



# Tidings of Joy

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

April 26, 2017

## “Summoned to Be a Witness”

Jesus appeared after His resurrection to Mary Magdalene, the eleven disciples minus Thomas, the eleven disciples including Thomas, two on the road to Emmaus, the eleven in Jerusalem, seven disciples fishing in Galilee and the eleven on a mountain in Galilee. Luke says Jesus appeared to the Apostles over a forty day period after the resurrection with many convincing proofs and stayed with them to prepare them to receive the Holy Spirit. Paul names other appearances, some that occurred after Pentecost: *“Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me”* (1 Corinthians 15:6-8).

There is a common theme to all the appearances of the Risen Christ recorded in scripture: Everyone to whom Jesus appears becomes a witness to His resurrection! That is so obvious that even writing it is redundant. Everyone He appeared to is a witness by definition. There is enough crime investigation drama on television for us to know that there are witnesses in hiding and witnesses who are silent. It’s the job of investigators to find all the witnesses and get them to talk. Someone who sees an event but does not talk about it is a half-witness. I didn’t say half-witted, although the root of both words is the same: wit=to learn. To learn and not share the knowledge is half-witted. It is the same for witnesses to the resurrection!

The first to see and tell of Jesus’ resurrection were called Apostles. Whether all five-hundred witnesses who saw Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:6) testified to seeing him we do not know. I am convinced their testimony helped “turn the world upside down” (Acts 17:6) in the first century.

This discussion is either a history lesson or a reality check for us, depending on what we have seen. Has Jesus been revealed to you through His Word and Holy Spirit as Lord and Savior of the world? On Sunday, May 7, students who have completed Confirmation Classes, which Beth and I were privileged to lead, will be confirmed as Professing Members of the Church. They will stand before God and the congregation and make their vows to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, accept God’s freedom and power to overcome evil, confess Jesus Christ as their Savior and promise to serve him as Lord, and by the grace of God promise to remain faithful members of Christ’s Holy Church and serve as Christ’s representative in the world. The congregation will promise them that we will proclaim the Good News and live according to the example of Christ. We will promise to surround them with a community of love and forgiveness and pray for them that they may grow as disciples of Christ and be found faithful in their witness. Together with these students, we are the church, the Body of Christ, formed by our common witness that Jesus Christ died for us and was raised to live forevermore.

Many of the earliest disciples went before judges and magistrates because of their outlandish claim that Jesus who was crucified had been raised from the dead. Some of them were thrown into prison, some martyred, and a few dismissed. Paul came close to convincing King Agrippa by his witness (Acts 26:28). It is up to God to convince others of the Truth, but up to those who see Jesus through the eyes of faith to tell others what we have seen. That makes us full-witnesses to the resurrection. We witness, God convinces. Be courageous and tell someone of your hope in Jesus Christ.

*Hughey*

## UMW/ UMM

- The Tidwell Circle will have their May social on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am at Let's Do Lunch on Holly Street in Decatur.
- The Lydia Circle will meet for their social on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at Lucia's Cocina Restaurant located at 1702 Beltline Rd SW in Decatur.

This is a great, casual way for new women to find out what United Methodist Women is all about. Please join either group this month!



**Hilltoppers** The May Hilltoppers trip will be on May 18. We will be traveling to Huntsville to visit Monte Sano UMC and experience their labyrinth. Following the labyrinth, we will shop at The Little Green Store and Gallery, and then enjoy lunch together at Walton's Table in Huntsville. We will leave FUMC at 9:30 and will return around 2:00. You need money for lunch and money if you plan to buy any goodies at the store. We will collect \$2 per person for fuel. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the fellowship hall.

**Discipleship** **Deb Graham** and her team of volunteers will be doing a thorough deep clean in the church kitchen on Wed. May 10 starting at 9:00am. They will be cleaning all appliances, cabinets, surfaces, pantry, etc. They will also be taking an inventory of equipment and food that day.



If you can help clean on May 10, please let Deb Graham or Beth Green know. You'll need to wear old clothes and bring your rubber gloves!

The Discipleship Team is working hard planning special summer events for FUMC. We are working on special Bible studies, shopping trips, exercise groups, painting classes, women's events, and more! Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities.



