

**We will have only one Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m. through Dec. 31, 2017.
Sunday School will be at 9:00 a.m. Spread the word!**



Tidings of Joy

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

August 2, 2017

“Rethink Church”

I borrowed my title this week from the United Methodist Commission on Communications. *Rethink Church* is their program to network churches to help accomplish the mission of the church: *to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

We are rethinking church at Decatur First. Great questions have been raised about matters we thought were settled a long time ago. In 2016 we rethought and rewrote our church's purpose statement. Other changes are coming.

- This year the staff has worked with a ministry coach to develop Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAGS, a term coined by Jim Collins). These goals will move us toward fulfilling our church purpose, but only if we align all our resources to meet them.
- Will we have one morning worship service in the sanctuary or two in the future? If we have only one service in the sanctuary, will we develop an alternative style worship service to be held in the fellowship hall? What style will it be? Contemporary, Taize, Other?
- Several staff changes are occurring at the same time. Will we hire folks to do the same jobs previous staff members have done or align those positions to accomplish our BHAGS (goals)? Will the new positions be full-time or part-time?

We are rethinking questions like these and asking which will be the most faithful use of our resources for fulfilling our church's purpose while making disciples of Jesus Christ.

If rethinking church unnerves you, you are not alone. *Equilibrium* is the condition of a system in which competing influences are balanced. Some of you were members at Decatur First

and on one side or the other of competing influences that in 2007 debated going into debt to build the new Christian Education Facility that included the Wesley Fellowship Hall and several additional classrooms. The projected cost was \$3.4 million. The final cost was \$4,409,250. Equilibrium was not attained until members pledged enough to make monthly installments to pay down the debt. Every three years we have another capital campaign to pay off more of that debt. When we do, we lose our equilibrium temporarily until we have enough pledged to make payments toward retiring this debt. This is another capital campaign year. So much for equilibrium.

If maintaining equilibrium were the mission of our church I would never attempt to change anything. But life does not stand still. In order to grow our church again we have to make some changes because doing church the same way we have done it is not producing growth in attendance, membership, or stewardship, which are measures of making disciples of Jesus Christ. Everything we do is subject to question. Does it accomplish our purpose and mission? If not, it is not a faithful use of our resources.

When events occur, decisions are made, and questions are raised that throw the church and our emotions into disequilibrium, we can go looking for a church with fewer challenges, or we can trust God more fully and deepen our commitment to follow Christ where he leads. Jesus invites us to follow him on the more difficult path, through the small gate and narrow road that leads to life (Matthew 7:14). That's how you and I grow.

Yours in Christ,

Hughey

First Fellowship Resumes August 23

First Fellowship Wednesday Supper Volunteer Sign Up



Our Fall semester for Wednesday Night Fellowship Suppers begins August 23rd. We have a great time in the kitchen. Please consider signing up again for this semester! If you have never done this, it is a great way to learn what it takes to run the kitchen. Many hands make light work; but really, it never feels like work we have so much fun! Past year volunteers that request the same jobs are very welcome but we still would love to hear from you. Thank you.

Please email Deb Graham at gra2418@gmail.com or text her at 281-757-5272. There is also a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.

We will need help with:

1. Setting up the Fellowship Hall prior to our 5:00 p.m. supper. This entails wiping down the tables, setting placemats, and flowers
2. Getting the ice chests ready for the Iced Tea and Lemonade station
3. Setting up the dessert table
4. Setting up the salad bar items
5. Setting up plates, silver napkins etc.
6. Cookie baking on Wednesday morning
7. Iced tea and Lemonade prep, usually done Monday or Tuesday
8. Serving the iced drinks during the meal
9. Cash table
10. Runners in kitchen for various needs during the hour prior to and during supper
11. Clean-up crew following supper, usually finished by 7:00 p.m. This entails running dishwasher, bringing dirty plates and utensils to the kitchen, drying, sorting and putting away of all kitchen tools following supper.



Our first two meals (Aug. 23 and Aug. 30) are going to be catered by J.W. Steakhouse! On Aug. 23rd, our meal will be their ever popular Kabobs with all the trimmings. No reservations required! The meal will start at 5:00 p.m.



Here are the Adult Wednesday night class offerings available to you. Please sign up for these on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. Classes start at 6:00 p.m.

- **Mayberry Bible Study, Led by Rev. Charles Boling, Seekers Room**
- **The Wired Word, Led by Various Adults, Minister's Conf. Room**
- **Science and Religion, Led by Ken House, Upper Room**
- **Young Women's Bible Study, Led by Weety Vickery and Sandy Reynolds, Courtyard Conf. Room**
- **FUMC 101: Our History, Led by Wylheme Ragland, New Community Room**
- **Women's Bible Study, Led by Marilyn Sykes, New Dimensions Room**

Stay tuned for more details about Children's Choir/Classes.

