



# Tidings of Joy

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

November 18, 2015

## “Advent: A Time to Prepare for the Coming of Christ” | A Note From Our Pastor

Advent, a word that means “coming,” is the four week period preceding Christmas Day. In historic practice, Advent was a penitential season when Christians prayed and prepared for the return of Christ to gather the faithful for eternal life in heaven and to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The earliest observance of Christ’s birth was the twelve day period from December 25 until January 6. What gets lost in our celebrating Christmas so early is Advent. Past generations of Christians knew that the same practices of fasting, prayer, repentance, and charity that prepare us for the return of Christ put us in the right frame of mind to celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas.

Today’s early start to the Christmas season is driven by the economic motive to increase retail sales. Years ago, when I realized how Advent was all but lost, I decided the church would sing only Advent hymns until the Sunday before Christmas. Advent hymns like “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” and “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” are expected, along with one or two of the lesser known hymns. But that leaves out one of my favorite Charles Wesley hymns, “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending.” My plan was met with energetic opposition. When I proposed postponing decorating the Christmas tree until the Sunday before Christmas, I crossed a line. Had I not relented, I would have provoked a rebellion. In my effort to be an Advent purist, I had become a Liturgical Scrooge.

*With age, and with the increasing ability God continues to grow in me to think in terms of both/and rather*

*than always seeing either/or, I have modified my insistence that we observe Advent and Christmas separately.*

When he walked the earth, Jesus’ greatest ministry was not inside the Temple, synagogues, or in practicing inherited religious traditions. His greatest impact was out in the world engaging people at their point of need and empowering them to reach their greatest potential. Today, Jesus has connected with people in the world outside the church. He does not come cloaked in power executing judgment and condemnation in the world but in the form of a newborn baby who needs to be held and loved. Yes, Jesus comes to the world during this season in ways that bring out the best in people.

We will prepare for and celebrate the coming of Jesus at Decatur First on all the Sundays of Advent during morning and evening services. On each Sunday, we will light a candle in the Advent wreath recognizing the gifts God brings to us in Jesus: Christ our Hope, Christ our Peace, Christ our Joy, and Christ the Bearer of Infinite Love. We will sing Advent hymns and Christmas carols throughout the season. On Christmas Eve, we will light the Christ candle, marking the moment of Jesus’ birth and the dawn of salvation for the world which comes through Him. Keep a holy and joyful Advent this season to prepare and pray for Jesus to be born in your heart, in our church, and in our world that needs his love and grace more than ever. The first Sunday in Advent is Nov. 29.

In Christ,

*Hughey*

## Patrick’s Musical Notes - Mark Your Calendar - Advent Activities

The Christmas season is upon us and with it comes numerous opportunities to experience the joy of the season at Decatur First United Methodist Church. **We kick off the Advent season with the Hanging of the Greens Service on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Please come to the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Hanging of the Greens for some light refreshments. **On December 9<sup>th</sup> we will have the children’s choir “Christmas Pageant” at 6:00 p.m.** These services will both be held in the sanctuary, and the “Christmas Pageant” on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> will have a Covered Dish Church Family Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall following the service. In addition, the church will partake in a **Lessons and Carols service at both the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on December 20<sup>th</sup>.** Lastly, Decatur FUMC invites all to attend its annual **Christmas Eve service which will be held this year at Noon and 5:00 p.m.** I hope all will be able to attend these wonderful services that have been prepared for the Christmas and Advent Season.

God Bless,  
*Patrick McCormick*



## Sympathy

Sharing sympathy with **Sam** and **Marcia Haynes** on the Nov. 3rd death of his brother Randy, age 57. His memorial service was on Sunday, November 8 at Point Mallard Prayer Chapel. His faith maintained him through his eight year battle with Lewy Body Disease.

Sharing sympathy with **Jolly** and **Becky McKenzie** on the Nov. 3rd death of her brother **Frank E. Bunch, Jr.** of Portland, TN. This family remains in our prayers.

