



Joy to the World
BLUFF PARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

733 Valley Street Hoover, AL 35226 205.822.0910

December 24 and 31, 2017

Seek God, Lose Yourself, Find Life

Special Service Times

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

New Year's Eve Sunday Morning Worship

December 31st @ 10:00am

*Wesley Covenant Service to start the
New Year*

www.ChristmasInBluffPark.com

*Merry
Christmas
AND
Happy
New Year!*



News of the Week



WHITE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Each Advent, our church takes up the White Christmas Offering in support of the United Methodist Children's Home. Their mission is to heal children, unite families, and change lives in northern Alabama. Through your support, children are placed in safe and loving foster homes and are able to continue to be cared for in college as they transition into independent adulthood. Simply assign checks or envelopes to "White Christmas Offering" in morning worship throughout Advent, or by dropping off your gift in our Financial Office.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER IN MISSIONS

We are currently recruiting team members for two 2018 VIM teams. The first team will return to South Carolina 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 team will return to Talca, Chile for the second year. We will continue work 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.

VIM MEETING

You are invited to a meeting of all those interested in being a part of the 2018 domestic Volunteers in Mission team to South Carolina. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 5:30 PM in the Fireside room. Anyone who is interested in being a member of the 2018 team should plan to attend this meeting. If you can't be there and want to be on the team please let Tom Duley know at 205-822-0910 or tduley@bpumc.org.

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.

BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Bluff Park UMC gym on Sunday, January 7th, from 7:30am-1:00pm. 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.

IN THE HOSPITAL...

Linda Bailey—UAB West
Mariana Sturdivant—Grandview



CELEBRATING GIFTS AND YEAR-END GIVING

Churches typically receive as much as 25% of our gifts in the last two months of the year. As you make your plans to complete your 2017 financial commitment, here are three additional possibilities for resources beyond cash gifts. Please note that these possibilities are listed for educational purposes. Please consult your personal advisor for your specific information.

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCKS OR BONDS

You can transfer ownership of stocks, bonds or mutual funds to the church and receive a charitable tax deduction based on the full fair market value of the securities on the date of the transfer. This avoids the capital gains tax while giving the church the benefit of the full value of the security. To receive this benefit, it is important to transfer ownership before the security is sold. For your gift to apply to the current tax year, the securities must be in the account of the local church (or our Foundation) by December 31st. So, allow plenty of lead time for your broker to complete this transaction.

GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE

A charitable gift of real estate can be especially tax advantageous. If a home, vacation home, acreage or farm property has appreciated in value over the years - its sale could result in a sizable capital gains tax. If the real estate is given to the church prior to the sale, you can avoid the tax and realize a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the real estate. One could even consider a bargain sale transaction with half of the funds to the church and the other half to the donor.

GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE

When you name the church as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy, it usually offers you a tax advantage in the year you make the gift. You can take a charitable deduction approximately equal to the cash value at the time of the gift. Additionally, continued payments of premiums may qualify as charitable tax deductions each year.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SKATE PARTY: We will be having a Church-Wide Skate Night on Sunday, January 14th, at Roller Motion (2474 Morgan Road in Bessemer.) The party goes from 5-7pm. All skate rentals and dinner are free! We encourage you to attend as a family and bring your friends.

MIDWEEK MEETUP: Midweek Meetup returns on Wednesday, January 10th and happens every Wednesday night from 5:00-7:30 in the Spring. The children will enjoy dinner, choir, recreation, age focused Bible Study/Classroom time, and more! We look forward to seeing you there!

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

THANK YOU JAKE SMITH! Our student worship leader for the past two years has taken a full-time job teaching English at Thompson High School. Jake has been an integral part of our ministry, developing our team of musicians and singers, co-leading a coed small group, and so much more. We know that Jake will do great things in the lives of his students and will be praying for him as he begins this new journey.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 24TH & 31ST We will start back on January 7th with two great video-based series: a New Testament overview for middle school students and "Sticky Faith" for our high school students.

