



Tidings of Joy

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

September 10, 2014

National Back to Church Sunday Is September 21

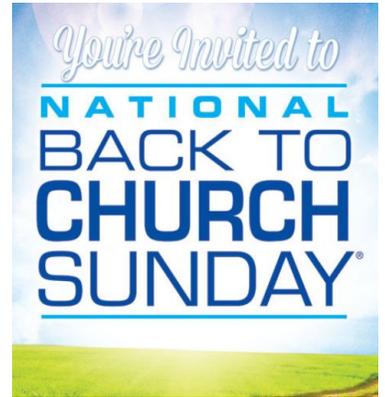
Join us for this special day of worship and fellowship. Whether you attend regularly or have not been in worship in some time, join us as the Decatur First Family gathers for worship and fellowship on this special Sunday. We are planning special times of worship at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services.

Covered Dish Luncheon

Bring a covered dish or two with you on September 21 and plan to join in the family reunion that will take place around the tables. Bring food for your family, plus a family. Meat, bread, and drinks will be furnished. We will have a team of volunteers ready to receive your dishes in the kitchen. Serving will actually start at 11:30 a.m. for those who attend the 8:45 a.m. service. Then, food tables will be refreshed and ready for those who attend the 11:00 a.m. service.

Be Sure to Invite Friends, Family, and Neighbors

Door Hangers are available so you can invite your neighbors to worship. The Evangelism Team is challenging each family to take ten hangers and share them with the five families on the left of your house and five on the right. You might also pray about inviting those that you have not been seeing in worship and also persons you know who do not attend worship regularly.



Pray for the Interview Team for the New Director of Worship Position

Peggy Black, Fred Underwood, Maryanne Dunivant, Whitney Clemons and Meredith Matthews are on the Interview Team. They have begun to receive resumes for this new position.

A Service of Healing and Wholeness on Sunday, September 14, 6:30 PM

“Spiritual Healing is God’s work of offering persons balance, harmony, and wholeness of body, mind, spirit, and relationships through confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation.” (The United Methodist Book of Worship)

Many have found new freedom and wholeness through the prayers of other believers. The Book of Worship goes on to say, “All healing is of God. The Church’s healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one’s health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness.” The scripture tells us “The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16b; NRSV)

Join in this special service that celebrates God’s awesome power and trusts God to bring healing and wholeness in our lives. *Nursery will be available.*

UMM Monthly Breakfasts

Our first **Men's Breakfast** for the fall will be Sunday, **September 14**, starting at 7:30 AM in the Wesley Fellowship Hall. Our own **Jerry Reed** will be the guest speaker. Breakfast is \$5. All men of the church are invited. The Men's Breakfasts will continue on the second Sunday throughout the year.



Ronnie Dukes UMM President

Our Stewardship of Presences

Attendance Numbers for Sunday, August 31, 2014:
Total Count for 8:45am = 94
Total Count for 11:00am = 90
Total Count for morning services for August 31: 184

Sunday School
 Children- 21 Youth- 5 Adults-106
Total Sunday School August 31 - 132

Attendance Numbers for Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014:
Total Count for 8:45am = 113
Total Count for 11:00am = 153
Total Count for morning services for Sept. 7: 266

Sunday School
 Children- 34 Youth- 16 Adults-126
Total Sunday School Sept. 7 - 176

First Fellowship
 Children - 22 Youth - 31 Adults - 75
Total First Fellowship Wednesday, August 27 - 128

Children - 24 Youth - 24 Adults - 72
Total First Fellowship Wednesday, Sept. 3 - 120

Our Stewardship of Resources

| <u>Ministry Budget</u> | | <u>Capital Fund</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Received YTD | \$588,265.64 | \$161,665.81 |
| Needed YTD | 607,396.44 | |
| Given This Week | 22,156.57 | 4,005.00 |
| Needed Weekly | 16,416.12 | |

Church & Community

REFLECTIONS FROM BRO. RUDY

“Who Is Missing?”

You may have seen this message that has appeared on church signs: **CH - RCH - Who is missing? U.** We all know someone who is among the missing. In fact, some who receive this *Tidings of Joy* are presently among the missing. God really does want us to be part of His Family. The scripture says, “...You are a member of God’s very own family, citizens of God’s country, and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.” (Ephesians 2:19; LB)

National Back to Church Sunday is only a week and a half away - September 21. Who are the missing that God is calling you to reach out and invite? This Sunday we looked at a couple of Jesus’ parables that reminded us that the missing matter to God. We call them the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, found in Luke 15. One preacher said that the message is: **“The missing are what matters!”**

What is the best way to reach the missing? Studies show an invitation to worship is the best way to reach the missing. Since the early years of my ministry, I have heard the statistics that between 70% and 80% of first time worship guests come to a church because they are invited. Several times in my ministry I have tested to see if those statistics were still true. I’ve done surveys of first time worship guests, asking them what brought them to the church. Each time over 70% of those who have responded acknowledge they came to worship because of an invitation.