**Wylene Shubert**, 86, died on November 6 in Knoxville at Tennova Hospice Facility. Her husband, **Ray**, was pastor here at First Church in the early 80s. Three children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive her. Her funeral was held in Knoxville. Please keep the Shubert family in your prayers.

## Births

**Camden Joshua Dean** was born on October 10th to **Trent** and **Caley Dean** of Cullman. Grandparents from this congregation are **Sammy** and **Jan Dean**.

**Tucker Whatley Reynolds** was born on Nov. 4th to **Jonathan** and **Catherine Reynolds** of Fairhope. Grandparents from this congregation are **Rev. Hughey** and **Sandy Reynolds**.

## Ushers Needed for 8:45 a.m. Service

If you attend the 8:45 a.m. service and are not currently ushering and would be willing to help us, please let the church office or **Ronnie Dukes** know by email at [rdukes@pepsicoladecatur.com](mailto:rdukes@pepsicoladecatur.com). We are in need of a few more ushers..

## Our Stewardship of Presences

**Attendance Worship Numbers Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015:**  
**Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 104**  
**Total Count for 11:00am = 122**  
**Total Count for November 8 = 226**

**Sunday School Nov. 8:**  
**Children 13 + 4 adults**  
**Youth 6 + 2 adults**  
**Adults 106**  
**Total Sunday School Nov. 8 = 131**

**Attendance Worship Numbers Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015:**  
**Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 127**  
**Total Count for 11:00am = 145**  
**Total Count for Nov. 15 = 272**

**Sunday School Nov. 15:**  
**Children 21 + 9 adults**  
**Youth 10 + 2 adult**  
**Adults 148**  
**Total Sunday School Nov. 15 = 190**


**First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Nov. 4, 2015:**  
**Children 17 + 7 adults**  
**Youth 14 + 4 adults**  
**Adults 52**  
**Total First Fellowship Nov. 4 = 94**

**First Fellowship Attendance Numbers Nov. 11, 2015:**  
**Children 18 + 9 adults**  
**Youth 8 + 4 adults**  
**Adults 66**  
**Total First Fellowship Nov. 11 = 105**

## Our Stewardship of Resources

<u>Ministry Budget</u>		<u>Capital Fund</u>
Received YTD	\$696,362.36	184,808.16
Needed YTD	757,422.86	
Given This Week	11,433.17	11,166.05
Needed Weekly	16,115.38	

## Decatur Christmas Parade, December 7

 Our church will have a float in the Decatur Christmas Parade this year! Everyone is invited to join in on the fun! The children will ride on the float with a parent or familiar adult and the youth/adults will walk alongside the float handing out goodies with our church information. We would love for everyone to purchase and wear an FUMC parade sweatshirt to help show our "church spirit" and get our name out there! **You can complete this order form and turn it in to Alexia Claborn no later than Monday, Nov. 30 at noon. Adult XXL and XXXL shirts will cost \$22.00 → →**

Following the parade, we'll open the Fellowship Hall for all of us to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while we watch *A Charlie Brown Christmas* together!

## Christmas Sweatshirt Order Form (\$20 per shirt/\$22 for XXL & XXXL)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Size (circle) YXS YS YM YL

XS S M L XL XXL XXXL

*Turn money and orders into  
Alexia Claborn by 11/30.*

**CHRISTMAS**  
**PARADE**



# Children's Ministry

Alexia Claborn  
Director of Children's Ministries  
aclaborn@decaturfumc.org  
Office: 256-355-0277; Cell: 256-606-8646

## Parents' Night Out

The youth will be hosting a Parents' Night Out at the church so that parents can have a date night, go Christmas shopping, or enjoy a night alone!

**When:** Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-10:00 p.m.

**Who:** Children 6 months- 5<sup>th</sup> grade

**What:** Dinner, Christmas games, crafts, snacks, movies, songs, and activities

**Cost:** \$20 per child/ \$50 max per family. This will help cover the costs of food and supplies. Any leftover money will go to our summer mission trip fund.

