



Tidings of Joy

The Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church of Decatur, Alabama

October 19, 2016

“Settling the Big Question: Why We Exist”

We had a great open forum on our church purpose last Sunday evening and a delicious church supper afterwards. I feared the evening would be spoiled when I realized an hour before the forum I had started but not closed the communication loop to place someone in charge of the kitchen and grilling the hamburgers for the supper. I made a few phone calls, several members volunteered to help, they made a decision to have hotdogs instead, and one of the members grilled them and had them on the table by the time supper began. Everyone ate and we had hotdogs left over to share with a community agency that feeds the hungry. This feeding story may fall short of the magnitude of Jesus feeding the 5,000, but it does provide palpable reinforcement to all that we shared and learned at the forum the same way feeding the multitudes reinforces Jesus' teaching in the Gospels. It also underscores the perception in our proposed purpose statement, that this church at our best produces faithful servant leaders for the church and community.

Why are we exerting so much energy to the question of our church's purpose? After I moved here in June 2015, I asked the Staff Parish Relations Committee to fund a Best Christian Workplace Survey for our church staff, including the director of First Grace. The best analogy I have heard about the assessment this survey produces is that of a crew on a boat. The assessment helps us determine who on the boat is paddling and if anyone is paddling in the wrong direction. Sandy and I paddled in a dragon boat practice run last spring, so I know what a difference coordinated paddling makes. We completed the survey last year and several church leaders reviewed the results in the spring.

The biggest issue was the absence of a compelling vision to give direction to our staff and the various ministries we lead. A result was that the staff had no clear way of knowing when we were performing well. The church needs to establish a performance review system for our staff. The only way to do that is to have one overarching target toward which the staff and the ministry teams we lead paddle. The BCW

coach who met with us by teleconference recommended we clarify our vision and then develop that performance review system to improve our BCW score. Some of the ministry team leaders who served on the Vision Team in 2014-15 stated that their work took place during a time of crisis. To move past that crisis response, they urged we complete the process to clarify our vision.

What is our mission and what is our vision and what is the difference? Our Council on Ministries study team moved past that question to talk instead of the one overarching purpose of our church. Rick Warren writes about a five-fold purpose framework consisting of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and mission. However, these are vehicles we must design to get us where God calls us. Where God calls us is what we are deciding at this stage. Input from the forum shed more light on our purpose. Our team will review and evaluate the spoken and written input we received there and appraise our statement against it. So far, this is what we have: **Our church exists to nurture and support our members and disciple each to reach, engage, and equip the next generation to live out the Gospel of Jesus the Christ through servant leadership everywhere.**

Yours in Christ,
Hughey

Church Prayer List Oct. 19th Edition

Family of A.Q. Weaver, his death on Oct. 14

Clyde Sasser

Jean Windsor, radiation for skin cancer on face

Ginger Bramlett, Stage III colon cancer

Habib Nackhla, brother-in-law of JoAnn Christopher

Cliff Kinney, viral meningitis (Elaine Maxey's nephew)

Sammy Dean, continued recovery from car accident

Katherine Johnson

Ed Kirby

Kayleigh McClendon

Praise - New grandson for Sammy and Jan Dean

Benjamin Caleb Dean born to Trent and Caley

Please fill out a prayer card found in the pew pockets or email your prayer requests to aquinn@decaturfumc.org for publication in the next newsletter.

Sympathy

A graveside service for **A.Q. Weaver** was held on Oct. 19th at 11:00 at Roselawn Cemetery. Mr. Weaver died October 14, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Joyce Whitmire Weaver**; and two sons, **Lawrence Clark Weaver (Leslie)** and **William Michael Weaver (Sabrina)**, both of Decatur; four granddaughters, **Elizabeth Clark Weaver**, **Caroline Noble Weaver Ashwander (Bill)**, **Ivey Katherine Weaver**, and **Anna Quinn Weaver**; and three great-grandchildren, **William Samuel Ashwander Jr.**, **John Frederick Ashwander**, and **Elizabeth Noble Ashwander**. Our prayers remain with the family.

Mission Moments

The leaves are changing colors, football is in full swing, and pumpkin spice everything is readily available. This can only mean one thing...Christmas is coming! Actually, fall is here (despite the ninety degree temperatures), but it is a great time to be mindful of some of the fun activities coming up during Advent that will require us working together and having fun together too!

