



733 Valley Street  
Hoover, AL 35226  
205.822.0910

# BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Newsletter October 1, 2017*

*Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life*

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



**F**riends, as many of you have heard, our new worship service, The Gathering at Bluff Park, will be starting soon and will meet on Sunday mornings in the chapel. Our team chose the chapel for several reasons: First, it's a beautiful space that has such a rich history of worship and praise as well as a personal connection for many of us; several members of our team were baptized in that very space. Second, our vision for The Gathering is a modern expression of the historic Christian faith and we thought there was not a better place to root that expression than in the place that has been firmly situated in Bluff Park for decades. It's a testament to the faithfulness of this church in this community, just as our gathering together is a testament to God's faithfulness to us over the years.

With the help of the trustees and many others in the church, we are beginning the process this week of updating that sacred space so that it might be used to reach even more people in our community. One of the most effective ways to show someone you care is to put time, resources, and effort into making your space beautiful, so we are so excited about the work being done. To prepare the space, this past Sunday we had twenty-plus folks, young and old, in the chapel sweating and straining to make it ready for renovation. I couldn't help but marvel at what a beautiful picture it was: a vision, given by God to this Church, moved forward by the resources and generosity of this church and put into motion by the labor of the people of God gathering together in this church. It reminds of a quote by Desmond Tutu, who said, "Without God, we cannot, but without us, God will not." God's work needs laborers and God has blessed Bluff Park with some outstanding hands.

In addition to all those willing hands and strong backs, our team says a special thanks to the Trustees Committee for approving and coordinating the work as well as Tina Hardy and the Permanent Endowment Committee, for enabling us to upgrade the technology in the chapel. Thank you so much!

We can't wait for you to see the new space that you've helped provide, but more importantly, we can't wait to see what God does in the hearts and lives of those in our community that we are preparing to welcome around the Table.

In Peace,

John Carl



# News of the Week

## OFFERING OF BLANKETS

During the month of October we will once again be collecting blankets to share with our homeless neighbors this winter. There will be a table set up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings to receive blankets or you can bring yours by the church office during the week.

## COFFEE WITH THE PASTORS

Are you interested in becoming a member of Bluff Park United Methodist Church? You are invited to join the pastors on October 1st at 10am for coffee and conversation. Get to know the pastoral team and ask any questions that you might have about our church!

## DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Recent storms produced extensive flooding and wind damage across Texas and Florida. UMCOR has been distributing buckets filled with relief supplies in response, and now we need to help them re-stock the shelves and prepare for the next time. On Thursday, October 5th, from 8:30am–5:00pm a group from our church will travel to the Decatur UMCOR warehouse to help them prepare to respond to future needs. To sign up call the church office or Carol Westbrook (205-401-5515.)

## SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER FOR PARENTS

On Wednesday, October 11th, at 6:30pm Rachel Estes will give a special presentation to parents about ways to live a mission-focused life as a busy parent. There will be a special 'magical' program for kids during Rachel's presentation.

## CHARGE CONFERENCE

The members of the Board of Stewards will be gathering on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## IN THE HOSPITAL...

Robert Weaver—Aspire Cahaba



United Methodist Committee On Relief

## HURRICANE RELIEF OFFERING

We are receiving a special offering during the month of September to assist those affected by recent Hurricanes. Our offering will be donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief which means that 100% of what you give will be used to help the victims of the disaster. Please mark your checks as "Advance #901440" "Hurricane Relief" or "UMCOR".

## FLOOD BUCKETS

In addition to receiving much needed financial offerings to help people recovering from recent hurricanes, we continue to collect "Flood Buckets" for distribution to people cleaning up after the storms. Visit the church website to download instructions for creating a flood bucket, or pick up a printout from the church office or Welcome Center in the narthex.

