

July Matchup at DFUMC

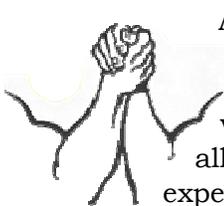
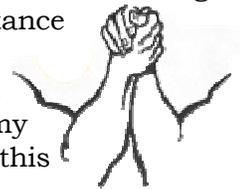
On all the Sundays in July, Decatur First United Methodist Church will have only one worship service at 10:00 a.m. Sunday school will be at 9:00 a.m.

We have tried holding only one service on holiday weekends when we anticipated decreased attendance because of members traveling out of town. This allowed us to have at least as many as we would have had in one service on a non-holiday weekend. Four of the upcoming July Sundays will not be holiday weekends. Our hope is for worship attendance in July to be greater each Sunday than the sum of the two current services. So far this year, our average total worship attendance is 250. We have set a goal to have 300 in worship for four of the five Sundays in July. For this to happen, the right contestant has to win some critical competitions that are at play for every one of us.



The first competitive matchup is between the sacred and the secular. Anyone born before 1970 remembers when the secular was not allowed to compete with the sacred on Sundays. Those days are over. Society does not make that choice for us anymore. It is up to you and me. There are countless secular choices you can make instead of attending worship on Sunday. The winner of this competition is the one you discipline and feed.

A second competitive matchup is between spiritual growth and institutional support. If I see attending worship as institutional support rather than crucial to my spiritual growth, the importance of worship diminishes. If institutional support wins this battle for me, I can guarantee you I will give priority to many other activities over attending worship. The church is an institution for sure, but if attending worship and Sunday school is an integral part of my spiritual growth plan the church is a spiritually relevant institution. The winner of this competition is the one you discipline and feed.



A third competitive matchup is between my personal preference and building the Body of Christ. Someone asked if the congregation would vote to have one worship service or two each Sunday after July. The answer is no. Votes express personal preferences, which often divide, and do not build the Body of Christ. We will ask for feedback from all who attend services during July on factors like fellowship, the quality of the worship experience, the impact of one service on singing, and on our warmth toward worship guests, in addition to whether we met our numerical goal. This experiment will be successful whether we decide to continue to have only one service or return to two if building Body of Christ prevails over personal preference for all of us. The winner of this competition is the one you discipline and feed.

Plan your July Sundays around exercising the choice to honor the sacred over the secular, spiritual growth over institutional support, and building the Body of Christ over personal preference, even if you have to sacrifice to do it. Worship at Decatur First will be an awesome experience of the presence and power of God when you do.

Yours in Christ,

Hughey

Beat the Heat with Kona Ice

Sunday, July 2,
is the kick-off of
our new worship
schedule for July.

Come celebrate
summer and

have a cool treat during Sunday school on
July 2 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. or following
worship, which will begin at 10:00.



The Evangelism Team wants to celebrate summer and this will give you a great



way to invite friends to worship with us! On Sunday, July 2, we will kick off our new worship schedule for July. We will have Sunday School at 9:00 and worship at 10:00. We will be sharing shaved ice from the Kona Ice Truck during Sunday School and following worship. This is a fun treat that we can enjoy together, and it is an easy way to invite friends. We will post a picture with the details on the church Facebook page next week.

www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC

If we all share it to our personal pages the word will certainly get out, and that is what we want to happen. We hope that you will enjoy this treat and that you'll pass on the word to your friends. The treat is on us, but we will put out a donation basket if you want to help cover the cost.

The Urban Acre Community Garden Progress Report

Since the last garden report on May 24, we have begun harvesting vegetables from The Urban Acre and delivering produce to several community agencies. These agencies prepare the vegetables and serve free meals to clients or distribute them to clients who will cook them at home. As of June 21, garden volunteers have harvested 356.25 lbs. of fruit and vegetables produced from The Urban Acre. Last year at this date, we had not recorded a harvest and by the end of July, 2016 we had harvested 257 lbs.

The soaker hose watering system and the recent rains have stimulated the growth of the plants, as you can see from the photos below.

