

Have You Heard? It Is Almost Time...

The Decatur First United Methodist Church Women's Retreat is right around the corner! You can feel the excitement growing in the church about this year's retreat. Registrations are already coming in. You will have opportunities to learn and grow, get to know the women of DFUMC, hike, read and rock in the rocking chairs, walk the labyrinth, participate in a yoga experience with Mollie Erickson, and of course snack on the goodies shared by the ladies attending the retreat!

Our facilitator for the retreat will be Rev. Sheri Ferguson. Many of you remember Sheri from our retreat in October 2016. Sheri currently serves as Conference Ministry Health Coordinator in the Office of Ordained Ministry. Please pray for Sheri as she prepares to lead us at our retreat.

Who is invited? All the women of the church. This is a great opportunity for us to get to know each other better and grow in our faith together.

What is the retreat about? Our focus this year is faith. What is faith? Where does our faith come from? What/who do you put your faith in? What do you do when someone disappoints you? How do you teach your children and grandchildren about faith?

When is the retreat? The Decatur FUMC retreat will be Friday, March 2 through Sunday morning, March 4, 2018. The retreat will begin with registration at 5:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. Our Friday night program will begin at 7:15 p.m. After the program we can play games, talk, snack, or turn in early! Our retreat will end on Sunday morning with a short meditation and communion.

Where will the retreat be held? The retreat will be held at Camp Sumatanga in Gallant, AL. We will stay in the Retreat Center. Rooms include two double beds, private bath, linens, and towels. You may want to bring your own pillow and toiletries. You may request a roommate for the retreat. Make sure that your roommate requests you, too! A \$40.00 deposit is required by February 14th. Make your check pay-



able to Decatur FUMC, earmarked for the 2018 Women's Retreat. Please turn in the deposit along with your Registration Form to the church office or to Donna McAnnally or Karen Taylor.

What can you do?

To the men of our church, we ask that you pray for the women of our church. For your wives, mothers, sisters, aunts, cousins, teachers, friends...even women that you don't know personally. Pray for the women who aren't able to attend. Pray for our church.

If you are a father, encourage your spouse to attend this retreat. Assure her that you will gladly take excellent care of the children to enable her to experience this opportunity for spiritual renewal.

To the women of our church, we want you to attend the retreat! Pray for each other. Pray for those not able to attend. Pray for our church. Pray for your husbands and sons and brothers who so lovingly and graciously will be at home taking care of the children so their wives and daughters can take this opportunity to grow in their spiritual lives and be refreshed in His spirit!

Questions? If you have questions, please contact any member of the 2018 Retreat Committee. They are Donna McAnnally, Betty Ann Mitchum, Calley Ondocsin, Karen Taylor, Anna Oletti, and Sandy Reynolds. Registration Forms may be picked up in the Welcome Center at the church.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the retreat!

Sandy Reynolds

What Is WinGS?

By now you have probably heard about **WinGS**, a new concept in Women's Ministry for our church. WinGS stands for **Women in God's Service** and is designed to include all of the outreach, mission, and study groups in which women are active. Plans are also underway to expand opportunities for fellowship, outreach, and learning.

Are you a member of WinGS? Yes, all women who are affiliated with FUMC belong to WinGS. You will receive a survey today and it is the hope of the WinGS team that you will take a moment to fill it out and leave it on the pew after the service. Additional surveys are located on the WinGS table in the Courtyard Office area. Thank you!

The WinGS Ladies' Lunch Break has been postponed until a later date.



Sympathy and Funeral Arrangements

Please be in prayer for **Mary Jane Sasser** and family as **Clyde Sasser** has passed away. The funeral for Clyde will be here in the FUMC sanctuary on Monday, Feb. 5 at 12:30 with visitation at 10:30 in the church parlor. Please keep Mary Jane and the whole family in your prayers during this time.

Hello from Patrick Finley

I can't tell you how excited I am to serve at First Decatur and connect with the mission of Christ in the local church. I feel God calls each of us to go out in our neighborhoods and connect to those that live directly around us and I want to see others live that out in their daily lives. I look forward to working with the youth and also developing a discipleship culture in the church as people grow in their relationship with Christ and connect within their communities. I am very close to completing my Master of Divinity and have served in the local church in Alabama and California. I live near Point Mallard and enjoy fishing, cycling, and hanging with my yellow lab, Lucy. I look forward to getting to know you!



Patrick Finley

Minister of Discipleship and Youth

Church Prayer List January 31 Edition

Death of Frances Helen Sampson, mother to Debby Crowell

Death of Dorothy Stewart, mother to David Stewart

Death of Sarah James, sister to Lou Ann Corazzari

Libby Sims Patrick, daughter of Bill and Betty Sims

Barbara Agee

Corky Martin

Judy Coon

Alice Ackley

LaVerne Dollahite

Jean Elliott

Dot Oliver

Marian Sittason

Deborah Stewart

Katherine Johnson

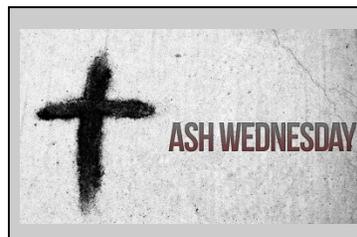
Ronald Matthews

Unspoken

Jeff Crosswhite

Boston Butt Information

Due to some scheduling conflicts, the Boston Butt sale has been extended through February 11th and pick-up will be on February 18th. Please see Patrick Finley or one of the youth to order.



