland, from Community Food Bank, and Greg Bishop, from Hoover Helps, will talk about what is happening in our community, in our schools, and how you can help.



News of the Week

BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Bluff Park UMC gym on Sunday, July 30th, from 7:30am–12:30pm. Please make time to stop by and give the gift of life. A Red Cross Donor Card or photo ID is required to make a donation. To schedule an appointment to donate call 1-800-Red-Cross or visit their website at RedCrossBlood.org and use the keyword BPUMC.

BLOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Are you looking for a way to make a real impact in our community? Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. To help meet that need locally we host several blood drives each year. We are looking for volunteers to help. If you are interested, contact Robin Martin at 205-531-5212 or rdm9465@gmail.com.



LAY SERVANT MINISTRY CERTIFICATION CLASSES

The Central District of the North Alabama Conference is offering several classes for Lay Servant credit on Saturday, August 19th, from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM. The classes will be held at the Methodist Center on the campus of Birmingham Southern College. The classes which will be offered are Methodist Beliefs, Spiritual Gifts, and Polity & Organization. Download registration forms on the website: bluffparkumc.org/forms/



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The deadline for scholarship applications for the 2017-18 school year is August 1st. All Bluff Park United Methodist college students who would like to apply must have their forms submitted to the church office by the deadline. Application forms are available on the forms page of the church website, or in the church office. If you need more information, please contact the church office.



IN THE HOSPITAL...

Mary Lee Monroe—Brookwood
Carolyn Capps—Brookwood
Robert Weaver—VA
Brett Wood—UAB



Fast and Secure Online Donations with EasyTithe

Bluff Park United Methodist Church has implemented a set of online giving tools, powered by easyTithe.com. This provides the ability to quickly and easily make donations on our website and through a mobile app! After creating an account, you're able to give directly or schedule a series of donations directly using your debit or credit card. You can also make a pledge and track your online giving throughout the year. You can also use this service to make Midweek Meetup meal payments in the Fall.

To create your online giving account, visit the church website and select 'Donate Online' under the 'Give' link in the top menu. Step-by-step tutorial videos are available on the main 'Give' landing page.

www.BluffParkUMC.org/give-online

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: On Sunday, August 13th, we will be blessing the children and their backpacks in both the 8:45 and 11:00 services. As part of this blessing, the children will receive a backpack tag that they can wear on their book bags throughout the year.

VBS THANK YOU: Thank you so much to each of you who helped make our Vacation Bible School this year the biggest we have ever had at Bluff Park UMC! Whether you helped us decorate, volunteered during the event, helped clean up, prayed for us, or anything else, we could not have done it without you! Because of you, we were able to teach so many children from both our church and community that "God Created Them, God is For Them, God is Always With Them, God Will Always Love Them, and God Has a Reason for their Lives!" I am so proud to serve at such a loving and giving church!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: This Sunday will be our monthly Mission Sunday: We will be packing school supplies for children in our community who are in need of them, and we will be making artwork to hang in the new Children's Wing!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Throughout the Summer, we will be learning about the "Apostle's Creed" in Children's Church!

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!

STUDENT MINISTRY

SUNDAY, JULY 30TH, 5:00PM: WATER BALLOON GAMES & DEVOTION We will meet on the Church Playground. Be sure to wear clothes that can get wet and bring a towel. We will provide a FREE snack supper BUT we will need students to help us pick up the pieces of popped balloons before we leave.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 6:00PM: HOLY GROUND POOL PARTY Our first Holy Ground worship service of August will also include a cookout and a pool party! Meet us at Birchtree Swim & Racquet Club (3583 Burntleaf Lane) and be sure to wear a bathing suit and bring a towel. Our worship theme for August is "Bak2Skool" and each week we will discuss the hype surrounding the return to the classroom and how to stay spiritually grounded during this transition. All 6th-12th graders are invited to join us.

BAND CAMP! JOIN OUR STUDENT WORSHIP TEAM Our worship leader, Jake Smith, is organizing a multi-day fun training and rehearsal event for students who want to be part of our Wednesday night worship team this fall. No experience is required and there is no cost. You don't even have to know how to sing or play an instrument. Students will learn some of our favorite songs along with the basics of running our lighting, video, and sound for Holy Ground. Contact Jake at jdssmith94@gmail.com for more details.

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING SUMMER SCHEDULE. There's so much going on as we move further into 2017: fun weekly events, big trips 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.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 30th, 10:00am

Sunday School in the Youth Wing

Sunday, July 30th, 5:00pm

Water Balloon Games on the Church Playground

Wednesday, August 2nd, 6:00pm

Holy Ground Pool Party at Birchtree Swim & Racquet Club

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

55+ AND FRIENDS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Are you a retired teacher or someone interested in helping children read? Please consider volunteering to listen to children read afterschool at BPUMC! Just one hour each week this fall. Contact Fran at 822-0910 or email fgatch@bpumc.org Thank you!

COMMUNITY CONCERT: Sunday Afternoon, September 24th Concert ~ Dr. Joseph and Suzanne Hopkins, Dean School of the Arts Samford University ~ will perform a variety of vocal variations. We are offering these exquisite vocalist For your enjoyment and inspiration. Free Event. Reception in Parlor to Follow!

SHEPHERD'S CENTER SCHEDULE

August 7	Bluff Park Youth Share their Summer Mission Experiences
August 10	Gibraltar! The Rock at the End of the World
August 17	Gary Sanders, UAB Director of Broadcasting ~ Stories and Jokes from My Life at Work
August 24	Shades Mountain Air Concert ~ Enjoy this blue grass, gospel and humorous Band
August 31	Dolores Hydock, Actress, Storyteller, Yale Grad ~ Shares Stories of Aging



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BIRMINGHAM, AL
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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 July 30—August 5

Sunday, July 30
7:30 am-12:30 pm Blood Drive
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
Monday, July 31
10:00 am Prayer Shawl
Wednesday, August 2
9:00 am Food Pantry
5:45 pm Men's Chorus
6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, August 3
9:30 am Shepherd's Center

SUNDAY, July 30, 2017
8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship
John 17:11-26
"Creed: A Being, Not A Building"
Rev. John Carl Hastings

Lectionary Scripture Readings
Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

SERVING SUNDAY
Ushers
8:45 Doran 11:00 Arthur
Acolyte
8:45 Spencer Schillaci 11:00 Molly Vann
Greeters: Fisherman
Meal on Wheels: Shultz/Hardy
Food Pantry August 2nd:
Dallum and Lawson

Last Week's Record

July 23, 2017

Children/Youth	211/56
Morning Worship	539
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,137.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$20,255.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,411,109.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$814,110.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$818,597.62
New Members in 2017	21

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017–December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621 .00
Received Last Week	\$31,790.00
Received to Date	\$342,842.31

**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.