Kennon Callahan, in his book *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*, made the point that growing churches have

found a way to increase the number of invitations. One of the ways is to have special services to which people are encouraged to invite persons. Because of this, the “Bring a Friend” Sunday was developed. Many churches have found such an emphasis to help increase the invitations being offered.

Some years ago our United Methodist Communications, in their “Open Door” campaign, suggested churches offer “Open House” in September. Many of the missing seem to be more open to an invitation to worship as they move into the routine of the fall. This church certainly has some wonderful facilities that we need to invite persons to come and experience. Being part of the Historical District Tour was one way to do this.

Recently, National Back to Church Sunday was developed to encourage persons to invite the missing. Churches that have participated in the last few years have reported not only record attendance on that Sunday, but also increased attendance in the weeks that follow.

September 21 is this year’s National Back to Church Sunday. Earlier this summer I received a door hanger from another church that is participating here in Decatur. Churches from various denominations join in this national emphasis. This year we are participating. You will see more about our participation on the front page of this *Tidings*. **However, the key part is Invite.**

See you Sunday as our Youth lead us in worship. Invite a person to join you!

Rudy

Sympathy

Sharing sympathy with **Gene and Lorri McGuire** on the death of his cousin **Bobby Joe Evans**. This family remains in our prayers.

Church Directories

The church directories have arrived! If you had your photograph made for the directory and have not picked up your complimentary copy, please stop by the church office during the week. They are in the volunteer office. For those who wish to purchase additional copies or those who were not photographed, you may purchase the directories for \$7 a piece.

Thank you,

Betty Ann Mitchum & Beth Green

WHY? Message series begins September 21

Rudy will kick off a message series on September 21 that he has entitled “*Why - Pursuing Answer to Life’s Big Questions.*” In our conversations we often run into questions about our faith. Like children, we have friends who ask “Why” questions about the faith. Rudy will share some scripture answers to these questions in this five week message series.



September 21

“Why the Church?” Acts 2:41-47

September 28

“Why Am I Here?” Luke 19:1-10

October 5

“Why Should I Believe in God?” Ecclesiastes 12:13

October 12

“Why Should I Trust the Bible?” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

October 19

“Why is the World So Messed Up?” Romans 8:23-39





Servant Spotlight

Our Servant Spotlight this week shines on Nelson Earley, who steps in faithfully on any given Sunday to be an acolyte or to be our communion Crucifer. This is such an important role and adds much to our worship experience. Thank you Nelson!

We also would like to shine our spotlight on our Acolyte Corps. This year those who served as Acolytes and/or Crucifers have been Lydia Matthews, Mary Bibb Pylant, Aiden Garriss, Davis Roberts, Zachary Floyd, Jack Bell, Gabe Brown, Hunter Claborn, Beau Claborn, and Nelson Earley. Thank you one and all for serving so faithfully.

If you have individuals to lift up in the Servant Spotlight, please contact any of our staff at (256)355-0277.

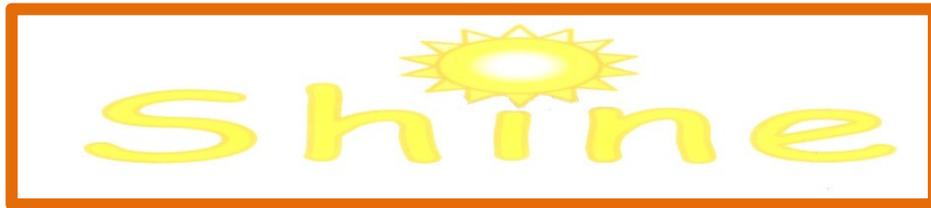


Sunday, September 14th at 4:30 p.m.

We will meet in room # 230 on the Second floor Children's Wing.

This Sunday, Sept. 14, will be our first meeting of the fall. Children, kindergarteners through 5th grade are invited to come and be a part of our Mission Possible Team. We will meet at 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. for our first mission. Mission Possible is a program designed for elementary children to learn about and to participate in mission work. Each meeting, children will learn and work on a mission project either locally, nationally, or internationally. This is a great way for children to see that they can make a difference in the lives of others.

