



Joy to the World

BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street Hoover, AL 35226 205.822.0910

December 10, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

Worship Services

Sunday Traditional Worship

Sundays @ 8:45am and 11:00am

The Gathering at Bluff Park

Sundays @ 11:00am

Advent Morning Prayer

Thursday Mornings @ 7:30am

Christmas Eve Sunday Morning Worship

December 24th @ 10:00am

No Sunday School or Nursery

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24th @ 4:00pm and 6:00pm

The Gathering at Bluff Park Candlelight
& Communion

December 24th @ 6:00pm

Holiday Events and Activities

Christmas on the Bluff Choir Concert

December 10th @ 6:30pm

www.ChristmasInBluffPark.com

When you know someone is about to come over, how do you prepare for their visit? Do you clean the house? Vacuum the floors? Hide all of the unorganized clutter? We literally make room for our guests – making sure that it feels that their visit was anticipated and that we wanted our home to be in the best shape for them.

Advent is a little like that. We are literally preparing for “the coming” (advent) of Jesus. We are preparing to receive Jesus as the Christ child on Christmas Day and we are also preparing to receive him when he returns as our victorious King. We are invited by the Scriptures to not only make room for him in our lives and in our world – but we are also invited to clean up before he arrives.

We often read passages from John the Baptist in Advent. It makes sense because his birth is directly tied to Jesus’ birth in the Gospels. But the texts we read contain things that John said when he was in his thirties. He talks about cleaning up our lives in order to prepare for the arrival of the Messiah who is coming soon. He says that we should repent and be baptized. We should get our hearts out of a self-interest mode and become more generous and caring (giving away what we do not actually need).

Cleaning up the chaos, getting rid of the clutter, and making room for God in our lives. This is the strange work of Advent. Work that we are tasked with as everything else in our lives directs us towards acquiring more and more. Let us as a church focus on having a Holy Advent – cleaning and preparing and making room for the one who will surely come to us!

Mike



News of the Week



CHRISTMAS ON THE BLUFF

The Bluff Park United Methodist Church Choir presents their Eighth Annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 10th, at 6:30 pm. This year's concert is titled "*Come and See What's Happenin' in the Barn*" and will take place in the church's main Sanctuary. Lonnie Parsons, Director of Worship Music for the church, will direct. The performance features the BPUMC Choir and Orchestra with Carole Armistead and Marcus Chatterton. Special Guests: **Three on a String**, Kelli Dodd, and Anthony Hardin.

2018 MINISTRY BUDGET PLEDGE CARDS

We have had a wonderful response to the 2018 Mission and Ministry Budget! However, we still have a long way to go before we can formulate what will be possible in ministry next year. If you have not made a pledge for 2018, please fill out a Pledge Card and return it to the finance office.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER IN MISSIONS

We are currently recruiting team members for our two 2018 VIM teams. The first VIM team will return to South Carolina for the third year in a row to help folks who still haven't recovered from the effects of a major flood and two hurricanes. The dates for this trip are March 25-31, 2018. This will be a combined youth and adult team. The Chile VIM team will return to Talca, Chile for the second year. We will continue the work we started last year as we help the Methodist

Church of Talca with remodeling and an addition. The dates for this trip are June 29 - July 14, 2018. If you would like to be a member of either of these teams please speak to Tom Duley. He can be reached at 205-822-0910 ext 112 or tduley@bpumc.org.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY WORSHIP TIMES

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. That morning we will have a single blended Christmas Carol Worship service at 10:00 am and no Sunday School hour. Our Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship will take place at 4:00 and 6:00 pm. The Gathering will also offer a Christmas Eve worship service at 6:00 pm in the Chapel. Make sure to mark your calendar.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed for Christmas on Monday December, 25th and Tuesday, December 26th. The church office will also be closed for New Year's Day on Monday, January 1st and Tuesday, January 2nd.

FRESH, FALL, PECANS FOR SALE

Just in time for Holiday Baking or Giving. One Pound Bags (Whole and Pieces) \$15. BPUMC Fundraiser for 55+ and Friends Ministry. Available in the Narthex Sunday Mornings and at the Christmas on the Bluff Concert.

ADVENT MORNING PRAYER

Advent Morning Prayer has begun on Thursday mornings at 7:30 am in the Sanctuary. This is a service of Prayer, Scripture and Holy Communion. The service will be held on each Thursday morning of Advent (December 7, 14 and 21). The service lasts approximately 30 minutes.