### Schedule:

5:00 drop off toddlers through elementary age in the Fellowship Hall.

Babies will be in the nursery.

5:30-6:00 dinner in the Fellowship Hall

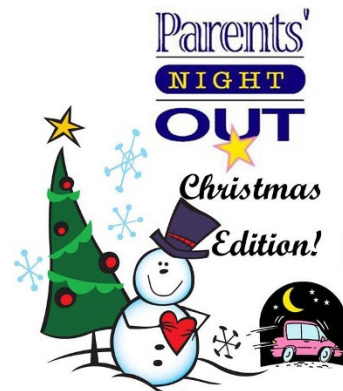
6:00-6:45 Station 1 on the first floor (First Grace hall)

6:50-7:35 Station 2 on the first floor (First Grace hall)

7:40-8:25 Station 3 on the first floor (First Grace hall)

8:30-9:15 Station 4 on the first floor (First Grace hall)

9:15-10:00 wrap up and pick up in the Fellowship Hall



## Mark Your Calendars

### • Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 p.m. - We will be **working with the youth to build our Christmas parade float!** Please come and help. We will meet on the Youth 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

### • Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**6:00 p.m. - Decatur Christmas Parade!** We will have a church float and our children and youth will ride in the float. All participants in the parade are asked to wear FUMC Christmas sweatshirts. Please see the order form in this newsletter and get that in by **Monday, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon** so that we can ensure everyone that wants one will not miss out. They will be \$20.



### • Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>

**6:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Pageant!**

Covered dish Church Family Christmas Dinner to follow. Church will provide the meat, bread and beverages.

## Important Dates for Children's Choir

• **Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)...** We will practice in the sanctuary, and get fitted for costumes!

• **Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>...** **Hanging of the Greens Service at 6:00 p.m. Please have your children in the Church Parlor no later than 5:30 p.m.** so we will have time to practice "Away in a Manger." The children can wear "Christmas casual" clothing to sing!

• **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> (5:30-7:00 p.m.)...** Pageant practice in the sanctuary.

• **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.)...** Pageant **DRESS REHEARSAL**

• **Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>...** **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AT 6:00 P.M.** Children should arrive at 5:15 and meet in the church parlor.

## Sunday Morning Volunteers

**Volunteers for Sunday, Nov. 22**

### Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship / Jessica Mitchell

K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Lise Greene / Assistant-Diane Summerlin

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Molly Ferrell / Ginny Pylant

### Children's Church

8:45 Teacher- Diane Summerlin / Assistant- Karen Taylor

11:00 Teacher- Meredith Matthews / Assistant- Larry Sturges

**Volunteers for Sunday, Nov. 29**

### Sunday School

Pre-school - Leigh Ann Blankenship / Jessica Mitchell

K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Jami Buckner / Assistant-Lou Underwood

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Molly Ferrell / Ginny Pylant

### Children's Church

8:45 Teacher- TBA / Assistant- Mary Ila Ward


11:00 Service Teacher- Carrie Hart

Assistant- Alexia Claborn




# Church & Community

## Commitment Sunday November 22

Hopefully you have received your Commitment Card for the 2016 Ministry Budget. Please prayerfully complete your Commitment Card, then bring them with you to worship on Sunday. If you are not able to be present, please mail your cards to the church. 

## Power of Pink Thank You


I want to thank everyone who participated in the 2015 Power of Pink, walking, non-walking, or by making a donation. We had 77 team members and raised \$1,771.80 in registrations and donations. This is more than double the participation we had last year. I believe we came in second in both participation and money raised to two different groups from the hospital. 

We should be very proud of ourselves.  
Again, THANK YOU.

*Susan Baughn*

## Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study will not meet in December. We will resume our studies on January 5th with the book *Paul: A Man of Grace and Grit* by Dr. Charles Swindoll. If you would like me to order a copy for you, contact me at 256-616-5373 or [peggy.black@hotmail.com](mailto:peggy.black@hotmail.com).