We had such a great time at the Decatur Jaycees Christmas parade last year! It is time to plan our float. This year's theme is based on the movie Elf. The parade will take place on Monday, December 5 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. If you would like to be a part of float planning, please contact Shannon.

Another fun activity during Advent will be our Festival of the Nativities. We will be the host church this year during the Old Decatur Historic Tour of Homes. We will have nativity sets owned by church members on display. The event is Saturday, December 10, 3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Mark your calendars for these two festive events that are both wonderful opportunities to reach out to our community in very different ways during the holiday season.

We are putting together a team to publish an up-to-date church directory. We will have a printed directory, access to a password-protected online directory, and an app that can be downloaded that will have access to directory information. If you would like to be a part of this team, please let Shannon know.

Shannon Booth

Hilltoppers

The next Hilltoppers trip will be Thursday, November 10 as we go to Stone Bridge Farm in Cullman for Thanksgiving lunch. We'll leave FUMC at 10 and return by 2. The buffet is \$12 plus a tip. We'll collect \$3 per person for gas. The sign up sheet is on the board outside the Fellowship Hall. Contact Beth with any questions.

FUMC Safe Sanctuaries Training

Each year, the North Alabama Annual Conference requires all staff and church members who work with or volunteer with children and youth to attend Safe Sanctuaries training.

On Sunday, November 6 from 12:00-2:00 we will have our annual training here at FUMC with Toby Chastain from Hartselle FUMC. We will begin with lunch and have time for training, reviewing our policy, and completing necessary paperwork. Background checks are required every three years and safe sanctuaries training every year.

You can RSVP to Beth so we will have an accurate count for lunch and copies of paperwork. Please see Beth with any questions.

Patrick's Musical Notes

If you have ever considered becoming a part of the Worship Team and/or Chancel Choir, now is the time! The preparations for our Christmas Cantata, "Night of Miracles" have just begun, and we want YOU to be a part! "Night of Miracles" is scheduled for December 18th, 2016 at both 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services. If you are unable to sing with us this year, we would still love to see you there!

Both the Worship Team and Chancel Choir offer their own elements to our worship services here at Decatur First United Methodist Church. Join one, or join both!

Our Worship Team, a dynamic group of approximately five voices who are primarily contemporary, with some traditional, leads our **8:45 a.m. service** each Sunday. The Worship Team rehearses **each Monday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Please note that there is **not** childcare available during these rehearsals.

The Chancel Choir, singing more traditional sacred choral repertoire, is an assemblage of approximately 15 to 25 voices who sing for the **11:00 a.m. service** each Sunday. In addition, the Chancel Choir wears robes each Sunday for morning worship. The Chancel Choir meets **each Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.** If you have small children, childcare will be available during rehearsals for the majority of the year.

If you have any questions about joining the Worship Team and Chancel Choir, **please contact me at patrick@decaturfumc.org or 256-355-0277.** May the Lord Bless you in all that you do!

Patrick McCormick

Children's Ministry

Alexia Claborn, Director of Children's Ministry, 256-606-8646

Help Needed for Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat

Trunk-or-treat and Fall Festival is Sunday, Oct. 30th, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. and we need your help!

Trunk-or-Treat- will be from 5:00-5:30 p.m. Please consider decorating your trunk and bring candy to pass out to our Trunk-or-Treaters. We ask that you be in the parking lot by 4:30 to set up.

Cupcake & Little Debbie Walk - We need volunteers to bring cupcakes and Little Debbie cakes for this game. Cupcakes can be dropped off Sunday morning in the fellowship hall.

Candy- We also need candy for some of our games for prizes. A box will be labeled and located outside of the fellowship hall. Sunday is not too late but it would be helpful to know what we have by Wednesday evening.

Set up Help- We will begin set up on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. If you are unable to come that early please come when you are able. We will have plenty to do up until the festivities begin.

