



733 Valley Street
Hoover, AL 35226
205.822.0910

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter October 15, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

www.BluffParkUMC.org

Commitment Sunday is Coming!

At Bluff Park UMC, we have a history of generosity – and you can see the footprint of generosity all around. From the construction of a new building for our youth to the beautiful Sanctuary we worship in each and every Sunday. When we think about generosity, we think about giving our best to God so that it can be used to achieve what God dreams in the world that he has created.

Congregations that approach generosity from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church as merely a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation is called to continue to live out the legacy of generosity and that will require each and every one of us to grow spiritually by growing in generosity. You see, generosity is a key marker of how we are growing in our love for God. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship.

On October 29, 2017, during both morning worship services, we will hold our annual Commitment Sunday. We are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world. When you pledge your financial commitment for 2018, you are freeing up the church and its leadership to dream about what is possible in ministry and mission in the 35226 and beyond.

During our morning worship services, our pastors will close each service by instructing anyone who is ready to make a commitment to come forward as a confidential act of worship and generosity. Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in the future of our church and its ministry. Please prayerfully consider how you and your household will make a generous commitment to God in this new year.

Steve Lawson,
Chair of Stewardship

Mike Holly,
Senior Pastor



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. The Offering of Blankets is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

YOGA CLASS

Would you like to increase your flexibility, muscle tone, circulation, and more? Join us for yoga on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in Hudson Hall. Taught by Suki Akins. \$3 per class. We look forward to seeing you Thursdays!

"WHAT'S YOUR STORY?"

We all want to live a great story. Through the story of Joseph, Sara Heath leads us to envision our lives as an adventure we are co-writing with God. Taught by Angela Martin on Wednesday mornings, Oct. 18 - Nov. 8 at 10:00am in room 265. To sign up, email amartin@bpumc.org. Student book is \$9.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

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

COMMITMENT SUNDAY 2017

On Sunday, October 29th, join us for Commitment Sunday during morning worship at 8:45am and 11:00am. At 10:30am we will have a special Ground-breaking Ceremony for our new Youth Ministry and Community Ministry Building. Following the ground-breaking we will have a Celebration Meal in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00am-1:00pm. We look forward to celebrating with you!

HAM MOUNTAIN IS COMING

During the month of November, we will be collecting canned hams for Ham Mountain. These hams will be distributed through the Bluff Park UMC food bank on December 6th. Look for the Ham Mountain display in the Narthex beginning November 5th. Ham Mountain is sponsored by the Bluff Park United Appeal Fund.

SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION...

Our sympathy is extended to Donna Prudhomme on the passing of her husband Sam on October 5th. Our prayers are with the family in their time of loss.



United Methodist Committee On Relief

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.

BLUFF PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 25 • 6:00pm-8:00pm

**"There will be carnival games,
prizes, a haunted house,
inflatables, a cake walk, food
and more."**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL: The annual Bluff Park UMC Halloween Carnival will be held on Wednesday, October 25th, from 6:00-8:00! There will be carnival games, raffle baskets, prizes, a haunted house, inflatables, a cake walk, food, Steel City Pops, and so much more. New this year: \$8 wristbands that allow children to partake in all carnival activities and food (except Steel City Pops)! Free access and food for parents! Come in costume and have a great night of fellowship and fun with your friends and neighbors in Bluff Park!

CHILDREN'S MISSION OPPORTUNITY: For the month of October, the Children's Ministry will be holding a book drive for the Children's Hospital in Birmingham! These books will be given to children to read during their stay at the hospital, and will hopefully bring a smile to their faces during a hard time. The following types of books are on the hospital's wish list: Touch and Feel (Sensory books), Board Books, I-Spy/Look and Find Books, Superhero Books, Beverly Cleary Books, Dr. Seuss Books, Dork Diaries Books, Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series, Biscuit the Dog, I can Read series, Harry Potter Series. These donated books have to be new, and can be dropped off in Hudson Hall anytime throughout the week!

