

How Will You Grow This Year?

Happy New Year!

All of 2018 lies before you.

What next steps in discipleship will you take this year?

“Same as last year” is not an option if you plan to grow as a disciple.

Keep doing what you have always done and you will keep on getting what you always got.

“Since I’ve confessed my faith in Jesus Christ won’t I go to heaven when I die? What else is there?”

Answer: “If you’ve lived your confession, yes. Jesus: *“Why call me ‘Lord’ if you don’t do what I say?”*”

Do you know all Jesus said? Study a chapter in the Gospels daily until you do. ¹ You’ll finish by Easter.

Are you doing what you know already? *“Love God with all your being and your neighbor as yourself!”*

If so, you are in heaven or have attained perfection. Pray for us sinners because we still struggle.

If you’re not doing all you know, who will you ask to hold you accountable on a weekly basis? ²
Have you joined the church yet? Members promise God and others we will support the church by:

- Our prayers: ACTS is a good pattern—adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. ³
- Our presence: Aim to attend worship weekly. Being fully present is the greater discipline. ⁴
- Our gifts: A tithe is the biblical standard. A growing disciple makes tithing a priority. ⁵
- Our service: Jesus said, *“I am among you as one who serves.”* Disciples serve others. ⁶
- Our witness: We are witnesses. Does your witness convince others you know him? ⁷

So far I have named seven spiritual disciplines (see footnotes below). These are faith practices by which we grow in our knowledge of, love for, and commitment to Jesus Christ. During the early months of 2018, **Patrick Finley**, our new minister of discipleship and youth, and I will enlist and convene a study team to define more fully what our church means by discipleship and what processes effectively produce growth in discipleship. Until we finish that study and publish the results, the practices described here provide us with 1) an assessment by which you may determine your growing edges as a disciple and 2) a set of stepping stones marking the path toward personal growth as a Christ follower. Let’s commit ourselves to God and to each other as we start out on this amazing journey of growth in Christlikeness.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hughley".

¹ Spiritual discipline #1: Daily scripture reading. After the Gospels, read in the Old Testament and Epistles daily.

² Spiritual discipline #2: Ask a friend who is also seeking to grow as a disciple to be your accountability partner.

³ Spiritual discipline #3: Daily prayer that includes but is much more than requests; it is quality time with God.

⁴ Spiritual discipline #4: Church attendance and being both self-aware and socially aware when with others.

⁵ Spiritual discipline #5: Faithful financial stewardship helps the giver as much as the church supported by it.

⁶ Spiritual discipline #6: Service includes individual acts of self-giving and volunteering time to help lead the church.

⁷ Spiritual discipline #7: The Greek word for “witness” is martyr. Martyrs shared their faith in spite of opposition.

Women's Bible Study

Ladies, Interested in growing in your faith and understanding of God's relationship to us? Want to build friendships with an awesome group of women? We welcome all ladies to our Tuesday morning studies and discussions of books written by outstanding Christian writers. We begin our first class Tuesday, January 9th at 10:00 in the Conference Conf. room off the welcome center. We will be studying Phillip Yancey's book *Disappointment with God*.

If you have questions, email or call Peggy Black at 256-616-5373 or peggy.black@hotmail.com

Coming in January—Membership Class on Wednesday Evenings

Our pastor will lead a five session class titled *Following Jesus as a United Methodist Christian* as one of the Wednesday evening class offerings beginning January 10. The class will conclude February 7. The class is designed as an orientation for anyone who is new to the United Methodist Church or Decatur First and as a refresher course for longtime members. It will cover our Biblical story, what we share in common with and how we differ from other denominations, our beliefs and commitment to service, worship, and holy living as well as the five year ministry plan of Decatur First UMC. If you have not yet joined or have recently joined our church, please consider attending this class.

First Fellowship Resumes Wednesday, Jan. 10 Meal at 5:00 and Small Groups at 6:00

First Fellowship is our Wednesday night ministry. Dinner is served from 5:00-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Children's ministries start at 5:30 and youth ministries start at 6:00. We have several Adult Small Group options for this semester!

Menu for Jan. 10: Poppyseed Chicken Casserole with Rice, Green Beans, Jello Salad, Salad Bar, PB&J and Cheese Sandwiches, Brownies.

- **Charles Boling's *Mayberry Bible Study*, a repeat of the popular class he taught during the fall/winter session. Seekers, Room 354, New Wing**
- ***Young Women's Bible Study*, led by Weety Vickery and Sandy Reynolds, Location TBA**
- ***Wired Word*, a class that discusses current events and the Christian response to these events based on Scripture. Ken Chandler, Ronnie Dukes, Norman Roby, Jim Ridgeway, and Steve Armstrong will share duties as the facilitators of this class. Location TBA**
- ***Flower Arranging*, led by Stefanie Underwood, Fellowship Hall**
- ***Following Jesus as a United Methodist Christian*, led by Hughey Reynolds. This class will meet 1/10 - 2/6. Minister's Conf. Room**
- ***Lenten Study, He Set His Face To Jerusalem*, led by Hughey Reynolds. This class will meet 2/28 - 3/27. Minister's Conf. Room**
- ***Study of Paul's Letter to the Philippians*, led by Hughey Reynolds, from 4/3 - 4-24. Minister's Conf. Room**
- ***Choir Practice, Youth and Children's classes* will also meet during this time.**

United Methodist Men

- **The UMM Weekly Bible Study will resume on Thursday, Jan. 11 at 6:30 a.m. in the Minister's Conf. Room, New 3rd Floor**
- **UMM Breakfast at City Café, 7:30 a.m. each Thursday**
- **All men are invited to breakfast on Jan. 14 in the Fellowship Hall at 7:45 a.m. Breakfast is \$5 per person.**



Church Prayer List January 3 Edition

Jean Elliott's brother, the Rev. Robert Smith, died on Christmas Eve. He was formally a chaplain in the state of Alabama prison system. He was 83 years old. Please be in prayer for Jean, Franklin, and their family.