**Block Party**  
**October 1st**  
**4:00-6:00pm**

## Memorials

### GENERAL OPERATING FUND

**Ted Johnston**, by Zelia Baugh, Gene and Jean Brown, John and Stacy Johnston, Henry and Shannon Long, Barbara Mayfield, Mahalla McKinney, Barbara Powell, Bill and Jane Roberson, Fisherman Class, Frank Williams, Barbara and Tom Thornton, Margie Thompson, Barbara Foster

### BUILDING FUND

**Eva Whitlock Smith**, by Bill and Paulette Pearson

### PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY

**George Robert Duley**, by Paula and Curtis Thompson  
**Orrin Wandsnider**, by Nancy Wandsnider  
**Ted Johnston**, by Peggy & Bill Fields

## Honorariums

### OPERATING FUND

**Pam McDonald**, by Jim and Becky McCrary  
**The Whitcombs**, by Jim & Becky McCrary

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

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**MISSION TRIP/FIELD TRIP:** Our next Mission/Field Trip will be on Monday, October 9th (Columbus Day)! We will be taking the children to buy blankets for our church's Homeless Blanket Drive and then we will be going to the Great Pumpkin Patch in Haden, AL. There the children will get to pick their very own Pumpkin, take a Hayride, play on inflatables, tour the petting zoo, and enjoy the beautiful Fall weather. This mission/field trip is open to Kindergarten-5th grade and the cost is \$30 per child. Drop off begins at 7:30 am and pick up ends at 5:30 pm. Email Melissa at mhendon@bpumc.org if you would like to register (Only 26 spots available!).

**MIDWEEK MEETUP:** Midweek Meetup happens every Wednesday Night from 5:00-7:30. While our Nursery/Preschool aged children's schedule will remain the same as last year (drop off anytime after 5:30 in the Preschool Hall, where the children will enjoy music, Bible time, and recreation!), we have changed our Elementary aged children's schedule at Midweek Meetup to allow children more time to eat with their families. The new Elementary Schedule is as follows: 5:00-6:00 Dinner in Fellowship Hall, 6:00-6:30 Choir in Hudson Hall, 6:30-7:15 Bible Study/Story Time in Children's Wing, 7:15-7:30 Recreation on Playground or Gym.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The Elementary Sunday School lesson will be on Moses and the Preschool Sunday School will be participating in their Mission 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.

## STUDENT MINISTRY

**THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST: CHURCH WIDE BLOCK PARTY 4PM - 6PM** This Sunday, invite your friends & neighbors to our BPUMC Block Party! Free dinner, games for all ages, inflatables, 1 mile Fun Run & even the Gaga Ball Pit! Come hang out and party with us!!!

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS ARE IN FULL SWING!** For our students to be able to connect and get to know each other better, we encourage them to plug into a small group before Holy Ground Worship from 6 'til 6:30. They can chose from girls only, guys only or coed groups which are each led by our fantastic adult volunteers!

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 6:30PM: HOLY GROUND WORSHIP** As usual, the Youth Wing is open after school for all 6th-12th graders who want to come hang out, eat dinner together, play games, or do homework. Then we'll worship together in the Holy Ground Room. Our monthly worship theme for October is Old Testament Lives where we'll get to know some of the unique folks from scripture! Each week will feature worship and some awesome guest speakers like the Rev. Deb Welsh!

**DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP & KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-MOVING 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 to find it.

**SAVE THESE DATES** Wednesday, October 25th: *Halloween Carnival*, Thursday-Friday, November 9-10: *One Night for the Homeless*, Friday-Sunday, November 17-19: *Fall Retreat at Sumatanga*.

### THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 1st, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 1st, 4:00pm-5:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, October 1st, 4:00pm-6:00pm	Block Party
Wednesday, October 4th, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, October 4th, 6:00pm-6:30pm	Small Groups
Wednesday, October 4th, 6:30pm - 7:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

## SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

### 55+ AND FRIENDS

#### FALL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

October 10 Trip to the Montgomery Home of Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald. Visit Old Alabama Town - Lunch at Central Restaurant 10 AM - 4 PM. Meet in Hudson Hall.