DISCOVERY WEEKEND REGISTRATION IS OPEN Discovery Weekend is a spiritual formation retreat held annually for our students, right here in the church. What makes this unique is that the talks and small group discussion are led by our high school students for the middle schoolers. The dates are Friday-Sunday, February 2nd-4th and the cost is \$75 for middle school and \$25 for high school registrations. This includes all meals, a fun outing on Saturday and a t-shirt. Contact Meghan Bohanan mbohanan@bpumc.org with questions on registration/fees or Bethany Dover bddover4@yahoo.com to volunteer.

DINNER & A MOVIE - SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH We will meet at Baumhower's Victory Grill at Patton Creek at 5pm for dinner and then head across the street for a movie. Transportation is NOT provided and you'll need money for your dinner, ticket, and snacks.

SMALL GROUPS & HOLY GROUND WORSHIP RETURNS ON JANUARY 10TH Our January worship series will focus on social media. We'll ask the question: what does God require of us when we live our lives online?

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

55+ AND FRIENDS

Merry Christmas to all persons 55+ and Friends!

Tremendous gratitude to the 55+ and Friends Team:

Sylvia and John Sumners, Jan Harris, Ann and Bob Nelson, Gail and Bill Cooch, Debi and John Whitcomb, Theresa Richardson, Rosemary Dallum and Jan Bailey.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER SCHEDULE

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

December 28 Christmas Week - No Meeting

January 4 New Year's Week - No Meeting

January 11 Rev. Tom Duley - "Mission Trip to Chili"



Bluff Park United Methodist Church

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

**NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AUTO
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT NO. 1816**

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 December 24—January 6

Sunday, December 24
10:00 am Morning Worship Service
4:00 pm Traditional Candlelight
Worship Service
6:00 pm Traditional Candlelight
Worship Service
6:00 pm Christmas Eve at The
Gathering at Bluff Park

Monday, December 25—Christmas Day
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26
OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, December 28
10:00 am Sewing Group
7:00 pm Book Club

Sunday, December 31
10:00 am Morning Worship Service

Monday, January 1—New Year's Day
OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2
OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, January 3
9:00 am Food Pantry
5:30 pm Men's Chorus
6:00 pm Handbell
6:30 pm Choir

Thursday, January 4
10:00 am Sewing Group

SUNDAY, December 24, 2017
10:00am Traditional Worship
Traditional Candlelight Worship
4:00pm & 6:00pm
6:00pm Christmas Eve at The Gathering

SUNDAY, December 31, 2017
10:00am Traditional Worship

LIFETRACK

12/24—12/30

- Sunday—Psalm 89:1-29
- Monday—1 John 4:7-16
- Tuesday—Psalm 118
- Wednesday—1 John 5:1-12
- Thursday—Matthew 18:1-14
- Friday—John 2:1-11
- Saturday—John 4:46-54

12/31—1/6

- Sunday—Isaiah 65:15-25
- Monday—Matthew 1:18-25
- Tuesday—John 6:1-14
- Wednesday—John 6:15-27
- Thursday—John 9:1-12, 35-38
- Friday—Isaiah 66:18-23
- Saturday—Isaiah 49:1-7

SERVING

- Meal on Wheels 12/27: Martin
- Meal on Wheels 1/3: McCrary
- Food Pantry January 3rd: Cummings

Last Week's Record

December 17, 2017

Children	72
Traditional Worship/Gathering	502/36
Weekly Contributions Expected	\$27,137.00
Weekly Contributions Received	\$18,115.24
Annual Contributions Expected	\$1,411,109.00
Contributions Expected to Date	\$1,383,987.00
Contributions Received to Date	\$1,337,826.83
New Members in 2017	32

10,000 REASONS CAMPAIGN

January 1, 2017—December 31, 2019

Amount Pledged	\$1,099,621.00
Received Last Week	\$10,685.33
Received to Date	\$446,266.65

**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.