



Tidings of Joy

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

November 2, 2016

“We Are a Church with a Purpose”

On November 1, 2016 the Administrative Board of Decatur First United Methodist Church adopted a new Church Purpose Statement. This statement builds on and now replaces previous vision statements. As part of the supporting framework for our purpose statement, the Administrative Board also adopted statements of our mission, our values, our strategies, and our measures. Our website, letterheads, and other forms of communication will begin to reflect and communicate our purpose statement. Our staff, ministry teams, and administrative areas will align their plans and strategies to support it.

The adoption of this purpose statement is a new beginning for our church while at the same time an affirmation, continuation, and enlargement of the great heritage of faith and service we have received. I am excited about the clear direction our purpose statement and its supporting framework give to guide us all in setting priorities, making decisions, and taking action impacting our church and community for generations to come.

Our Purpose—where God is taking us

Discipling our church to cultivate a legacy of Gospel-inspired servant leadership.

Our Mission—what we are doing

Making disciples of Jesus Christ who become servant leaders for the transformation of our church, our homes, our city, state, nation, and world

Our Values—why we are doing it

1. To **s**hare our blessings with others
2. To **e**mploy the spiritual gifts God has given us
3. To **r**eproduce Biblically informed followers of Christ
4. To **v**erify our faith by our service
5. To **e**xemplify our unity as the Body of Christ
6. To **s**how our love for one another through all life stages

Our Strategies—how we are doing it

1. Worshiping – Music, Worship Planning Team, Prayer Team Ministries
2. Nurturing – Congregational Care, Children’s, Youth, Hilltoppers Ministries
3. Supporting – Family Ministries, First Fellowship Ministries
4. Teaching – Discipleship, Stewardship, Library, Archives, First Grace Ministries
5. Reaching – Communications, Evangelism Ministries
6. Engaging – Missions, GIC, Community Garden Ministries
7. Equipping – Worship, Sunday School, Small Group Studies, Mentoring Ministries

Our Measures—knowing when we are successful

1. More of our church engaged in a weekly group discipleship process
2. More of our church active as church leaders across our demographics
3. More of our church serving regularly in community ministries and agencies
4. More of our church in a mentoring relationship with an older and younger person
5. As a result of 1 - 4 above, more of our church supporting the church with our daily prayers, weekly worship attendance, proportional giving, loving service, and faithful witness

Yours in Christ,

Hughey

Church Prayer List Nov. 2nd Edition

Linda Foster - recovery from stroke, rehab at HealthSouth in Huntsville

Death of Marguerite Pentecost, stepmother to Willie Pentecost

Clyde Sasser

Jean Windsor, radiation for skin cancer on face

Ginger Bramlett, Stage III colon cancer

Habib Nackhla, brother-in-law of JoAnn Christopher

Katherine Johnson

Ed Kirby

Kayleigh McClendon

Praise - New granddaughter for Caroline and Rick Sanders, Anneliese Grace Schemmel born to Kate and Derek - Great grandfather in this congregation is Dick Williams and aunt and uncle are Carrie and Andrew Hart

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.

The Urban Acre Community Garden

We have been gardening at The Urban Acre for five months and our yield is on the rise again. The suggestion of one of our garden volunteers to plant a fall garden has paid off. On October 31, we harvested 74.5 pounds from the garden and carried it to the CCC for distribution to their clients. The harvest included 37 lbs. of collards, 6.5 lbs. of mustard, 15.5 lbs. of turnip greens, 5.5 lbs. of kale, 2 lbs. of spinach, 2.5 lbs. of lettuce, and 5.5 lbs. of mixed vegetables from the summer garden (tomatoes, peppers, okra, beans, and eggplant). This was the largest one-day harvest to date from our church's garden. We have 15 vines full of fall tomatoes which have not ripened yet, 44 cabbages, and our root crops (sweet potatoes, onions, carrots, and turnips) which are still growing. As these mature and our greens keep producing, November should be our best month by far.

We recalculated some of our earlier harvest totals and are happy to report to you that as of October 31, we have recorded harvesting 987 lbs. of fruit and vegetables from the garden. By the time you read this, we will have harvest records for over 1,000 lbs. We planted the first phase of the garden on May 25 and gathered the first harvest of squash and zucchini on June 16. We did not start weighing and recording our harvest until June 25. The monthly totals are encouraging: June 37.3 lbs.; July 219.7 lbs.; August 278.6 lbs.; September 134 lbs.; October 317.5. Many of us who have gardened for years have not previously taken full advantage of the fall and winter gardening opportunity we have in our climate. The fall garden is producing more in food pounds than the summer garden.