BLESSING ROCKS: Our 2nd and 3rd graders at Midweek Meetup have hidden rocks around our church campus that have uplifting words/pictures painted on them. If you find one, you can keep it or hide it again so that it can be a blessing to someone else!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Elementary Sunday School lesson will be on the life of Moses!"

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: The Children's Church lesson this week is on "Trusting God in the Hard Times."

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 15TH: SERVE NIGHT! The free snack supper starts at 5pm... then we'll be stocking the food pantry, sorting through supplies for our "Loving the 35226" ministry and several other projects to give back to the community. We'll also be treating the students to Krispy Kreme hot 'n ready yumminess at the church after a night of hard work!

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 choose from girls only, guys only or coed groups which are each led by our fantastic adult volunteers!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 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. How do we ensure that our students don't get swallowed up by the negative influences and temptations around them? How do we ensure that they will be followers of God when we are not around or when they feel outnumbered by peers making bad decisions? These may seem like questions that are very specific to our lives right now in 2017. But they aren't. That's why we're really excited about this month's Holy Ground series. We'll take a look at young people from scripture who made tough choices to stand up and stand out for their faith when it would have been much easier to go with the flow.!

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 15th, 10:00am	Sunday School in the Youth Wing
Sunday, October 15th, 4:00pm-5:00pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Sunday, October 15th, 5:00pm-7:00pm	Serve Night
Wednesday, October 18th, 4:30pm	Holy Ground Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, October 18th, 6:00pm-6:30pm	Small Groups
Wednesday, October 18th, 6:30pm - 7:30pm	Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

55+ AND FRIENDS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

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

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 19 Reverend John Carl Hastings—Singing and playing guitar

October 26 The Alabama Ballet School performs excerpts from "Sleepy Hollow"



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**NON-PROFIT ORG.
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- 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
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- 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 15—21

Sunday, October 15
8:45 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Morning Worship Service
Monday, October 16
10:00 am Prayer Shawl
Tuesday, October 17
8:00 am Holie Walkamolies
9:30 am Moses Bible Study
6:00 pm Under the Bridge
Wednesday, October 18
10:00 am What's Your Story Study
4:00 pm Technology with a Twist
4:30 pm The Bible, UMC, and Politics
5:00 pm Midweek Meetup
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell
6:00 pm Designing Interiors
6:00 pm Moses Bible Study
6:30 pm Sunday's Sermon Unpacked
6:30 pm Holy Strollers
6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, October 19
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
6:30 pm Yoga
Friday, October 20
5:00 pm Parent's Night Out

SUNDAY, October 15, 2017
8:45 and 11:00am Morning Worship
John 5:2-9a
*"Questions God Asks Us:
Do You Want To Be Made Well?"*
Rev. Mike Holly

LIFETRACK
Sunday—Jeremiah 36:1-10 and Psalm 113
Monday—1 Corinthians 13
Tuesday—1 Corinthians 14:1-12
Wednesday—Matthew 10: 13-33
Thursday—Matthew 10:34-42
Friday—Matthew 11:1-6
Saturday—Matthew 11:7-15

SERVING SUNDAY
Ushers
8:45 Footsteps 11:00 Davis
Acolyte
8:45 Cadence Ward 11:00 Abby Gray
Cross
8:45 Spencer Schillaci 11:00 Julie Cate Gray
Greeters: Covenant
Meal on Wheels: White
Food Pantry November 1st: Theresa and Bob
Midweek Volunteers
Woodie Comer, Jim Ketchersid, Fisherman
Midweek Meetup October 18th: Menu - Fried fish, baked beans, potato wedges, baked chicken, baked potato, and salad bar. Chicken fingers for the kids.

Last Week's Record

October 8, 2017

Children/Youth	65/62
Morning Worship	225
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,137.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$14,838.80
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,411,109.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,112,617.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,107,919.85
New Members in 2017	24

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN
January 1, 2017—December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621 .00
Received Last Week	\$6,255.00
Received to Date	\$398,735.66

**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.