Games- Please contact Alexia if you would like help facilitate one of the games. We would love for you to come and bring your friends! aclaborn@decaturfumc.org
256-606-8646

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Oct. 23

Sunday School

Pre-school - Room #215 Leigh Ann Blankenship
Jessica Mitchell

K-2nd - Room #207 Jami Buckner/assistant - Dell Ward

3rd-5th Grade- - Room #306 Betty Ann Mitchum
assistant - TBA

Children's Church

8:45 Service Teacher- Alexia Claborn;
Assistant- Bailey Copeland

11:00 Service Teacher-Alexia Claborn,
Assistant- Hunter Claborn & Lydia Matthews

Children's First Fellowship

Elementary

5:30 -Elementary Choir 6:00-7:00- Bible Story and Lesson

Pre- School

6:00- Pre-School Choir 6:20-7:00 -Bible Story and Lesson

Acolyte Information

Oct. 23

8:45 Bristol Rayne Teal & Mary Elizabeth Booth
11:00 John Benton Claborn & LuLu Underwood

Oct. 30

8:45 Bristol Rayne Teal & Mary Elizabeth Booth
11:00 Miller Roberts and Davis Roberts

Trunk-or-Treat
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
& Fall Festival
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 30th
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



- Trunk-or-Treat, Blow-ups,
 - Dunking Booth,
- Hay Ride, Games, Prizes & 3 yr. & under Play area
*Hot Dog Dinner \$5
\$18 maximum per family
Wear your costume!
First United Methodist Church-
Parking Lot / In Case of Rain Fellowship Hall

Volunteers for Sunday, Oct. 30

Sunday School

Pre-school - Room #215 Leigh Ann Blankenship
Jessica Mitchell

K-2nd - Room #207 Barbara Ashwander
assistant - Mike Ward

3rd-5th Grade- Room #306 Shannon Booth
assistant - TBA

Children's Church

8:45 Service Teacher- Alexia Claborn;
Assistant- Vickie Earwood

11:00 Service Teacher-Alexia Claborn,
Assistant- Davia Newman

Upcoming Important Dates

Oct. 23rd - Power of Pink Walk

Oct. 30th - Trunk- or- Treat Set Up at 4:30 p.m. to begin at 5:00 p.m.

Nov. 30th - Family Night - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Pizza & Candy Nativity

Dec. 14th - Christmas Pageant and Dinner 5:30 p.m.



Volunteers Needed

We are looking for Sunday School Teachers / Assistants, Children's Church Teachers / Assistants and First Fellowship Volunteers. Please contact Alexia if you are able to volunteer in any of these areas. The best way to contact me is by email, text or call at the following: aclaborn@decaturfumc.org and cell 256-606-8646.



Fall Finance Update



With the last quarter upon us our end of year giving concern is funding our **Ministry Budget** in full and on time. Offerings through June comfortably exceeded expenses, but we experienced the usual "summer slump" in Ministry Budget giving during July--September. First Church is still in the black with no deficit year to date, but our cushion is thin, and **we need all members and friends to emphasize Ministry Budget giving for the rest of 2016.** To meet all our budget obligations and opportunities your Finance Committee respectfully asks that you consider all pledged and unpledged giving to this primary church finance goal during October, November, and December. Thank you for your consideration.

First Church still has a large debt from the 2006-2008 building/renovation program, but steady progress continues on debt reduction. Our Finance Committee goal this year was to be under \$1.3 million by year's end, but we met that goal during the summer. When the current, three year "**Answering God's Challenge**" campaign started our debt stood at \$1,502,567. With the current month's payment that debt is now at **\$1,247,607.** Thank you for all pledged and unpledged gifts to reducing, then eliminating this debt.

Giving to **Faith Promise** continues on track to fund all mission outreach projects proposed by the congregation and adopted after last winter's Global Impact Celebration. First Church continues as a leading mission giving congregation in the North Alabama Conference.

Remember, our priority for the last quarter is to fully fund our 2016 Ministry Budget. Thank you for your consideration and your stewardship of time, talent, witness, and financial support. We hope to see you in church Sunday.

Respectfully,
Your Finance Committee
John Pylant Chair

Noonday Collection

Kayla Riggs with Noonday Collection will be joining us in the **Fellowship Hall this Sunday, October 23rd from 9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.** Noonday Collection is a business that uses fashion to create meaningful opportunities around the world. The mission of the company is to partner with talented artisan entrepreneurs to make a difference in some of the world's most vulnerable communities. By developing artisan businesses through fair trade, the mission empowers them to grow sustainably and to create dignified jobs for people who need them. Together we're building a flourishing world where children are cherished, women are empowered, people have jobs and we are connected.

The name Noonday Collection comes from Isaiah 58:10: "If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."

Join us for shopping (get some pre-Christmas shopping in!) that supports this cause on October 23rd. The CLASS will be providing brunch foods while you visit and shop.