Please continue to be in prayer for Noel and Barney Lovelace as they recover from a Christmas Day fire that heavily damaged their home.

Libby Sims Patrick, daughter of Bill and Betty Sims

Justin Kirk, grandson-in-law of Marguerite & Scott Stone

Clyde Sasser

Barbara Agee

Judy Coon

Alice Ackley

LaVerne Dollahite

Jean Elliott

Dot Oliver

Marian Sittason

Deborah Stewart

Katherine Johnson

Ronald Matthews

Unspoken

Ann McClure, grandmother to Daryenne Eads

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.

Flowers on Sunday

Flower dedications are available for January 7, 14, and 28. Please email aquinn@decaturfumc.org for more information or call the church office at 256-355-0277.

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 190 subscribers so far!

Rejoice
IN THE Lord ALWAYS.
I WILL SAY IT AGAIN:
Rejoice!
-PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Your News Wanted

Please let the church office staff know about news that happens to you. Did you just become a grandparent? Did your child just win an award in school? Is your community group planning something special? Include anything you'd like to share with your church family. Shared joy is multiplied. What would you like to see in this newsletter? Write it down and submit it before Tuesdays at 3:00. If you choose to email, use address aquinn@decaturfumc.org. Thanks!



UMW Circle Meetings

- Monday, January 8, UMW Tidwell Circle meets in Courtyard Conference Room at 10:00 a.m. with hostess Faye Irby.
- Tuesday, January 9, UMW Lydia Circle meets at Diane Summerlin's home at 10:00 a.m. Her address is 1503 Fairway Drive S.E., Decatur.



Save the Date
Women's Retreat at
Camp Sumatanga
March 2, 3, and 4, 2018

First Church Children's Ministry

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

Children's Wednesday Night First Fellowship Resumes January 10



256-355-5555

Elementary

5:30 -Elementary Choir 6:00-7:00- Bible Story and Lesson

Pre- School

6:00- Pre-School Choir 6:20-7:00 -Bible Story and Lesson

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Jan. 7th – Mary Emma Harper, LuLu Underwood &
John Benton Claborn

Jan. 14th – Lydia Matthews & Hunter Claborn

Jan. 21st – Miller Roberts & Davis Roberts

Jan. 28th – LuLu Underwood & Bristol Rayne Teal



Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Jan. 7th

Sunday School 9:00am

Pre-school Room #215 Leigh Ann Blankenship
Assistant- TBA

K – 2nd grade Room #207 Mary Ila Ward
Assistant- TBA

3rd-5th Grade- - Room #306 Betty Ann Mitchum
Assistant – Viva Teal

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers- Alexia Claborn & TBA

Volunteers for Sunday, Jan. 14th

Sunday School 9:00am

Pre-school Room #215 Carrie Hart
Assistant- TBA

K – 2nd grade Room #207 Calley Ondocsin
Assistant- TBA

3rd-5th Grade - Room #306 Betty Ann Mitchum
Assistant – Viva Teal

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers– TBA

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





Memory Café

**A free casual time to enjoy fellowship,
refreshments, crafts, and games
for people with memory issues
and their care partners
beginning January 11, 2018**



First United
Methodist
Church

**Decatur First United Methodist Church
805 Canal Street NE, Decatur, Alabama
2nd & 4th Thursdays***

1:00 - 2:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

For more information contact Diane Summerlin

diane.summerlin1970@gmail.com

Church Office: 256.355.0277

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 10:00 a.m.,
Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room

Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6:00 p.m.,
Administrative Board Meeting, Minister's Conf. Room

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 5:00 p.m.,
First Fellowship Meal and Activities

Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice

Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:30 a.m.
UMM Bible Study Resumes - Minister's Conf. Room

Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 a.m.
UMM Breakfast at City Cafe

Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 a.m.
Sr. High Prayer Breakfast, Chick-fil-A on Beltline

Thursday, Jan. 11, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Memory Cafe, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, Jan. 11, 5:00 p.m.
Trustees Meeting, Courtyard Conf. room

Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:00 p.m.
GIC Team Meeting, Minister's Conf. room



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Please place label here

Hughey Reynolds, Senior Minister, hreynolds@decaturfumc.org
Tommy Davis, Music Director
Cindy McCulloch, Finance Secretary, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org
Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org
Alexia Claborn, Director of Children's Ministry, aclaborn@decaturfumc.org

Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper
Daryenne Eads, First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org
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, Jan. 7 - 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
"Reboot to Erase Errors"
Mark 1: 4-11
Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Sunday, Jan. 14 - Only one service at 10:00 a.m.
"Called to Grow Up"
1 Samuel 3: 1-20
Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Scheduled To Serve Jan. 7

Acolyte:
10:00 a.m. - Mary Emma Harper, LuLu Underwood,
John Benton Claborn

Ushers:
10:00 a.m. - Ken Chandler, John Alderman, Charles Taylor, Charles Adams, Ken House

Opening and Closing:
Ken Chandler and Ronnie Dukes

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