We invite all ladies, members of FUMC or not, to join us for discussion, prayer, (occasional treats) and laughter as we grow in our faith, knowledge and love of each other and God. 

See You in January,

*Peggy Black*

## Find Us On Social Media


"Like" us on Facebook to get up to date information about our church, meetings, changes, prayer requests, photos and more! [www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC](http://www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC)

## Send Cards

**Marcia Cuellar** and her husband **Jorge** have headed to Houston so that Marcia can receive treatment for a brain tumor. Marcia was previously our Director of Discipleship. Her family would like to have their home filled with get well cards for her return. Here is the mailing address for the cards:

Marcia Cuellar  
4634 Great Blue Heron Drive  
Lakeland FL 33812

## Hilltoppers

The Christmas Luncheon will be on Thursday, December 10 at 11:00 a.m. We'll meet in the FUMC Fellowship Hall for lunch made by Sandy and Kenny Callahan. (Poulet, green beans, rolls, arctic salad, and red velvet cake) Doug Maze will entertain us by singing Christmas Carols and he'll also have a wreath making demonstration. At the lunch, you'll have the opportunity to choose an "Angel" from the tree. The angels are part of the "Operation Santa Claus" program through the Mental Health Association. You can sign up in Sunday school classes, in the welcome center or outside the fellowship hall. 

## First Grace News


Our new flooring has been installed this week to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor First Grace/Children's Wing. Stop by and check it out! Our new security cameras have also been installed. The cameras are on the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in hallways, all classrooms, and just outside both elevators. These improvements were made possible in part by generous donations and by the involvement of FUMC Trustees, First Grace Board, and parents. Thank you!



## Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 5 from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. for Pancakes with Santa.

The cost will be \$5 per person with a family max of \$20. This will be an "all you can eat" with pancakes, sausage, and drinks. There will also be an orna-



ment keepsake making station with Mrs. Clause, pictures with Santa, and Baked Goods Sale. This event will be open to the public. 

Congratulations to one of our teachers, Ms. Joanie, on the Nov. 12th birth of her baby girl Rylee.

Thank you to the United Methodist Men Group for their donation to our Kathryn King Scholarship Fund.

**The Church trustees are trying to identify any members of our congregation who have medical training, i.e., physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, LPNs, EMT techs and those individuals who have had CPR training.**

**If you have any of the above training, please call Alyson in the church office or email her at [aquinn@decaturfumc.org](mailto:aquinn@decaturfumc.org) and let her know this information. Thank you!**

## Youth Dates Coming Up...

### Sunday, November 22

10:00 Sunday School  
6:00 Brown Bag Supper  
6:30-7:30 Decatur Christmas Parade Float Prep



### Monday, November 23

7:45am JH Prayer Breakfast  
at Bojangles' (rides provided  
to OPMS) students



**Thursday, November 26-** Happy Thanksgiving!

### Sunday, November 29

10:00 Sunday School  
6:00 UMYF Hanging of the Greens  
7:00 Youth dinner at Mi Hacienda

### Tuesday, December 1

Beth visits Auburn University students

### Wednesday, December 2

10:00 assemble college care packages  
5:00 youth ring the Salvation Army Bell at Old Navy

### Thursday, December 3

7:30 SH Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A  
5:00 Youth box groceries for needy at Salvation Army

### Friday, December 4

4:30 Youth prepare for Parents' Night Out  
5:00-10:00 Parents' Night Out

## December Youth Plans

December is always a busy time as we prepare for our Saviors birth! Here are the activities planned for the month with our youth. You'll also get reminder texts and a calendar mailed to your house!



- November 29- Hanging of the Greens and dinner
- December 2- Salvation Army Bell at Old Navy
- December 3- Box Groceries at Salvation Army
- December 4- Parents' Night Out
- December 6- Shopping Trip to Birmingham
- December 7- Decatur Christmas Parade
- December 13- Christmas Party
- December 20- Ice Skating in Huntsville
- December 28-29- Stone Mountain Trip

## College

We are still collecting small, flat items to mail to our college students on Dec. 2. If you want to help provide items or package envelopes, please contact Beth.