2018 ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2018 Flower Calendar is posted in the church office. 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: January 7, 21, and February 4, 11, 18, and 25. Check with the office for other available dates. Please sign up in the main office or call (205) 822-0910.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

George Singleton—UAB



Christmas Poinsettias

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

In Honor Of: _____ by _____
In Memory of: _____ by _____

Return order form and payment to the church office.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST: On Sunday, December 17th, we will be providing a Christmas breakfast for our children and their families in Hudson Hall during the Sunday School hour. We hope to see you there!

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Elementary Sunday School lesson will be on Christmas and the Pre-school Sunday School lesson will be on "Angels and Shepherds!"

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Our Children's Church lesson this week will be on the first half of the Christmas story and "The Candle of Peace!"

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

STUDENT MINISTRY DURING ADVENT With Midweek Meals on hiatus until January, holiday responsibilities and our students approaching their final exams, we change up the pace for December. We will not have Wednesday small groups but Holy Ground will continue for a 3 week Advent message series. We will be exploring favorite Christmas movies with our students, good times will be had by all! We will take two Sunday nights off for church-wide events and then will go caroling and have a Christmas party on December 17th.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH: HOLY GROUND Our movie selection for December 13th is Christmas Vacation and Rev. John Carl Hastings will be our guest speaker. Please note, this will be our final Wednesday night activity of December.

SAVE THESE DATES Sunday, December 17: *Christmas Caroling and Party!* February 3-4, 2018: *Discovery Weekend* Register online with text and email sign up links!

THIS WEEK

Sunday, Dec 10

Wednesday, Dec 13, 4:30pm

Wednesday, Dec 13, 5:30pm

Wednesday, Dec 13, 6:30pm

No Afternoon/Evening Youth Programming—Christmas on the Bluff

HG Team Rehearsal

Dinner & Hangout

Holy Ground Worship

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

55+ AND FRIENDS

HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

FRESH, FALL, PECANS FOR SALE

Just in time for Holiday Baking or Giving

One Pound Bags (Whole and Pieces) \$15.

BPUMC Fundraiser for 55+ and Friends Ministry

SHEPHERD'S CENTER SCHEDULE

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

December 14 Harpist, Judy Sullivan Hicks of the Alabama Symphony ~ "Music of the Angels"

December 21 Kristi Tingle Higginbotham, Singer and Actress, "Songs of the Season"



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
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BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816

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Tracy Estes, imaginations@bpumc.org
Facilities Manager,
Chad Malcom, cmalcom@bpumc.org



The Week of December 10—16

Sunday, December 10
8:45 am Traditional Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am The Gathering at Bluff Park
11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
6:30 pm Christmas on the Bluff
Monday, December 11
10:00 am Prayer Shawl
4:00 pm UMW
Tuesday, December 12
7:30 am US Senate Election
8:30 am Maintenance
3:00 pm Tutoring Program
Wednesday, December 13
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell
6:30 pm Choir
Thursday, December 14
7:30 am Advent Morning Prayer
9:30 am Shepherd's Center
10:00 am Sewing Group

SUNDAY, December 10, 2017
8:45 and 11:00am Traditional Worship
Matthew 1:18-25
"Trusting the Child Within"
Rev. Angela Martin
11:00am The Gathering
Rev. John Carl Hastings

LIFETRACK

Sunday—Luke 1:57-68 and Psalm 114
Monday—Luke 1:57-68
Tuesday—Matthew 22:34-46
Wednesday—Matthew 23:1-12
Thursday—Matthew 23:13-26
Friday—Matthew 23:27-39
Saturday—Matthew 24:1-14

SERVING SUNDAY

Ushers
8:45 Adams 11:00 Alley
Acolyte
8:45 Ella Bowles 11:00 CJ Lorino
Cross
8:45 Natalie Self 11:00 Tate Turner
Meal on Wheels: Adams/Pearson
Food Pantry January 3rd: TBA

Last Week's Record

December 3, 2017

Children/Youth	105/26
Traditional Worship/Gathering	589/40
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,137.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$35,918.80
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,411,109.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,329,713.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,294,175.79
New Members in 2017	32

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017—December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$5,222.00
Received to Date	\$432,287.32

**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.