The 4th and 5th Grade class of Vacation Bible School came out on Wednesday, June 21 to help harvest and gathered 20 lbs. to be delivered to the CCC.

The Urban Acre is an ongoing hands-on mission project of Decatur First UMC that offers us the opportunity to serve our city, care for the land, partner with God who is the ultimate Master Gardener, and meet our neighbors in a neighborhood away from our church. If you would like to help with The Urban Acre either by physically working in the garden or through donations to defray expenses, please contact our pastor Hughey Reynolds at hreynolds@decaturfumc.org or minister of outreach Shannon Booth at shannon@decaturfumc.org. We will include you on the email list to receive notifications of workdays and garden updates. You can also find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheUrbanAcre/>



A view of the garden from the SE corner



The tall field corn is beginning to tassel and produce ears



Blooming peas & beans starting to produce



This cabbage and several others are ready to harvest

First Church Children's Ministry

Alexia Claborn, Director of Children's Ministry

Vacation Bible School: Maker Fun Factory - Created by God built for a Purpose!
We are having a blast at VBS! A big thank you to all of the many volunteers that make VBS happen!



Sunday Morning Volunteers **Volunteers for Sunday, June 25th**

Sunday School
Pre-school - 2nd grade Room #215 Jami Buckner
Assistant- Alexia Claborn
(These classes will be combined for the summer)
3rd-5th Grade - Room #306 Betty Ann Mitchum
Assistant - TBA

Children's Church
8:45 Service Teacher- Alexia Claborn / Assistant- TBA
11:00 Service Teacher- Alexia Claborn / Assistant- TBA

Volunteers for Sunday, July 2nd
Sunday School - 9:00
Pre-school - 2nd grade Room #215 Jessica Mitchell
Assistant- Alexia Claborn
(These classes will be combined for the summer)
3rd-5th Grade- - Room #306 Betty Ann Mitchum
Assistant - TBA
Children's Church
10:00 Service Teacher- Beth Green / Assistant- TBA

Acolyte Information

	8:45 SERVICE	11:00 SERVICE
June 25	Bristol Rayne Teal, Mary Elizabeth Booth	John Benton Claborn
	10:00 SERVICE	
July 2	Mary Elizabeth Booth	

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.

First Grace Director Job Opening

The Board of Directors of First Grace Child Development Center is taking applications for the position of Director of the First Grace Child Development Center. This position requires leadership in planning, allocating, coordinating, and evaluating all facets of the First Grace Child Development Center. The director will be the staff person related to the First Grace Board of Directors and a member of the Children's Ministry Team of the church. This position requires an ability to relate to children, staff, and parents. Organizational skills are essential, along with the ability to work as part of a team. A degree in Early Childhood Education or a comparable degree is desired. Some studies in Christian education are also desired. This position requires the person in it to be a committed Christian. The position involves a considerable amount of sitting on the floor, twisting, stretching, and reaching. **Submit resumes on the Indeed.com website or to the First Grace interview team leader Steve Armstrong at sarmstrong@allsportinc.com as soon as possible.**



Summer Discipleship Opportunities

The Discipleship team is finalizing plans for this summer. You will find sign-up sheets on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. Note, both cooking demonstrations have limited availability- First come, first serve.

- **Grand Champion Backyard Grilling with Steve Blake** July 8 from 10:00 -1:00 p.m.- (LIMIT 12 MEN)
- **Painting Class with Carrie Hart**- July 20
- **Day Trip to Leiper's Fork**- July 21
- **Mom & Me Yoga with Mollie Erickson**- July 10 & 17 at 10:00 a.m.
- **Chair Yoga with Mollie Erickson**- July 10 & 17 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Church Picnic @ Jim & Lise Greene's Farm**- August 6

Thank You from Austinville Elementary

As another school year has ended, I want to thank you for all of your help with the children at Austinville Elementary! If you contributed to Faith Promise, brought food for the Backpack Ministry, shopped, packed and delivered food for the Backpack Ministry, gave out ribbons and water at Field Day, were a Lunch Buddy, or helped with the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, we thank you for caring and sharing God's love! Thank you, too, for your prayers for these children!