If your college student is graduating this semester, please let the church office know so we can recognize everyone in the *Tidings* next month!

## "Remind" Youth Messages

Youth parents are encouraged to sign up for "Remind" messages from Beth. You can receive reminders and messages via text or email.

To sign up for text messages, text @b43ddd to (205) 224-0165. To receive messages via email, send an email to [b43ddd@mail.remind101.com](mailto:b43ddd@mail.remind101.com). Reminders are sent to inform parents of upcoming youth events/ meetings, sign up deadlines, cancellations of events due to weather, etc.



## Church Cookbooks

We still have an abundance of our Church Cookbooks available for purchase. You will find these in the Church office for only \$10 each. These make wonderful Christmas gifts. Pick one up today!

## 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](mailto:aquinn@decaturfumc.org) indicating this preference. You will help us save paper and postage. We have over 110 subscribers so far!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Commitment Sunday**  
Please bring your pledge cards to church  
November 22

**Children's Choir Practice in Sanctuary**  
Sunday, November 22 from 4:00— 6:00 p.m.

**Brown Bag & Decatur Christmas Parade Float Prep**  
Youth 3rd Fl.  
(see inside for details)  
Sunday, November 22 starting at 6:00 p.m.

**Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles'**  
Monday, November 23 at 7:45 a.m.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
Church Office Closed Nov. 26 and 27



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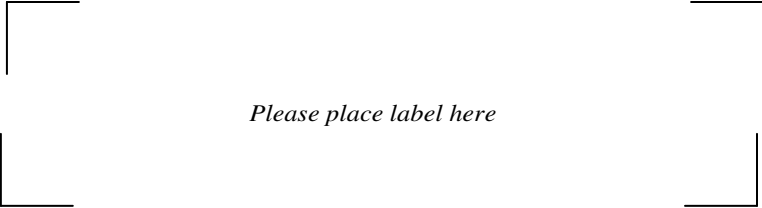
*Looking Ahead.....*

**Hanging of the Greens, Sanctuary**  
Sunday, Nov. 29 at 6:00 with refreshments  
following in Fellowship Hall

**Parents' Night Out (details on insert)**  
Friday, December 4 from 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

**Pancakes with Santa (details on insert)**  
Saturday, Dec. 5 from 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**Decatur Christmas Parade**  
We will have a float in the parade (details page two)  
Monday, Dec. 7



*Please place label here*

**Dr. Hughey Reynolds, Senior Minister, hreynolds@decaturfumc.org**  
**Patrick McCormick, Director of Worship, patrick@decaturfumc.org**  
**Beth C. 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**  
**Gail Warth, Interim Organist**

**Upcoming Worship Services**  
*(8:45 & 11:00 AM)*

**VISION STATEMENT:**

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

**8:45 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Nov. 22 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching**  
**2 Corinthians 8: 1-12 "The Use of Money: Give All You Can"**

**Nov. 29 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching**  
**Jeremiah 33: 12-16 and 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13**  
**"You Can Go Home Again"**

**Scheduled To Serve Nov. 22**

Acolytes:

8:45 a.m. - Susan Floyd  
11:00 a.m. - Mary Bibb Pylant, Mary Emma Harper

Greeters:

8:45 - Gail & Jim Herren, Dean Turney  
11:00 - Lou Underwood, Peggy Black, Becky House

Ushers:

8:45 - Sammy Dean, Jolly McKenzie, Ronnie Dukes and Steve Armstrong  
11:00 - Ricky Clay, Jeff Earley, Ronald Matthews, J. Robert Fite, Phil Corazzari

**First Fellowship Over for the Season**

Thank you to all the teachers who led children, youth, and adult classes this fall! We look forward to resuming First Fellowship on January 6, 2016. Be on the lookout for the class options soon!