Church Picnic

Join us on August 6 from 5:00-7:00 for a church wide picnic at **Jim and Lise Greene's farm** (4516 County Road 400 Hillsboro, AL 35643). Each family is asked to bring a picnic dinner to feed their own family along with a blanket and or chairs. This is not a potluck picnic. We will have **Ed Nichols** as our guest to play guitar and lead us in songs. This will be a great time for our church family to celebrate the end of summer and start of school.



Seventh Annual Homer Christopher Fish Fry

The United Methodist Men's annual fish fry is Wednesday, August 16, from 5:00 to 6:15 PM. Tickets are available Sundays in the main hall, weekdays in the church office, in most Sunday School classes, and from UMM members. Tickets are \$10 each with a family maximum for parents and minor children of \$30. The popular menu is the same as in past years. Join us for an evening of great food and fellowship.



Mission Moments

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

My favorite book of the Old Testament is definitely Isaiah, and one of my favorite verses is Isaiah 43:19 which reads, "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." As I read chapter 43 I found a sense of comfort in the midst of change. The chapter begins with God reminding His people who they are. Growing up I often heard adults telling me, "Remember who you are and whose you are." This advice proved to be helpful as I definitely did not want to embarrass my parents, but greater than that is the charge to remember "who" we are in the midst of change and challenge. 

God, through the prophet Isaiah, reminds Israel of His faithfulness to them and tells the people that He has called them by name. He reminds them how precious and valuable they are and of the many times that He came to their rescue. What I hear in this passage is God letting me know that He has always been there and that He will be with me through every season of change in my life, even the ones that bring "new things."

The God who knows me by name is going before me. He is doing a new thing, and we get to be a part of it... pathways in the wilderness, rivers in the dry wasteland...doesn't that sound wonderful? Let's be on the lookout for the "New Thing" that God is up to in one of the oldest churches in Decatur.

Shannon

If you are not planning on attending the Greene Farm picnic on Aug. 6, please come join us at Austinville Elementary School on Aug. 6 at 6:00 p.m. as we pray for Austinville Elementary School. There will be cards to help guide you through your time of prayer. It is come and go.

The Urban Acre Community Garden Progress Report

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/>

Hilltoppers On August 17, the Hilltoppers will travel by bus to Birmingham to visit the Civil Rights Museum and have lunch at Sweet Tea (cafeteria style). We will leave at 8:30 a.m. and will return around 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 for adults ages 65+ or \$15 for adults under 65. We will also collect \$3 for fuel at the time of the trip. Bring cash for gas, lunch and entrance to the museum. Please reserve your spot on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.

Church Prayer List August 2nd Edition

Prayer for Gail Warth and family on the July 21st death of her son David Warth

Sherrill Altice, triple bypass surgery, Huntsville Hospital, August 4.

Aug. 6 - First Sunday for Interim Music Director Tommy Davis and wife Shannon

Sheila Green Davis (Stan) as her father Billy L. (Bill) Green, 82, passed away on July 30

Vicki Dukes, broken ankle, compound fracture recovery

Judy Coon

Dr. Willis Vickery LaVerne Dollahite Dot Oliver

Alice Ackley

James Graham, grandson of Deb and Pete Graham

Jean Elliott

Cathren Bonds (Mom of Sherrill Altice)

Joanne Wheat

Hadley Dean, recovery from appendectomy

Terry Johnson (Sandy Reynolds' first cousin) Prostate cancer

Donna Vickery

Jerry Daniels, cancer (Alexia Claborn's father)

Unspoken for Valerie and James Mullaley

Yvonne Michaels, kidney cancer

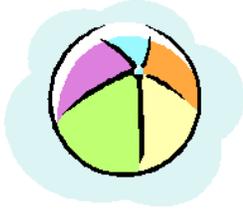
Raymond Crump, Minneapolis, MN

Barbara Agee, year 12 of Alzheimer's disease

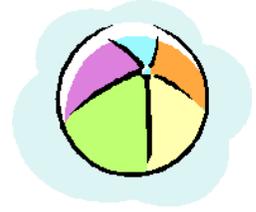
Katherine Johnson Clyde Sasser

Deborah Stewart

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.



Back to School Water Day
Please Join us for Treats and
Fun in the Sun
Sunday, Aug. 13th 2:00- 4:00
Bring Friends and Family
Stefanie & John Underwood's Home
1807 Brookmeade Road SE



Blessing of the Backpacks : Aug. 13th

Please remember to bring your backpacks to church on August 13th for the blessing of the backpacks!