Have a wonderful summer!
Sincerely, *Jan Dean*



Church Prayer List June 21st Edition

Celebration for the May 25th birth of Virginia Frances Heard to Graham and Hayley Heard of Memphis, TN. Grandparents from this congregation are Mark and Debbie Heard.

James Graham, grandson of Deb and Pete Graham

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|---|--|--|
| Angie Harris | Denton Family, one year anniversary of daughter's death | |
| LaVerne Dollahite | Dot Oliver | Alice Ackley |
| Cathren Bonds (Mom of Sherrill Altice) | Jeff (Bristol Rayne Teal's father) | |
| Yvonne Michaels, kidney cancer | Presley Weldon | |
| Katherine Johnson | Clyde Sasser | Mamie Murphree, mother to Ruth Moyers |
| Jean Elliott | Barbara Agee, year 12 of Alzheimer's disease | |

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.

Youth Dates

Sunday, June 25

10:00 Youth Sunday School
5:30-7:00 TRIBES (FUMC)

Wednesday, June 28

6:00 Senior High Discovery Planning

Sunday, July 2

10:00 Sunday School; TRIBES Time & Location TBD
(check Facebook and Instagram for details)

Wednesday, July 5

6:00 Senior High Discovery Planning

Youth Social Media Accounts:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/DecaturFUMCYouth>

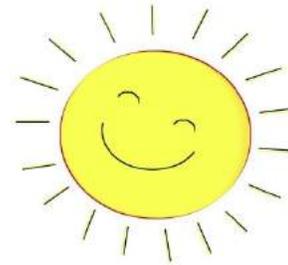
Instagram

https://www.instagram.com/ignite_fumc/



Summer Dates 2017

- **Sunday Nights (June 25, July 2, 16, 23) 5:30-7:00 TRIBES**
- **Wednesday Nights (June 28, July 5, 19, 26) 6:00 Sr. High Discovery Training**
- **Sr. High Mission Trip July 8-15, New York and Washington DC**
- **Discovery Weekend July 28-30**



Discovery Weekend

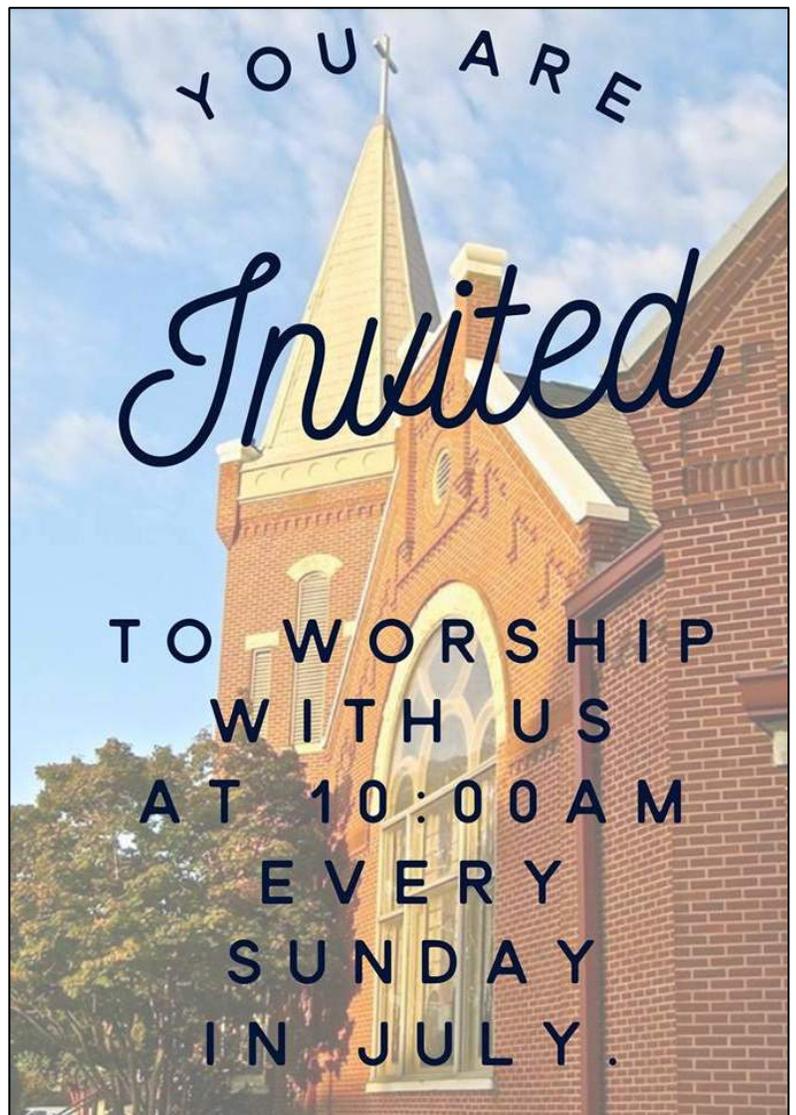
This year's Discovery Weekend will be July 28-30. Our theme is "Discovering God's Love Through the Church". Our keyword is FLOCK. Our Scripture is Acts 20:28. All sorts of adults are needed throughout the weekend to help