### Church Prayer List April 26th Edition

**Celebration for the April 4th birth of Henry Allan Svarney to Anna and Andy Svarney. Grandparents from this congregation are Ken and Becky House.**

**Celebration for the April 13th birth of Samuel Lynn Dean, III to Sam and Alicia Dean. Grandparents in this congregation are Sammy and Jan Dean.**

**Sympathy to Susan Richardson and family on the April 19th death of her mother Emogene Hyatt.**

**We regret to announce the passing of former member Fred Trimble. If you would like to send sympathy cards to his wife Carol, the address is 39 Parker Ridge Lane #51, Blue Hill, Maine 04614**

**Carlyn and John Deeds on the April 26th death of Hammond Curry Turner, father of Carlyn**

**David Stewart and family on the April 18th death of his brother John in South Pittsburgh, TN.**

**Mike Pejza, brother of Paula Alderman, stroke recovery**

**Clyde Redford, brain tumor - Friend of the Roberts' family**

**Colonel Marlin Thrasher, brother of church and choir member Bonnie Thrasher Lindsey, died Sunday, April 16, in Tuscaloosa.**

**Margaret Dunivant                      Bill Dunivant                      LaVerne Dollahite**

**Dot Oliver                                      Alice Ackley                      Beth Roberts**

**Cathren Bonds (Mom of Sherrill Altice)                      Bill Dennis**

**Katherine Johnson                      Fred Underwood**

**J.B. Atkinson                                      Clyde Sasser**

*Please fill out a prayer card found in the pew pockets or email your prayer requests to [aquinn@decaturfumc.org](mailto:aquinn@decaturfumc.org) for publication in the next newsletter.*

### Hospice of the Valley Volunteer Orientation

240 Johnston St. SE, Decatur, AL 35601

- Wednesday, May 17th
- 9:00 - 2:30 p.m.
- Call 256-350-5585 to register

## Mountain Mania

### 15K and 5K

5:30 a.m. - Registration  
7:00 a.m. - 15K starts



June 3, 2017

Burningtree Country Club  
Decatur, Alabama

# First Church Children's Ministry

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

## Children's Wednesday Night First Fellowship

The children of FUMC planted pole beans to take home and sprout. These sprouts will be brought back to plant in The Urban Acre community garden!

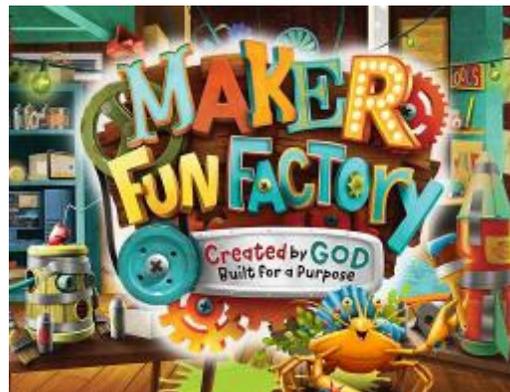


## Vacation Bible School

June 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

It is time to start gearing up for VBS 2017. We still have some volunteer spots to fill for VBS. Please let me know if you can help out.

The VBS committee would like to invite you to join in the fun as we transform FUMC into a Maker Fun Factory where we are "Created by God, Built for a Purpose".



Please note the following decorating days:

- Thursday 6/15 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- Friday 6/16 - 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday 6/17 - 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. & 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday 6/18 - 5:00-9:00 p.m.

\*5/21- VBS Training 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

## Volunteers

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](mailto:aclaborn@decaturfumc.org) and cell 256-606-8646

## Sunday Morning Volunteers

*Volunteers for Sunday, April 30*

**Sunday School**

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

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Room #207 Jami Buckner  
Assistant - Lesley Heidecker

3rd-5th - Room #306 Betty Ann Mitchum  
Assistant-Dell Ward

**Children's Church**

8:45 Service Teacher- Beth Green  
Assistant- Jessica Mitchell

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

*Volunteers for Sunday, May 7*

**Sunday School**

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

K - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Room #207 Carrie Hart  
Assistant - Mike Ward