Lee Lott Power of Pink Walk

The walk is on Sunday, October 23rd at Founders' Park Amphitheater at the Old State Bank. Donations may be made through next Friday, Oct. 28th. Please put them in the donation buckets that are in the classrooms or in the main hallway. If you send a check directly to the Foundation, please put DFUMC on the memo line so we receive the credit.



Thank you for your support, *Susan Baughn*

October Mission Emphasis

Tennessee Valley Outreach (TVO) is our October Mission Emphasis. They have given us a list of items that they need. Place these items in the blue barrels in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall.

Non-Perishable Food Items
Prepared Food Items
Q-Tips
Disposable Razors
Shampoo and Conditioner
Feminine Hygiene Products
Bar Soap
Deodorant
Bleach
Laundry Detergent
Dishwashing Liquid
Toilet tissue
Paper Towels
Clothing



Youth Dates

Sunday, October 23

10:00 Sunday School
2:00 Power of Pink Walk
6:00 Brown Bag Supper
6:30 UMYF Game Night

Wednesday, October 26

5:00 First Fellowship Dinner
6:00 Youth Bible Study

Thursday, October 27

7:30am Senior High prayer breakfast at Chick Fil A;
Beth visits Bama Students

Friday, October 28- Saturday, October 29

Jr High Human Sexuality Retreat

Sunday, October 30

10:00 Sunday School goes to breakfast
4:00 set up Fall Festival
5:00 Trunk or Treat
5:30 Fall Festival

Wednesday, November 2

5:00 First Fellowship Dinner
6:00 Youth Bible Study

Thursday, November 3

7:30am Senior High prayer breakfast at Chick Fil A



Senior High Ski Trip, December 27-30

The Senior High will be going to Winterplace, WV December 27-30, 2016 for a Ski Retreat. We will be staying in one slope side house that sleeps up to 27. **The total cost of the trip is \$374 per person.** [\$329 will cover lodging, lift tickets and skis. \$20 covers food to prepare meals in the room. \$25 covers diesel gas in the bus. Non skiers deduct \$117- total \$257.] You will need money for fast food meals in route. **The first payment of \$187 is due November 1. The balance (\$187) is due December 1.** 

Senior High New York/ Washington Citizenship Seminar, July 2017

It's time to sign up for the NY/ DC trip! This trip happens once every 4 years for our high school students. During the trip we will study the topic of poverty and homelessness in each city by visiting sites, hearing speakers, and having discussions. There will also be time built in for sightseeing and free time as a group. I do not know the total cost of the trip because we don't have flights booked or hotel rooms in NYC. Once we know the number going, we can start securing these pricier things. The trip will be no more than \$1,600 per person. Fundraiser and attendance money will be backed out of the total. **A \$200 deposit to secure your spot, so we can start lining up flights and hotels, is due by Friday, December 2.** 

Junior High Human Sexuality Retreat, Oct. 28-29

Come and be a part of this amazing weekend at Camp McDowell where we learn about God and His gifts of sexuality. This retreat is based upon the premise that our sexuality is a good gift, a powerful gift, and a valuable gift from God. As such, we believe that sexual intimacy has a special place within the bonds of a loving, committed marriage. We know you won't want to miss out on this fun and exciting weekend!

The cost is \$75 per student and friends are welcome to join us! We will be partnering with Hart-selle FUMC and sharing Rev. John Edd Harper from the Louisiana UMC Conference as our resource person. Contact Beth Green for additional info.

Your News Wanted

Please let the church office staff know about news that happens to you. Include anything you'd like to share with your church family. Shared joy is multiplied. What would you like to see in this newsletter?

Write it down and submit it before Tuesdays at 3:00. If you choose to e-mail, please use address aquinn@decatourfumc.org. Thanks!

College Visits

On Thursday, October 27, I will be going to The University of Alabama to visit students. I'll be arriving around 10:45 a.m. and will be in The Ferg near the front by Subway. Check texts messages for times and locations! *Beth*

Auburn University and Troy University visits to come!

Church Cookbooks

We still have an abundance of our Church Cookbooks available for purchase. You will find these in the Church office for only \$5.00 each. These make wonderful Christmas gifts. Pick one up today!

Sunday Flower Dedications

We have several dates available for Sunday Flower Dedications. Please contact the church office or send an email to aquinn@decatourfumc.org for more information.