lead groups, take photos, pray, cook, drive, set up, lead worship, host sleepovers, chaperone, etc. If you want to get involved with this ministry, please see Beth.

Summer TRIBES

TRIBES is back and we will meet June 25, July 2, 16 and 23. TRIBES is a time of fellowship for the Jr. and Sr. high youth where they are divided into four teams or Tribes, and compete in two different challenges. Various adults from our congregation help as team captains, team moms and referees. Each week two teams will play game A and 2 will play game B. After the first game is played, we gather as a large group for a devotion and time of prayer. After our devotion or speaker, the teams swap and play the other game. Each team is encouraged to invite friends to join their team and we will also be collecting money in a penny war to donate to our Compassion International child in the Dominican Republic.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 25
5:30-7:00 TRIBES (FUMC)

Tuesday, June 27, 10:00 a.m.,
Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room

Wednesday, June 28
6:00 Senior High Discovery Planning

Wednesday, June 28, 6:00 p.m.,
Chancel Choir and Worship Team Practice

Thursday, June 29, 7:30 a.m.,
UMM Breakfast, City Café



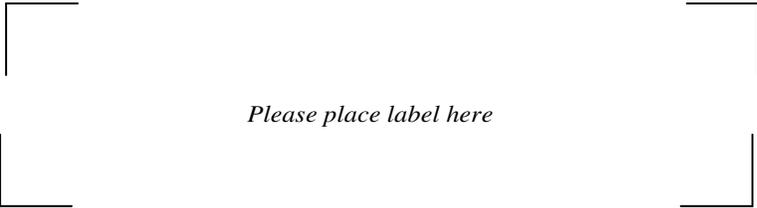
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Permit No. 226

Only One Service @ 10:00 a.m.
during July: During the five Sundays
of July, we will have only one Sunday
worship service at
10:00 a.m. Sunday
School will be at
9:00 a.m. Our
goal is to average
300 in worship at-
tendance and 200 in Sunday School.
Help us spread the word!

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**



Please place label here

Hughey Reynolds, Senior Minister, hreynolds@decaturfumc.org
Patrick McCormick, Director of Worship, patrick@decaturfumc.org
Beth Green, Minister of Youth and Discipleship, beth@decaturfumc.org
Cindy McCulloch, Finance Secretary, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org
Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org **Cindy Brigman, First Grace Director, firstgrace@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

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, June 25 - 8:45 and 11:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Waking the Dead"
Matthew 9: 9-13; 18-26
Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Sunday, July 2- 10:00 a.m. Only one service in July at 10
Sermon: "The Harvest Jesus Sees"
Matthew 9: 35 - 10:23
Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Scheduled To Serve June 25
Acolytes:
8:45 a.m. - Bristol Rayne Teal, Mary Elizabeth Booth
11:00 a.m. - John Benton Claborn

Ushers:
8:45 a.m. - Jonathan Green, Mike and Michael Boozer, Keith Earwood
11:00 a.m. - Bob Vaughan, Jim Worthey, Ken House, Steve Haddock, Keith Skelton