Our Ash Wednesday service will be on February 14 at 6:00 p.m.

UPDATE ON 2017 FIRST CHURCH FINANCES

We thank God for members and friends who helped our church meet all its 2017 stewardship goals. For the sixth straight year we had no Ministry Budget deficit. Towards an \$809,000 budget, offerings totaled \$822,416. With attention to spending and savings due to staff vacancies, outlays were under budget resulting in a year end carryover which goes to a reserve for critical or emergency non-budgeted needs going forward. Our reserve now equals about two month's worth of expenses. We thank everyone who helped with this remarkably good effort in 2017.

Your church entered 2017 owing \$1,217,057 on the \$4.4 million 2006-2008 building and renovation program. Our goal was to end the year under \$1 million. Offerings to the "Answering God's Challenge" three year campaign, to "First Fruits," and to other prepaid offerings to the new, five year "Building Believers" campaign allowed principal payments of \$303,956. We met and exceeded the under \$1 million goal and entered the New Year with debt of \$913,100. We praise God and thank everyone for this remarkably good effort in 2017.

Your Finance Committee adopted and your Administrative Board approved a prudent 2018 Ministry Budget of \$788,038. The fall stewardship campaign led 134 members or families to pledge \$611,540 towards this year's budget. With those pledges and unpledged offerings we are comfortable in believing our congregation will continue to support First Church's budget needs in 2018. We thank all members and friends for pledged and non-pledged offerings to the work of the Lord through your church in the New Year.

The "Building Believers" five year campaign led 104 members or families to pledge \$875,475 to help make First Church debt free by 2022. That will be a glorious day. We thank all members and friends for pledged and non-pledged offerings to pay in full for the marvelous renovations and expansion we enjoy every time we come through the doors of our historic church.

A generation ago First Church took pride in being a mission oriented church. In the late 1980's our church was giving \$14,000 yearly to missions out of a budget of just over \$200,000. When budget spending exceeded \$1 million a few years ago, missions emphasis was down to \$6,000 a year. In 2017 members and friends gave \$75,759 to our Faith Promise commitment. When combined with missions supported through our conference apportionments, we are now committing over \$125,000 a year to mission causes across the street and around the world. We thank all members and friends for pledged and non-pledged offerings to Faith Promise.

Remember that stewardship involves time, talents, attendance, and witness as well as sharing God's bounty with the work of God through First Church. We wish all members and friends a good 2018 and ask that you include your church in your daily prayer life as well as your giving plans.

Respectfully,

Your Finance Committee

Drew Ward, Chair

Austinville Backpack Ministry

Look at what you did!
Thank you so much for helping us fill these 22 boxes at Christmas time to share with our Backpack Buddies at Austinville! God blessed these children and their families through your generosity! Thank you too for your prayers for these children - we want to fill their hearts with Christ's love as well as fill their tummies. Thank you for ALL you do! Sincerely, *Jan Dean*



Maloney Rotary Reception Invitation to DFUMC

The Rotary Clubs in Decatur and the City are hosting a **reception at Ingalls Harbor Pavilion on February 6 from 4:00 -6:00 p.m.** for Gay and Mark Maloney in recognition of the selection to serve as the President of Rotary International. Gay and Mark would very much like for their friends at First Church to join them for this celebration.



Finance Meeting Date & Time Change

- **Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 5:00 p.m.**
- **Room 351, New 3rd Floor**

Joanne Wheat's 90th Birthday Celebration Sunday, Feb 11, 2018 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.



Where? Simp McGhee's / 725 Bank St. NE

Given by family
Regrets 256-565-5652

Thank you so much for your help in making Joanne's day a special one.

Sincerely,

Christy and John Wheat

Next Memory Café Is February 8

What? A place for folks throughout our community with memory issues and their caregivers to enjoy fun activities. Devotions, singing, refreshments, games, and crafts will be planned. No charge to attend.

When? Began January 11 from 1:00 - 2:30 and 2nd and 4th Thursdays thereafter.

Where? In the Fellowship Hall

How can you help? Sign up to be a host/hostess: Assist with planning and organization. Lead the sessions.

Sign up to be a volunteer: Sit with participants and participate in activities, pass out refreshments.

Please call Diane Summerlin at 256-654-9401 or Dell Ward at 256-227-0956 to sign up.

Hospice of the Valley Orientation

We will be having a Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, March 1 in the Toray room. This is will be at our office located at 240 Johnston St. SE in Decatur. Please tell anyone you think that might be interested about the training. This will begin at 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please email Debbie McGregor dmcgregor@hospiceofthevalley.net or phone at 256-350-5585.