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

**BEGINNING COMPUTER:** This class is taught by Pat Goff of Technology with a Twist 4 PM in the Seekers Classroom.

**TECHNOLOGY TECH:** BPUMC Youth will meet you in the Fireside Room at 5 PM to personally assist you with your cell phone, iPad, laptop or other technology.

**DINNER FOR 55+:** The 55+ crowd is invited to eat in the Faith Classroom.

**INTERIOR DESIGN:** Taught by our own, Joan Dunn. Learn the basics of great interior design. Meet in the Parlor at 6 PM.

#### SHEPHERD'S CENTER SCHEDULE

Programs - 10 AM - Thursdays - Fireside Room - All are Welcome!

Learning Opportunity 11 AM - Hudson Hall - Beginning Computer Class - Pat Goff - 4 Thursdays in October

October 5 Judy Bates WBRC News Bargainomics Expert, Judy will teach us about "Bargains in Birmingham."

October 12 Columbus Day Celebration - Niki Sepsas - Discovery of America





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**NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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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
- Brenda Atkins, batkins@bpumc.org
- Director of Worship Music**,  
Lonnie Parsons
- Organist**,  
Jay Tumminello, jtumminello@bpumc.org
- Preschool Director**,  
Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org
- Facilities Manager**,  
Chad Malcom, cmalcom@bpumc.org



**The Week of October 1—30**

- Sunday, October 1**
- 8:45 am Morning Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Coffee with the Pastors
- 11:00 am Morning Worship Service
- 4:00 pm Block Party
- Monday, October 2**
- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl
- Tuesday, October 3**
- 8:00 am Holie Walkamolies
- 9:30 am Moses Bible Study
- 10:30 am Reading Tutors
- Wednesday, October 4**
- 9:00 am Food Pantry
- 4:00 pm Technology with a Twist
- 4:30 pm The Bible, UMC, and Politics
- 5:00 pm Youth Tech Hour
- 5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
- 5:30 pm Men's Chorus
- 6:00 pm Designing Interiors
- 6:00 pm Moses Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Holy Strollers
- 6:30 pm The Bible, UMC, and Politics
- 6:30 pm Sunday's Sermon Unpacked
- 6:30 pm Choir
- Thursday, October 5**
- 9:30 am Shepherd's Center
- 6:30 pm Yoga
- Friday, October 6**
- 9:30 am UMW Bake Sale Drop-Off

**SUNDAY, October 1, 2017**  
**8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship**  
**Genesis 3:1-9**  
*"The God Who Looks"*  
**Rev. Tom Duley**

**LIFETRACK**  
 Sunday—Acts 9:36-43 and Psalm 19  
 Monday—Matthew 6:25-34  
 Tuesday—Matthew 7:1-12  
 Wednesday—Matthew 7:13-21  
 Thursday—Matthew 7:22-29  
 Friday—Matthew 8:1-17  
 Saturday—Matthew 8:18-27

**SERVING SUNDAY**  
**Ushers**  
 8:45 Thompson 11:00 Vitality  
**Acolyte**  
 8:45 Matthew Pitts 11:00 Emma Ruth Cooper  
**Cross**  
 8:45 Ian Chatterton 11:00 Mary El Neal  
**Greeters:** Cornerstone  
**Meal on Wheels:** McDonald  
**Food Pantry October 4th:** Steve and Kay  
**Midweek Volunteers**  
 Woodie Comer, Sally Holland, Canterbury Class  
**Midweek Meetup October 4th:** Menu - Fried pork chops, collard greens, scallop potatoes, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

**Last Week's Record**

September 24, 2017

Children/Youth	103/68
Morning Worship	446
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,137.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$13,327.00
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,411,109.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,058,343.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,051,326.74
New Members in 2017	24

**10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN**

January 1, 2017—December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621 .00
Received Last Week	\$1,427.00
Received to Date	\$389,287.66

**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.