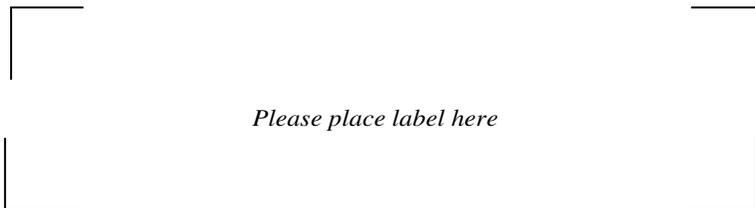
Upcoming Events

10/23, 2:00 p.m., Power of Pink Walk
10/23, 6:00 Brown Bag Supper
10/23, 6:30 UMYF Game Night
10/24, 4:00 p.m., Archives Committee Meeting, Archives Room
10/24, 5:30 p.m., First Grace committee, Courtyard Conf. Room
10/24, 6:00 p.m., Worship Team Practice
10/25, 10:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room
10/26, 4:00 p.m., Children's Committee Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room
10/26, 5:00 p.m., First Fellowship Meal and Classes, Fellowship Hall and Sunday School Rooms
10/26, 6:30 p.m., Chancel Choir Practice
10/27, 6:30 a.m., UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room
10/27, 7:30 a.m., UMM Breakfast, City Café
10/27, 7:30am Sr. High prayer breakfast at Chick Fil A
Friday, October 28- Saturday, October 29
Jr. High Human Sexuality Retreat @ Camp McDowell
Friday, October 28- Sunday, October 30
Women's Retreat @ Camp Sumatanga
Trunk-or-Treat 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
& Fall Festival 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 30th



805 CANAL STREET N.E.
DECATUR, AL 35601
PHONE (256) 355-0277
FAX (256) 355-2241
www.decaturfumc.org

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Org.
Decatur, AL
35601
Permit No. 226



Please place label here

Hughey Reynolds, Senior Minister, hreynolds@decaturfumc.org
Patrick McCormick, Director of Worship, patrick@decaturfumc.org
Beth Green, Minister of Discipleship, beth@decaturfumc.org
Cindy McCulloch, Finance Secretary, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org
Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org
Alexia Claborn, Director of Children's Ministry, aclaborn@decaturfumc.org
Shannon Booth, Director of Outreach, shannon@decaturfumc.org

Charlie Elliott, Custodian
Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper
Sandy Callahan, Food Manager
Wayne Keller, Accompanist
Ruth Moyers, Organist

Upcoming Worship Services

VISION STATEMENT:

Growing in Christ, Sharing God's Love through...
Inspiring Worship, Empowering Ministries
Equipping Persons for Ministry, Promoting Well-Being

Sunday, Oct. 23, Rev. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
8:45 and 11:00 a.m. "To Equip the Next Generation"
Ephesians 4: 1 - 16

Sunday, Oct. 30, Rev. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
8:45 and 11:00 a.m. "Living the Gospel as a Servant Leader
Everywhere" Matthew 9: 18 - 38

Scheduled To Serve Oct. 23

Acolytes:

8:45 a.m.-Bristol Rayne Teal & Mary Elizabeth Booth
11:00 a.m. - John Benton Claborn & LuLu Underwood

Ushers:

8:45 a.m.-Jimmy Sykes, Bert Pippen, Drew Ward,
Jim Riant
11:00 a.m.-Ricky Clay, Jeff Earley, Ronald Matthews,
J. Robert Fite, Phil Corazzari

First Fellowship Oct. 26

Find an opportunity to grow in discipleship through great groups and classes. **First Fellowship classes will begin at 6:00 p.m., following the meal at 5:00.**

The menu for Oct. 26 will be Chili, Hot Dogs, Potato Chip Assortment, Cornbread, Salad Bar, Peanut Butter and Jelly and Cheese Sandwiches, and Make Your Own Sundae Bar. **No Reservations are required!** \$6.00 per adult, \$6.75 to go plate, \$5.00 salad bar without hot bar, \$18.00 family of three or more (hot bar), Child's meal 10 & under without hot bar is free.

Option Available for E-Newsletter

If you would rather receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send an e-mail to Alyson at aquinn@decaturfumc.org indicating this preference. You will help us save paper and postage. We have over 180 subscribers so far!