If you have a kindergartener and would like them to participate, please come early to fill out the forms for your child and there is a cost of \$18.00.

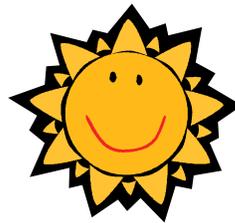


Wednesday Evening Children's Ministry

Shepherds Needed!

Our children's Wednesday evening ministry needs you. We need shepherds to care over our three children's classes. A shepherd is someone who walks with the children from activity to activity. Our Station leaders prepare the lesson but our shepherds join the children as a faithful friend - being supportive, encouraging them, and mainly guiding them in where they are to go. If you love children and want a very special way to be a part of the children's ministry, this is your opportunity! If you are a young adult, youth or older adult who would love to find a place to share God's love and be an example of Christian discipleship, please see Lorri McGuire or contact her at 256-355-0277 or lmcguire@decaturfumc.org. Come and see what God is doing in this place with our children and adults.

We have **BEGUN!!**
RISE & SHINE WORSHIP



New Sunday School Rise and Shine Worship

Our children love to worship and sing! On Sunday morning we ask that the children **begin by meeting in their Sunday school classrooms at 9:50 a.m.** for ten minutes. Then they will gather as a whole to our new Children's Worship Center in room #305 (old 3rd floor) starting at 10:00 a.m. We will worship God with singing, praying, listening to our Bible story (and our Bible point for the week) and learning our Bible verse. Following worship time the children will then return to their classroom to more fully explore the Bible story and lesson. **Children will be dismissed from their classrooms at 10:50 a.m.** **Parents, please be prompt on gathering your children.**

Children's Sunday School Schedule

Classes begin at 9:50 a.m. meet in classroom
10:00 a.m. children will move to the Children's **Rise & Shine Worship** Center Room # **305**
10:20 a.m. meet back in classroom
10:50 a.m. end of class dismissed from classroom

Classroom assignments 2014 -2015

Preschool Sunday school class is for our 3-5 year olds. **Room 102 - 1st Floor**

Kindergarten Class **Room 225 – 2nd Floor**

1st Grade, 2nd, 3rd Grade class **Room 231 – 2nd Floor**

4th grade 5th grade class **Room 306 – 3rd Floor (old Upper Room Class)**

Our elementary classes meet on our second floor of the children's wing and 3rd floor old building.

Children's Ministry Team Meeting



On Sunday, September 28th there will be a children's ministry team meeting at Noon. Members, please mark your calendar for this meeting. We are so grateful for those who serve on this team and the time and effort they give to our children.

Trip for Hilltoppers Senior Adult Ministry

Carnton Plantation

Franklin, TN



The next trip for the Hilltoppers will be to the **Carnton Plantation event** in Franklin, TN on **Thursday, Oct 16th, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** There are sign-up sheets in the welcome center, the entrance to fellowship hall, and in the Sunday school classes. There is a one hour tour of the plantation and you will be able to walk the grounds weather permitting. We will stop for lunch. The cost of the tour is \$12.00. If you have any questions, please speak with Merv Michaels or Lorri McGuire.



Beth Green, Youth Minister

This Sunday Is Youth Sunday

The youth will be responsible for the worship services on Sunday, September 14. Please come support our youth as they prepare to share how God has worked in this ministry through mission trips and Discovery Weekend!



Coming Up...

Sunday, September 14

8:45 & 11:00 Youth Sunday
10:00 Youth Family breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
No UMYF
6:30 Healing and Wholeness Service

Wednesday, September 17

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

Thursday, September 18

7:30 Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A

Sunday, September 21- Back to Church Sunday

10:00 Sunday School
6:00 Brown Bag Supper
6:30 UMYF

Monday, September 22

7:45 Jr. High Prayer Breakfast at McDonald's (rides provided to Oak Park)

Wednesday, September 24

5:00 First Fellowship
6:00 Bible Study

Thursday, September 25

7:30 Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A

Friday, September 26

DHS Football/ Cheerleader breakfast
6:15 Cooks arrive
7:15 greeters and servers arrive
7:45 clean up arrive

DHS Football Breakfasts

The Decatur High Football Breakfasts have been a success once again! Many thanks to the volunteers who have helped with the first breakfasts we have had. We still have three more after this week:

- September 26- DHS/ Brewer**
- October 10- DHS/ Muscle Shoals**
- October 24- DHS/ Florence**

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these breakfasts, please contact Beth (beth@decaturfumc.org). You will also be able to sign up in most Sunday School classrooms. Thank you for your help in making this ministry a success!

Volunteer schedule:
6:15am cooks arrive
7:15am greeters and servers arrive
7:30am serve the students
7:45am clean up teams arrive

College Students

Please share your college student's information with Beth so we can include them in mailings from our church. We need your students name, college mailing address, school attending, year in school, and email at school. We will be sending cards and care packages throughout the school year and don't want anyone left out!

If you are interested in volunteering to help put together college care packages, please let Beth know!

Sr. High Ski Trip

The annual Senior High Ski Trip will be December 27-30, 2014. We'll be going to Snowshoe, WV on the church bus. We will be staying in several condos on the top of the mountain. The cost will be \$475 per student. Check your mail for additional information.

**September Mission Emphasis
Time To Pack Again - Austinville
Elementary!**

School has started once more, which means it is time to help our Austinville Elementary children once more. Our church will help in August and then alternate months with Ninth Street UMC. Both churches help for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

- These are the food items we need your help with:
- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Canned pasta meals | boxed mac & cheese |
| Ramen noodles | Beanie Weenies, |
| Tuna | Snack crackers |
| Granola bars | Pop Tarts |
| Fruit cups/snacks | Pudding cups |
| Rice Krispie Treats | |

Please place items in the marked blue barrel by the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 a.m.

Youth Family breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 10:00 a.m.

No UMYF, Sunday, Sept. 14

Stewardship campaign - Prayer Team Meets
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 3:30 p.m.

Stewardship campaign - Small Group Team Meets
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Stewardship campaign - Stewardship Team Meets
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Children's Mission Possible (details this bulletin)
Sunday, Sept. 14 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship campaign - Leadership Giving Team
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Stewardship campaign - Executive Team Meets
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 5:30 p.m.

Healing and Wholeness Service, Sanctuary
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Worship Team Practice, Monday, Sept. 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Hilltoppers Trip Sept. 15-19

Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room
Tuesday, September 16 at 10:00 a.m.

First Fellowship; Sept. 17 starting at 5:00 p.m.

Youth Ministry Team, Youth 3rd Floor
Wednesday, September 17 starting at 7:00 p.m.

UMM Breakfast, City Café, Thursday, Sept. 18 at 7:30

Sr. High Prayer Breakfast at Chick Fil A
Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 a.m.



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Beth C. Green, Youth Minister, beth@decaturfumc.org
Laura Vines, Interim First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org
Karen Moore, Worship Team Director, kkbabf@gmail.com
Lorri McGuire, Director of Children & Family, lmcguire@decaturfumc.org
Jimmy Cantrell, Chancel Choir Director, jcantr1011@aol.com
Gail Warth, Organist

Cindy McCulloch, Administrative Assistant to the Senior
Pastor & Finance, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org
Sandy Callahan, Food Manager
Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org
Kim Bell, Pianist
Charlie Elliott, Custodian
Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper

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

September 14

Youth Sunday - Youth Lead the Worship

September 21 - National Back To Church Sunday

(Details Front Page)

"Why the Church?" (1st in a Sermon Series)

Acts 2: 41 - 47

Dr. Rudy Guess, preaching

Scheduled To Serve September 14

Acolytes: 8:45 a.m. - No Acolyte Scheduled

11:00 a.m. - Aiden Garriss and Davis Roberts

Greeters:

8:45 a.m. - Marilyn Sykes, Billy & Diane Hudson

11:00 a.m. - Lou Underwood, John & Peggy Black

Ushers:

8:45 a.m. - Billy Hudson, Drew Ward, Michael Boozer,
Mike Boozer

11:00 a.m. - Steve Brown, Bob Vaughan, Jim Worthey,
Ken House, Steve Haddock, Keith Skelton

Kitchen Crew

If you have extra time on Wednesdays, please consider volunteering with the Kitchen Ministry. Sandy is needing additional help on Wednesday mornings to help prep dinner. She also needs extra hands with serving and cleaning up after dinner. If you can help in any way, please contact Beth (beth@decaturfumc.org) or Sandy.

First Fellowship September 17

(Meal starts at 5:00 - Adults \$6.00, Children \$3.00, Family Maximum \$18.00, \$6.75 to go plate. Please make dinner reservations by noon Monday. Don't forget to fill out a reservation card for a standing reservation, too.)

Wed., Sept. 17: Roast Beef, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad Bar, Peanut Butter and Jelly and Cheese Sandwiches, Banana Pudding
Wed., Sept. 17: Clean Up Crew: Beth Green and the FUMC Youth

September Money Desk: Bill & Bettye Dennis