3rd-5th - Room #306 Betty Ann Mitchum  
Assistant-Alexia Claborn

**Children's Church**

8:45 Service Teacher- Alexia Claborn  
Assistant- Susan Estes

11:00 Service Teacher-Alexia Claborn  
Assistant- Anna Oletti

## Acolyte Information

	8:45 SERVICE	11:00 SERVICE
April 30	Bristol Rayne Teal, Mary Elizabeth Booth	LuLu Underwood, Miller Roberts,
May 7	Bristol Rayne Teal, Mary Elizabeth Booth	Beau Claborn, Hunter Claborn, Crucifer-Garret Buckner

## Coming Up

- 5/15- Muffins with Mom Sunday School hour
- 5/21- Pop into Summer Sunday School hour
- 5/21- VBS Training 12:30-2:30pm
- 6/15- 6/18 VBS Decoration Days
- 6/18- Donuts with Dad Sunday School hour
- 6/19-22- VBS

# Mission Moments

Shannon Booth, Director of Outreach and Evangelism  
256-221-0348



## Mission Moments

Lately I have been reading and researching what draws people into a church and what keeps us here. There are articles and studies and opinions everywhere you look. The one common factor that every study and article seems to have on its list, however, is relationships. We all want a place where we feel welcomed and a place where we feel like we belong.

I have heard pastors talk about the “Cheers” factor in a church. If you think about the theme song from that show, you may remember the lyrics, “Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name, and they’re always glad you came. You want to be where you can see our troubles are all the same. You want to be where everybody knows your name.” Television has given us many places like the bar in Cheers. You may remember the coffee shop from “Friends” or the Peach Pit from “Beverly Hills 90210” or Joe’s Bar from “Grey’s Anatomy.” What do these places have in common? People were comfortable. There was laughter. The stories of the day were told, struggles and all. We saw friendships formed right in front of our eyes.

Now, life is not a sitcom. We usually can’t fix our problems in thirty minutes (including commercial breaks and credits), but we can make our gathering place a place where friendships are both formed and forged. I have really enjoyed getting involved in a Sunday school class. I have gotten to know people in that one hour a week at a level that I could not have just saying “hello” as we pass in the halls. We pray for each other. We laugh. We question, and it is a safe place to do so. I can’t recommend small group Bible study and Sunday school enough. It’s a great place to “be the church” together.

Now here is my charge to all of you. When you come to church, let’s make this a place where we know people’s names and their stories, where we know that our troubles are the same BUT we know Who walks with us through those troubles.

Looking forward to spending some Sunday time with you! **Shannon**

## Attention: All First Methodist Brides Past and Present

The Archives Committee is planning a wonderful look back through our history at First United Methodist Church! One of the most cherished of our memories is the weddings that have taken place in our beautiful sanctuary. We are looking for photographs or copies of photographs of weddings from long ago through the present time. Wedding announcements, programs, and newspaper articles would also be included, if you have them. Please take a look back and pass the word that **June will be Bridal History in First United Methodist Church Archives Room.** Be looking for more information and details in the coming weeks.

## Steeplechase

The **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Steeple Chase 8K** (5 miler and 1 mile fun run) will be held on Saturday, May 6 and benefits the Neighborhood Christian Center programs. Go ahead and register at [www.imathlete.com](http://www.imathlete.com) or <http://www.steeplechase8krun.org/>

If you are not a runner, come and walk. We also need volunteers prior to the race AND on race day. Our runners and walkers love to be encouraged along the race route. If you want to volunteer, contact the Neighborhood Christian Center. Grab some friends, register, and we will see you on race day!