This year the average distance food travels from the place where it was grown to our plates in 1,500 miles. Our community garden is continuing to make a small but important contribution to reducing that distance and therefore increasing food security in our city. If we faced a crisis halting transportation or electricity for a number of days, our hedge against starvation is the food we can see growing in our community. The Urban Acre could not feed the entire community, but it is a sign that we can and we should garden and eat more locally grown food.

If you ever thought gardening was ho-hum or boring, get involved with The Urban Acre Community Garden. It has been an exciting and fulfilling adventure to work and learn alongside members of our church and community and with God the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the fertile soil, the sun, and the rain. We do pray for more rain and are indebted greatly to **Bill and Susie Wiley** for providing abundant water for our garden in addition to the land. Susie will interview our pastor about the success of The Urban Acre and lessons we learned from our first season on her 7:00 a.m. morning show November 17. Be sure to tune in. Below are some recent photos of the garden.



Two bushels of kale on Oct. 10



Kale and mustard harvested on Oct. 10



Collards, turnip greens, kale on Oct. 17



View of garden from the north on Oct. 10



Record harvest of greens on Oct. 31

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 10:00 and return by 2:00. 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.

United Methodist Women

The UMW General Meeting will be Monday, November 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. The Lydia Circle will be hosting the luncheon following the meeting. If you are not a part of UMW and would like more information, this is a great time to come see what this group is all about.



Patrick's Musical Notes

Want to participate as a family in the holiday season? The Hanging of the Greens service, to be held on November 27th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., will include the participation of approximately seven families. Each family will be responsible for placing various Christmas décor throughout the sanctuary during the service as we all come together to celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season.

If you and your family are interested, please contact me at patrick@decaturfumc.org or 256-355-0277 by Nov. 13.

May the Lord bless you in all that you do!
Blessings,

Patrick McCormick

UMM November Men's Breakfast

This month's breakfast at \$5.00 per person will be Sunday, November 13, starting at 7:30 a.m. in the Wesley Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker is Melinda Baker, Retired U. S. Navy Lt. Commander. All men who are members or friends of First UMC are invited.



Phil Corazzari UMM President

Christmas Parade

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 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. If you would like to be a part of float planning, please contact Shannon.



Festival of the Nativities and Tour of Homes

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.



Church Directory

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. We also will need volunteers to help photograph members.

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.

Campbell's Soup Labels

As of Jan. 1, 2017, Campbell's Soup labels will no longer be accepted by the Red Bird Mission due to the discontinuing of the program by Campbell's Soup.

Please turn in labels ASAP. Box tops will still be accepted. The Basket is outside the Fellowship Hall on the window ledge.



Children's Ministry

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

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Family Night/Nativity & Pizza RSVP

- **November 30th -Wednesday- Family Night- Pizza & Candy Nativity 5:30-7:00.**

Join us as we fellowship and make Candy Nativities! The fee is \$10 per family and will include a pizza dinner and supplies to make one nativity. Your Family may make more than one for an additional \$3.00 each. We will need to have RSVPs turned in by Nov. 22. What a wonderful way to start the season! *Pay at the door and there will also be an envelope on the Children's Bulletin Board by the Fellowship Hall.*



Name: _____

Cell #: _____

Number of people attending: _____ Adults _____ Children

The fee is \$10.00 for each family (includes one nativity)

How many additional nativities would you like to make?

_____ (\$3.00 each)

Trunk-or-Treat & Fall Festival

What a wonderful time we had at Trunk-or-Treat & Fall Festival! A big thank you to all the youth that manned the games, the families that participated in Trunk-or-Treat, and all who helped cook, set up, and clean up! There are too many people to list but it takes everyone to make a great night like Sunday. What a special time for our children and our church family! I cannot thank you enough! **Enjoy the photos here and on page five!**



Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Nov. 6

Sunday School

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

K-2nd -Room #207 Carrie Hart/assistant - Charles Ashwander

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

Children's Church

8:45 Service Teacher- Alexia Claborn;
Assistant- Jessica Mitchell

11:00 Service Teacher-Alexia Claborn,
Assistant- Calley Ondocsin

Volunteers for Sunday, Nov. 13

Sunday School

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

K-2nd - Room #207 Barbara Ashwander
assistant - Alexia Claborn

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

Children's Church

8:45 Service Teacher- Alexia Claborn;
Assistant- Dell Ward

11:00 Service Teacher-Alexia Claborn,
Assistant- TBA

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

Upcoming Important Dates

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

Dec. 5th - 6:00 p.m. - Decatur Christmas Parade

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



Acolyte Information

Nov. 6: 8:45 a.m.-Bristol Rayne Teal & Mary Elizabeth Booth

11:00 a.m. - Lydia Matthews & Aiden Garriss,
Crucifer - Hunter Claborn

Nov. 13: 8:45 a.m. - Bristol Rayne Teal

11:00 a.m. - Mary Bibb Pylant & Mary Emma Harper

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.



Youth Dates

Sunday, November 6

10:00 Sunday School
12:00 Safe Sanctuaries Training
6:00 Brown Bag Supper
6:30 UMYF Destination Unknown

Monday, November 7

7:45am JH Prayer Breakfast at Bojangle's on 6th Ave.
Rides provided to OPMS

Wednesday, November 9

5:00 First Fellowship Dinner
6:00 Youth Bible Study
7:00 Youth Team

Thursday, November 10

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

Sunday, November 13

10:00 Sunday School
6:00 UMYF Plans TBA

Wednesday, November 16

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

Thursday, November 17

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



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 four 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.**

College Visits Beth will plan to visit Auburn University students on Tuesday, November 8 and Troy University on Nov. 9. Parents, if I need to take anything to your students, please let me know!

Senior High Ski Trip, Dec. 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.**

Children's Ministry

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Upcoming Events

12:00 Safe Sanctuaries Training, Fellowship Hall
6:00 Brown Bag Supper
6:30 UMYF Destination Unknown
November 6

11/ 7, 7:45 a.m., Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at Bojan-
gle's on 6th Ave. Rides provided to OPMS

11/7, 10:00 a.m., UMW General Meeting, Fellowship
Hall

11/7, 5:00 p.m., Trustees Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Rm

11/7, 6:00 p.m., Worship Team Practice

11/8, 10:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study, Courtyard
Conf. Room

11/9, 5:00 p.m., First Fellowship Meal and Classes,
Fellowship Hall and Sunday School Rooms

11/9, 6:30 p.m., Chancel Choir Practice

11/9, 7:00 Youth Team Meeting

11/10, 6:30 a.m., UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf.
Room

11/10, 7:30 a.m., UMM Breakfast, City Café

11/10, 7:30am Sr. High prayer breakfast at Chick Fil A

11/10, leave from church at 10:00 a.m.,
Hilltoppers Trip to Cullman/Stone Bridge Farm



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Permit No. 226

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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:

*"Discipling our members to cultivate a legacy of Gospel-
inspired servant leadership"*

Sunday, Nov. 6, Rev. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
8:45 and 11:00 a.m. "Every Good Thing You Do or Say"
2 Thessalonians 2: 1 - 17 - All Saints' Sunday - both services

Sunday, Nov. 13, Rev. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
8:45 and 11:00 a.m. "Hold Fast for the Greatest Gain"
Luke 21: 5 - 19

Scheduled To Serve Nov. 6

Acolytes:

8:45 a.m.-Bristol Rayne Teal & Mary Elizabeth Booth
11:00 a.m. - Lydia Matthews & Aiden Garriss, Cruci-
fer - Hunter Claborn

Ushers:

8:45 a.m.-Ronnie Dukes, Mike Boozer, Michael
Boozer, Jolly McKenzie
11:00 a.m.-Mark Maloney, Greg Clemons, Ken Chan-
dler, Judson Davis, Charles Taylor

First Fellowship Nov. 9

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 Nov. 9 will be Brunswick Stew &
Crackers, Pimento Cheese, Carol Noe's Homemade
Bread, Pineapple Coleslaw, Salad Bar, Peanut Butter
and Jelly and Cheese Sandwiches, and Variety of
Desserts. **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.



All Saints' Sunday

Join us Sunday, Nov. 6 at both services as we
read the names of our members who have
died since this same time last year and illu-
minate a candle in their memory: Louise
Banks, Ellis Baggs, Barbara Stroh, Ray Albert,
Cecil Timberlake, and A.Q Weaver.