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Aug. 6, 10:00 a.m., **Beau Claborn, Hunter Claborn, Garret Buckner**

Aug. 13, 10:00 a.m., **LuLu Underwood & John Benton Claborn**



Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Aug 6th

Sunday School

Pre-school - 2nd grade Room #215 Jessica Earwood
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- Alexia Claborn
Assistant- TBA

Volunteers for Sunday, Aug. 13th Promotion Sunday

Sunday School

Pre-school Room #215 Jessica Mitchell
Leigh Ann Blankenship

K- 2nd grade Room #207 Barbara Ashwander
Assistant- TBA

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

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teacher- Alexia Claborn
Assistant- TBA

Thank you for sharing God's word and his love with our children!

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, Aug. 6

9:00 Youth Sunday School
5:00 - Church Picnic at
Greene Farm



Sunday, August 13

9:00 Sunday School

Youth Social Media Accounts:

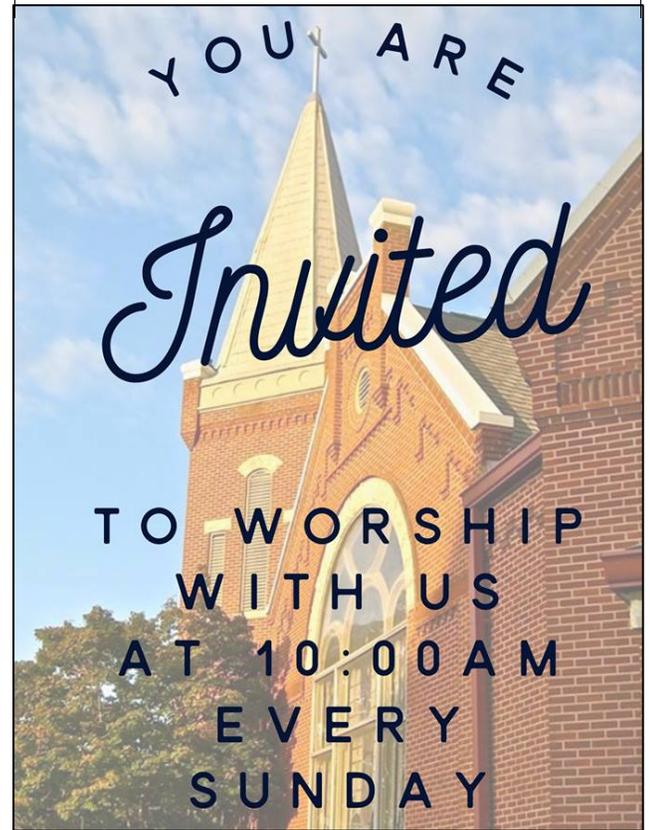
Facebook

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

Instagram

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

Worship will be at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday through December 31, 2017. Please refer to the brochure in the church office for details.



Senior High Youth in D.C.



Junior High Youth in Chattanooga

College

Classes will start in just a few short weeks. Please contact the church office to update your student's addresses while they are away at school. If you have had a child or grandchild graduate this semester, please share this news too so we can celebrate this accomplishment in our Tidings.

Upcoming Events

**Sunday, August 6 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.,
Church wide picnic at Jim and Lise Greene's
farm (4516 County Road 400, Hillsboro, AL
35643)**

**Tuesday, August 8, 10:00 a.m.,
Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room**

**Tuesday, August 8, 5:00 p.m.,
Finance Meeting, Room 351**

*Council on Ministries has been moved to Aug. 15
at 6:00 p.m.*

**Wednesday, August 9, 6:00 p.m.,
Choir Practice**

**Thursday, August 10, 7:30 a.m.
UMM Breakfast at City Cafe**

Only One Sunday Service @ 10:00 a.m. through Dec. 31

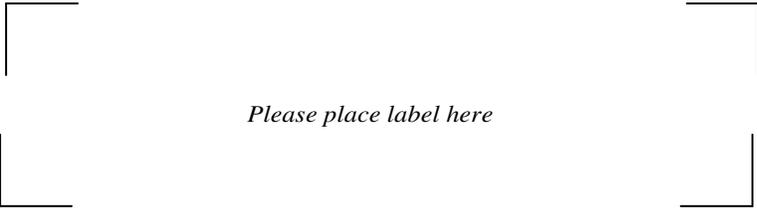
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**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**



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**Hughey Reynolds, Senior Minister, hreynolds@decaturfumc.org
Tommy Davis, Interim Music Director
Beth Green, Minister of Youth and 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
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, Aug. 6—Only one service at 10:00 a.m.
Sermon: "When You Hear This Word"
Isaiah 55: 1-11
Rev. Hughey Reynolds**

**Sunday, Aug. 13—Only one service at 10:00 a.m.
Sermon: "Unfavored"
Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28
Rev. Hughey Reynolds**

Scheduled To Serve August 6
Acolyte:
10:00 a.m. - Beau Claborn, Hunter Claborn, Garret Buckner
Ushers:
10:00 a.m. - Ronnie Dukes , Mike and Michael Boozer, Jolly McKenzie, Steve Armstrong



256-355-5555

Find Us On Social Media
"Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC