



Tidings of Joy

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

July 1, 2015

A Note from Our New Pastor

“A Vision for Our Growing Together”

I am twenty days, two sermons, several dozen names, one patriotic cantata, and two funerals into my tenure at Decatur First. I will celebrate Holy Communion with you for the first time this Sunday. I have scheduled the first two Baptisms, discussed a tentative Confirmation schedule, and am waiting to preside at my first wedding here. We are underway together and so far, by all appearances, we are compatible and are travel-ready for the journey ahead. I am glad you and I are on board and am excited about moving deliberately and steadily with you into the future that God invites us to embrace and enjoy. If we roll up our sleeves and do that, we are in for exciting and fulfilling times over the next months and years.

There are advantages to having a new pastor. One is that almost anything is possible because I share very little history with you. The question is whether our histories will make us wiser as we move forward or become shackles that stall us and prevent us from exploring new ground. Having a new pastor is a disadvantage if our past determines our future. If it does, the question will be whether the church's past will prevail or the pastor's past. Will we do things the way Decatur First has always done them or as Hughey Reynolds has always done them? On a personal level, it is even more complex. Will we get what you or the majority wants, or what the pastor wants? If those were the only options, our destiny would be to butt heads. That would not bode well for developing our relationship or the Kingdom of God.

An alternative way for us to be the church together, one that honors our separate histories as a church, a pastor, and as individual followers of Christ, is to agree to engage in holy conversation. I define holy conversation as meaningful, honest, and respectful dialogue that leaves room for the Holy Spirit to give

us clarity of speech, hearing, vision, mind, and feeling. Voila! That means that through dialogue we could all change our minds about some important things and agree to disagree about other matters. Can we covenant to do that in our informal conversations and when we gather formally as teams, committees, classes, and organizations?

Several years after he taught a pastoral care class I took at Emory (Candler School of Theology), Chuck Gerken published a book titled *The Living Human Document*. He said we all understand everything we see, hear, and experience based on a number of personal and community factors that make up our hermeneutical, or interpretive, circle. People with similar histories and shared community values tend to group together because we see the world similarly. We could form a pretty happy tribe enlisting only people who think like we do. The problem with that is similar to generations of inbreeding. It multiplies our defects and weaknesses and sets in motion perpetual social, psychological, intellectual, and spiritual regression. I do not want to grow large like that!

Forming community with people who see the world differently because of varied histories and habits is more difficult but it is God's way for us to grow in our knowledge and understanding of the world and of the things of God. Our interpretive circles do not merely bump against and bounce off each other, or attack each other, when we allow the Holy Spirit to do what the Holy Spirit did on Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. In spite of all our differences, we will hear those different from us, whom we formerly did not understand, speak in our own language about God's deeds of power (Acts 2:5-13). We will grow individually in our faith and as a church by the power of the Holy Spirit. That is my hope for you and me and for our living, worshipping, serving, and growing together at Decatur First United Methodist Church.

Yours in Christ,

Hughey hreynolds@decaturfumc.org

Sympathy

We are sharing sympathy with the family of **Edna Smith** who died on June 22. Her funeral was here at First Methodist on June 26th. This family remains in our prayers.

We are sharing sympathy with the family of **Rachel Hunt** who died on June 23. Her funeral was a graveside service on June 29th. This family remains in our prayers.

We have learned that Mary Lou Rose's mother, **Mary Taylor**, recently passed away. This family remains in our prayers.

Church Office Holiday

The Church office will be closed on Friday, July 3 for Independence Day.



Patrick's Musical Notes

Calling one and ALL - NOW is the best time ever to join the choir and worship team!



The 8:45 Worship Team and the 11:00 Chancel Choir will take a much deserved break from rehearsals and services following their wonderful performance of the *Sweet Land of Liberty* cantata. We will resume normal "operations" on July 13th. I would like to invite and encourage everyone to give the choir and worship team a try. My dream is to have twenty-five members on a consistent basis during the Fall of 2015. With your willingness and faithfulness, I am certain that my dream will become your dream and turn into a reality.

God Bless,

Patrick McCormick

UMM Summer Point Mallard Prayer Chapel Services

Again this summer the United Methodist Men are sponsoring weekly worship services at the Point Mallard Chapel. **Services started Sunday, May 31 and will continue through Sunday, August 23 except for Sunday, July 5.** Services start at 8:45 AM and will last about thirty minutes. UMM members and guests will be speakers each week, and Ed Kirby III will again lead the music. We welcome all folks who are members or friends of FUMC to consider this worship opportunity in this special setting, and we welcome any others who chose to come our way. Come and bring a friend.

Our Stewardship of Presences

Attendance Numbers Sunday, June 21, 2015:

Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 140
Total Count for 11:00am = 161
Point Mallard Chapel Service = 11
Total Count for June 21 = 312

Sunday School June 21

Children 17 + 7 adults
Youth 3 + 1 Adult
Adults 135
Today Sunday School June 21 = 163

Attendance Numbers Sunday, June 28, 2015:

Total Count for 8:45 a.m. = 134
Total Count for 11:00am = 141
Point Mallard Chapel Service = 9
Total Count for June 28 = 284

Sunday School June 28

Children 10 + 5 adults
Youth 4 + 1 adult
Adults 119
Total Sunday School June 28 = 139

Our Stewardship of Resources

<u>Ministry Budget</u>		<u>Capital Fund</u>
Received YTD	\$420,597.82	68,915.69
Needed YTD	435,115.26	
Given This Week	11,264.00	2,000.00
Needed Weekly	16,115.38	

First Grace News

We say a big thank you to all who volunteered, ran, and donated supplies to the Mountain Mania Race. Our total profit was \$1,798.00.



Please save your plastic shopping bags (Walmart, Publix, Dollar General, etc.) and donate them to First Grace! Thanks!

Find Us On Social Media

"Like" us on Facebook to get up to date information about our church, meetings, changes, prayer requests, photos and more! www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC

If you have not seen our updated website, please visit www.decaturfumc.org to see the exciting updates.





Children's Summer Sunday School Teaching Opportunity!

Do you want to have some summer fun teaching? We will be learning about Moses, Gideon, Hannah and Samuel throughout the summer! Lessons and material are provided and Leadership in worship is also provided!

Men and women are needed to teach and assist!

Please see Lorri McGuire or Carrie Hart if you are willing to lend a hand. We will have three classes who need teachers: Preschool class (3yr-4yrs), Kindergarten – 2nd grade, and 3rd – 5th grades.



Children's Water Fun! Sunday, July 26th from 4 - 6:00 p.m.

The children's team will be hosting a water fun time for children on Sunday, July 26th. Our afternoon (weather permitting) will have fun activities involving water balloon fights, water relays, water gun sharp shooting, and more!



Thank You to Everyone who participated in VBS 2015
We have 125 Students and over 60 helpers and leaders.
You made this a mountain top experience for all!

Thursday, July 9th

Untamed Mountain Trip

The children's team is hosting a trip to Tigers for Tomorrow at Untamed Mountain in Attalla, AL.

www.tigersfortomorrow.org

We will leave from the church at 7:00 a.m. and our tour begins at 9:00 a.m. Cost for children is \$10.00 and adults \$15.00. We ask you to pack a picnic lunch and we will return by 1:00 p.m. Sign up with Lorri McGuire at lmcguire@decaturfumc.org. Please wear good shoes as the paths can be rocky – no flip flops. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. We are taking the guided tour so pictures are allowed.



Children's Team Meeting
July 8th
4:00 p.m.
Courtyard Conference Room

Flower Dedications

We have several available dates for Sunday Flower Dedications. Please call the church office at 256-355-0277 for more details or send an email to aquinn@decaturfumc.org.



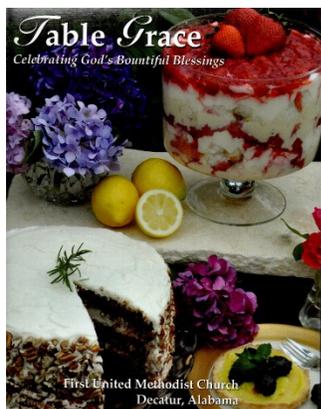
Summer Fun with FUMC

- **Zumba classes** in the Fellowship Hall will be offered on Monday and Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 in June and July. A certified instructor will lead the class. \$5 per person, per class.
- **Family Movie Night**- Bring your dinner and join us in the fellowship hall for a good ole fashioned movie on July 28 at 6:30pm! Popcorn and drinks will be provided.
- **Bunco**- Claudia Blake will lead a Bunco game on July 7 in the fellowship hall at 6:30.
- **Painting Class**- Susan Estes will be teaching a painting class on August 4 at 6:00. The cost is \$15 and each participant will leave with an original piece of art!
- **Wreath Making Class**- Doug Maze will be leading a group and showing how to make a wreath on July 14 at 6:00. Each participant will leave with a wreath! Prior to the class, you will need to measure your door or mantle where the wreath will hang. You will also need to meet Doug at Hobby Lobby to buy your supplies on July 11 at 1:00 or July 13 at 6:00.

Please contact Beth Green (beth@decaturfumc.org) or Ann Crabbe (iacrabbe@aol.com) for more information or to reserve your spot.

Church Cookbooks

We still have an abundance of our Church Cookbooks available for purchase. You will find these in the Church office for only \$10 each. These make wonderful gifts. Pick one up today!



Youth Dates Coming Up...

Sunday, July 5

10:00 Sunday School
6:00-8:00 TRIBES at Eastwood

Wednesday, July 8

6:00 Discovery Team Training Youth Floor

Thursday, July 9

12:00 Jr High Lunch Bunch at Moe's BBQ

Saturday, July 11

7:30 a.m. - Young Adult White
Water Rafting Trip

Sunday, July 12

10:00 Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Jamaica Team Commissioning
5:00 Jamaica Team Meeting
6:00-8:00 Tribes @ Eastwood

Wednesday, July 15

6:00 Jamaica Team Dinner with Families

Saturday, July 18- Friday, July 24

Jamaica Mission Trip



Young Adults White Water Trip July 11

This trip is \$45 per person and includes rafting, lunch and FUMC van transportation. Dinner is on your own. **Make reservations by Sunday, July 5!**

- 7:30am Leave FUMC
- 11:00 Lunch at Whitewater Express Camp
- 12:00 Meet at the Outpost for briefing
- 12:30 Raft the Ocoee River
- 4:00 Leave Whitewater Express
- 5:30 Dinner in Chattanooga
- 8:30 Arrive at FUMC



Jr. High Lunch Bunch

The Junior High (entering 6th-8th grades) group will meet on select Thursdays throughout the summer to go to lunch (bring your own money) and return to the church for a time of prayer and devotion. We'll leave the church at 12:00 and parents can pick up at 1:30.

July 9- Moe's BBQ

July 30- Mellow Mushroom

Discovery Team Training

The Discovery Team (adults and senior high) will be meeting throughout the summer to plan and prepare for Discovery Weekend. We will meet on the youth floor at 6:00 on Wednesday nights (July 8 and 29) to preview talks, go over schedules, work on plans, ask questions and pray for the weekend. Make plans to join us as we plan the best weekend ever!

Save the Date!

Youth will have Discovery Weekend **July 31 - August 2**. This year's theme is "Discover God's Love Through Scripture." This weekend is for all youth who have completed 5th-12th grades. The Senior High will help lead the 43 hour spiritual formation weekend for the Junior High at FUMC.

The Prayer Service, for the entire church, will be Saturday night, August 1st at 7:00 p.m. We hope everyone will be here to support our youth and their families!

Discovery invites the **entire church family** to live out its Baptismal covenant of surrounding these children with a community of love and forgiveness so they may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal. We invite you to join us as we all discover what God has in store for us through the Discovery weekend!

DISCOVERY WEEKEND

TRIBES

Scores as of June 30:

Green Tribe- 50

Blue Tribe- 48

Yellow Tribe- 49

Orange Tribe- 44



TRIBES is a recreational outdoor program inspired by "SURVIVOR" where teams compete in weekly challenges to earn points throughout the summer. We will have four TRIBES made up of Jr. and Sr. high youth, one adult male captain and one adult team mom. There will be a total of two challenges each week. Challenges may be athletic, intellectual, artistic or creative so everyone's gifts are needed!

July 5 @ Eastwood- 4 Base T ball & Tiki Torch Trivia

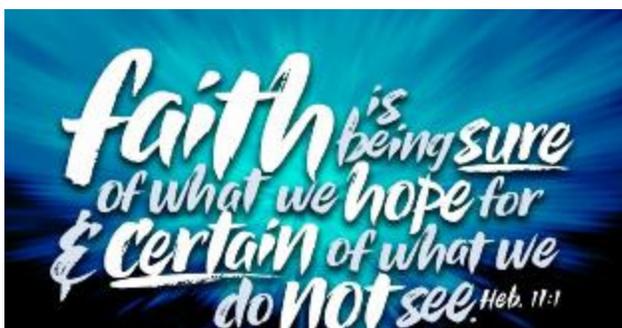
July 12 @ Eastwood- Photo Scavenger Hunt

July 26 @ pool (TBA)- Pool Tubes & Synchronized Swimming

**In case of rain, TRIBES will be held at FUMC in the Fellowship Hall.*

Check the youth Facebook Page for location changes and what your TRIBE may need to bring each week!

www.facebook.com/DecaturFUMCYouth



UPCOMING EVENTS

Church Office Closed on Friday, July 3

**No Point Mallard Prayer Chapel Service
Sunday, July 5**

**TRIBES at Eastwood (see inside for details)
Sunday, July 5 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Zumba Class, Fellowship Hall
Monday, July 6 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

No Worship Team Practice on Monday, July 6

**Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room
Tuesday, July 7 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Finance Meeting, Minister's Conf. Room
Tuesday, July 7 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Bunco Group, Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Children's Team Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room
Wednesday, July 8 at 4:00 p.m.**

**Zumba Class, Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, July 8 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

No Chancel Choir Practice on Wednesday, July 8

**Discovery Team Training, Youth 3rd Floor
Wednesday, July 8 at 6:00 p.m.**

**Children/Family Trip to Untamed Mountain
(See inside for details)
Thursday, July 9, leave from church at 7:00 a.m.**

**Jr. High Lunch Bunch at Moe's BBQ, van needed
Thursday, July 9 at noon**

**UMM Breakfast, City Café
Thursday, July 9 at 7:30 a.m.**

**Discipleship Team, Courtyard Conf. Room
Thursday, July 9 at noon**

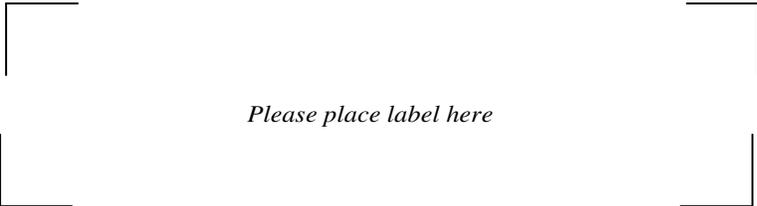
**Young Adult White Water Rafting Trip, vans needed
Saturday, July 11 at 7:30 a.m.**



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Laura Vines, First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper
Lorri McGuire, Director of Children & Family, lmcguire@decaturfumc.org Sandy Callahan, Food Manager
Wayne Keller, Accompanist

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**

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

**July 5 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
"How Good News Spreads" Mark 6: 1 - 13**

**July 12 - Dr. Hughey Reynolds, preaching
"Telling the Truth" Mark 6: 14 - 29**

Scheduled To Serve July 5

Acolytes:

8:45 a.m. - No Acolyte Scheduled

11:00 a.m. - Lydia Matthews & Aiden Garriss and Crucifer will be Nelson Earley

Greeters:

8:45 - Jim & Gail Herren, Dean Turney

11:00 - Larry & Leslie Weaver, Charles Adams

Ushers:

8:45 - Ronnie Dukes, Mike Boozer, Michael Boozer, Jolly McKenzie

11:00 - Mark Maloney, Greg Clemons, Ken Chandler, Jim Milner, Judson Davis

**WORSHIP AT POINT MALLARD
CHAPEL - Led by our UM Men
Began May 31 & will continue
through August 23 - 8:45 a.m.
Help us spread the word!**

Option Available for E-Newsletter

If you would rather receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send an e-mail to Alyson at aquinn@decaturfumc.org indicating this preference. You will help us save paper and postage. We have over 110 subscribers so far!