**Global Impact
Celebration 2018
February 22 - 25
Booklets available**

Church Cookbooks

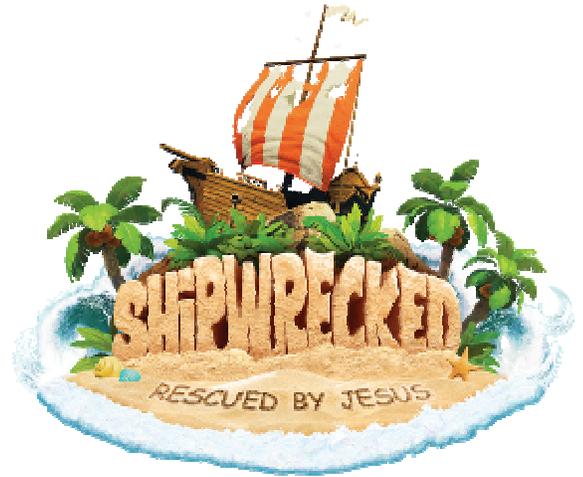
We have church cookbooks for sale in the church office for \$5.00. These make great gifts!



Save the Date! Vacation Bible School June 11th – 14th

We're already in planning mode for Vacation Bible School here at FUMC. It's our favorite week of the year, and this year it will be June 11-14, so save the date to get Shipwrecked - and saved! - with us. We're also asking for snack donations because being shipwrecked works up quite the appetite for all the kids ...

- Goldfish COLORS Crackers
- Skittles
- Snack Pack Brand Vanilla Pudding Cups
- Swedish Fish
- Clear 5 oz. Plastic Cups
- White Plastic Spoons
- Wooden Clothespins
- Small Rubber Bands
- Colorful Drinking Straws
- Sheets of Heart Stickers
- Packages of 5"x11" Clear Plastic Bags



Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Feb. 4th

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- Anna Oletti & Mary Malone

Volunteers for Sunday, Feb. 11th

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- Calley Ondocsin & Mary Ila Ward

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

256-355-5555



Children's Choir

Our children will be singing on Feb. 22nd for the GIC opening service at 6:00 p.m.



Children's Wednesday Night First Fellowship

Elementary

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

Pre- School

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

Acolyte Schedule

Feb. 4th - Lydia Matthews & Hunter Claborn

Feb. 11th - Christopher Reavis & Beau Claborn

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 4 at 11:00 a.m.
Discipleship Team Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room

Sunday, Feb. 4 at 6:00 p.m.
UMYF

Ladies' WinGS Luncheon (details this newsletter)
Monday, Feb. 5 at Noon, Fellowship Hall

Monday, Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m.
Worship Planning Team, Courtyard Conf. Room

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 10:00 a.m.,
Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room

Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.,
Trowler's Garden Club, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5:00 p.m.,
First Fellowship Meal and Activities

Wednesday, Feb. 7, 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice

Thursday, Feb. 8, 6:30 a.m.
UMM Bible Study Resumes - Minister's Conf. Room

Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:30 a.m.
UMM Breakfast at City Cafe

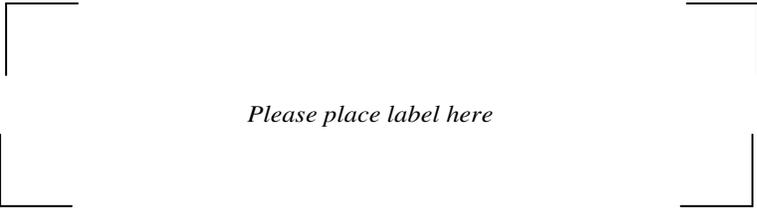
Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 a.m.
Sr. High Prayer Breakfast, Chick-fil-A on Beltline

Thursday, Feb. 8, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Memory Cafe, Fellowship Hall



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Patrick Finley, Minister of Discipleship & Youth,
pfinley@decaturfumc.org

Tommy Davis, Music Director

Daryenne Eads, First Grace Director, firstgrace@decaturfumc.org

Cindy McCulloch, Finance Secretary, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org

Wayne Keller, Accompanist

Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org

Ruth Moyers, Organist

Alexia Claborn, Director of Children's Ministry, aclaborn@decaturfumc.org

Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper

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, Feb. 4 - Only one service at 10:00 a.m.
"The Reason to Keep Going"

Mark 1: 29-39

Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Sunday, Feb. 11 - Only one service at 10:00 a.m.
"Glory Now and Then"

Mark 9: 2-9

Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Scheduled To Serve Feb. 4

Acolyte:

10:00 a.m. - Lydia Matthews & Hunter Claborn

Ushers:

10:00 a.m. - Ken Chandler, Jolly McKenzie,
Steve Armstrong, Mike and Michael Boozer

First Fellowship Wednesday Night

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 Feb. 7: Catered from Caddo Cafeteria:
Baked Ham, Pineapple Casserole, Scalloped Potatoes, Rolls, Salad Bar, Ice Cream Sandwich**

**Money Desk for Feb. 7: Tom and Mary Earley
Cleanup for Feb. 7: Charles Ashwander, Mike and Drew Ward**