## Women’s Bible Study

We began a new study of Henri Nouwen's book *The Return of the Prodigal Son* on Tuesday, April 18th. Nouwen was inspired to write this work by studying Rembrandt's portrait of the same title. We would love for you to join us in this study. We meet at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room by the Welcome Center. The cost of the book is \$9.60. Please call, text or email me to get a copy. **Peggy Black**  
256-616-5373 or [peggy.black@hotmail.com](mailto:peggy.black@hotmail.com)

## Youth Dates

### Sunday, April 30

10:00 Sunday School goes to Breakfast  
5:00 Confirmation at FUMC  
6:00 Brown Bag Supper  
6:30-7:30 Destination Unknown

### Monday, May 1

7:45 Jr High Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles (rides provided to OPMS)

### Wednesday, May 3

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Dinner, Fellowship Hall

### Sunday, May 7

10:00 Sunday School  
11:00 Confirmation Sunday  
No evening activities



## Senior Class of 2017

Senior Recognition Sunday will be Sunday, May 21 at the 11:00 service. All seniors need to turn in a senior photo, baby photo, high school resume, and post-graduation plans. We will have a senior breakfast on Sunday May 21 during the Sunday school hour.

## College News

Congratulations to our college graduates this semester!

- **Hattie O'Hara** will graduate from Birmingham Southern College on May 27.
- **Erin Elledge** will graduate from Auburn University on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mary Place** will graduate from The University of Alabama on May 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you have additional college students in your family who will be graduating this semester, please share this information with Beth in the youth office- [beth@decaturfumc.org](mailto:beth@decaturfumc.org). If you have any information or news about your college student you would like shared with the congregation (summer mission trips, study abroad opportunities, awards, leadership, etc.), please let Beth know this too!

## Confirmation Classes

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class will meet for the last time on April 30. The confirmation dinner will be May 3 at 5:30 and Confirmation Sunday is May 7. Please be in prayer for our confirmands and the mentors:

**Reagan Atkins/ Dell Ward**  
**Mac Hillis/ Jeff Earley**  
**Davis Roberts/ Rob Rebman**  
**Hannah Winkler/ Jessica Mitchell**



## Summer Dates 2017

- Sunday Nights (June 4, 18, 25, July 2, 16, 23) 5:30-7:00 TRIBES
- Wednesday Nights (June 7, 21, 28, July 5, 19, 26) 6:00 Sr High Discovery Training
- Junior High Mission Trip June 11-16, Chattanooga, TN
- Vacation Bible School June 19-22
- Senior High Mission Trip July 8-15, New York and Washington DC
- Discovery Weekend July 28-30



## First Grace News

The Easter Egg hunt and Spring Carnival was so much FUN! A big thank you to all parents and grandparents who came out to play that day.



First Grace 4K Graduation will be on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, April 30**

**10:00 Sunday School goes to Breakfast**

**5:00 Confirmation at FUMC**

**6:00 Brown Bag Supper**

**6:30-7:30 Destination Unknown**

**Monday, May 1**

**7:45 Jr High Prayer Breakfast at Bojangles (rides provided to OPMS)**

**Tuesday, May 2, 10:00 a.m., Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room**

**Tuesday, May 2, 5:30 p.m., Finance Meeting, Room 351**

**Wednesday, May 3, 5:30 p.m. Confirmation Dinner, Fellowship Hall**

**Wednesday, May 3, 6:00 p.m., Chancel Choir**

**Thursday, May 4, 6:30 a.m., UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room**

**Thursday, May 4, 7:30, UMM Breakfast, City Café**

**Thursday, May 4, 7:30 a.m., Sr High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A**

**Thursday, May 4, 6:00 p.m., Worship Team Practice**



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Shannon Booth, Director of Outreach, shannon@decaturfumc.org

Charlie Elliott, Custodian  
Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper

Wayne Keller, Accompanist  
Ruth Moyers, Organist

## Upcoming Worship Services

### **PURPOSE STATEMENT:**

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

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

**Sunday, April 30 - 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Sermon: "The Teacher Is Back"**

**Luke 24: 13-49**

**Rev. Hughey Reynolds**

**Confirmation Sunday, May 7 - 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Sermon: "The Voice You Hear and Follow"**

**John 10: 1-10**

**Rev. Hughey Reynolds**

## Scheduled To Serve April 30

### **Acolytes:**

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

**11:00 a.m. - LuLu Underwood, Miller Roberts**

### **Ushers:**

**8:45 a.m.-Ronnie Dukes, Bert Pippen,**

**Bob McAnnally, Jolly McKenzie**

**11:00 a.m.-Tom Earley, Charles Adams**

**First Fellowship Wednesday  
Night is over for the Season.**