



Tidings of Joy

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

April 11, 2018

“A Very, Very, Very Fine House”

Sandy and I wish to thank the church, both the elected committee members and volunteers, who rolled up your sleeves to make great improvements at the church parsonage. We look forward to hosting an open house soon to celebrate with you and our neighbors. Here are a few of the improvements:

A major kitchen renovation, planned over many months by the parsonage committee, began last November and was completed recently. We have new cabinets, including a new center island, new countertops, new lighting, a new refrigerator-freezer, new flooring in the kitchen and dining room, and a wall removed between the kitchen and breakfast nook. It is fabulous, and we love cooking, eating, even cleaning, and hanging out in our kitchen. We can hardly wait to show it to you.

The landscape around the parsonage is being refurbished. Shrubs that had grown together over time have been trimmed back as separate plants and some plants have been removed. New mulch has been added around trees and shrubs. Volunteers showed up with gloves, trimmers, saws, blades, rakes, shovels, and enthusiasm on Saturday, April 7. Another workday is slated for this Saturday, April 14.

The church also replaced the downstairs HVAC unit at the parsonage. Here's why. Critters ate through flexible ductwork under the house. At least two critters got in and died. That means our first clue of a problem was the odor. We consulted the exterminator and the HVAC folks who agreed a deceased animal was in the ductwork. The HVAC technicians found a hole the critters had made and found a gas leak in the heating unit. The odor of the decaying animals made us pay attention to a problem that could

have had worse consequences—carbon monoxide poisoning or an explosion. The Trustees requested, and the Finance provided, funding to replace the gas heating unit and replace all the flexible ductwork underneath the house with metal ducts. Thank God the parsonage has a fireplace! The temperatures were in the 30s a few of the mornings we were without central heat. I'm happy to report that all the HVAC work was done yesterday. The house is once again very cozy.

The primary purpose of the church is not property acquisition or maintenance. In recent months, however, we have invested a lot of the church's resources to replace HVAC units at the church and parsonage, making other repairs, and in purchasing two minibuses. What this has to do with making and growing disciples of Jesus Christ, which is the primary purpose of the church, is up to us to prove. The material assets we have in the church are not ends in themselves but means for advancing the Gospel: a comfortable and well-maintained home for your pastor's wife and pastor who lead us in doing ministry together; a comfortable sanctuary for God's people to worship and pray and for the Gospel to be proclaimed in word and song; safe and reliable transportation so church groups can go places for service, learning, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Let's agree that the investments we have made in the physical and material resources of the church are good and pleasing to the Lord. Let's also agree to take full advantage of these resources for accomplishing God's purposes and therefore glorifying God.

Yours in Christ,

Hughey

Church Prayer List April 11 Edition

Katherine Johnson died on April 3. Her funeral was held here at FUMC on April 5. Please keep Garry and their daughters in your prayers.

Jene Goodger died on April 3. A Memorial Service will be scheduled for a later date. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Judith Mixon died on April 3. Her funeral was held here at FUMC on April 7. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Becky House, recovery from broken leg

Mike Schubert, recovery from heart bypass surgery

Margaret-Anne Crumlish, daughter of Shirley and George McCrary, undergoing cancer treatment at M.D. Anderson in Houston, TX

Marion Spivey has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Marion is a friend of Betty Ann Mitchum.

Dick Williams, at home recovering from fractured femur

Libby Sims Patrick, daughter of Bill and Betty Sims

Judy Coon	Alice Ackley
LaVerne Dollahite	Deborah Stewart
Dot Oliver	Marian Sittason
Ronald Matthews	Kerry Hawkins
Unspoken	Leah Norman

New Member

Let's welcome **Sandra Kelley** to First Church! Sandra transfers to us from First Baptist Church of Haleyville, AL. She resides at 305 Courtney Drive SW, Apt. 811, Decatur, AL 35603 and her phone number is 256-566 5550. Welcome!



Parsonage Workday

There will be an additional workday at the Parsonage (1404 Regency Blvd SE, Decatur) this Saturday, April 14, weather permitting. There will be pruning and spreading mulch in beds. About two thirds of the required work was accomplished last Saturday so the remainder of work should only take about four hours if we have at least five people there. We will start at 8:30 a.m. If you have powered hedgers or pole saws, please bring them with you.

Ken Chandler & Bert Pippen



Save the Date!

**Let's Honor Burl and Dot Oliver
70 Years in Ministry
Sunday, April 29
Fellowship Hall
Covered Dish Luncheon
Following 10:00 Service**

Hilltoppers

Hilltoppers will travel to Oh! Bryan's in Hartselle for lunch and then to the Oakville Indian Mounds/Museum for a guided tour on Thursday, April 19. Our guide will get on our bus to go to the Indian Mounds and we will not need to get off the bus. The Museum has plenty of seating for listening to guide before looking around. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m., eat at 11, visit Museum at 12:30, and return to church around 2:30. (We are eating first because the Museum staff is helping with Special Olympics during the morning hours.) Cost is \$5.00 per person plus your lunch cost.

Signup sheet is on bulletin board or email Kathy Archer at archk1@bellsouth.net or call Kathy at (256) 412-8520.



Next Memory Café Is April 26

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? 2nd and 4th Thursdays

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



DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY

TO SEE AND HEAR

BETH MOORE!!!

\$59.00

REGISTER BY **APRIL 29**
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

DECATUR FUMC
On the "For" line, write Beth Moore.

The group from our church will travel to Huntsville together for the day so...

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

Place your check in the offering plate, mail it or turn in to the church office.

For more information contact
Betty Ann Mitchum (256) 353-6025

Notecards

The Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study are selling notecards with a drawing of Decatur First United Methodist Church on the front. The price for a package of ten with envelopes is \$5.00. Proceeds from the sale will be used to benefit WinGS, Women in God's Service, a new women's service/learning organization here at DFUMC. The cards can be found in the volunteer office as you enter from Lafayette Street. Please help support the outreach and growth of WinGS by your purchase. Thank you.



11th Annual

*Steeple Chase 8K and
1 Mile Fun Run*

*Proceeds benefit Neighborhood
Christian Center*

Saturday May 5, 2018

7:00AM start time

Pre-register online at
imathlete.com and day of
registration from 6:00AM-6:45AM
at NCC, 619 Bank ST
Decatur, AL

This race is one of North Alabama's most unique opportunities for runners!



Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, April 15

Sunday School 9:00am

Pre-school Room #215
Jessica Mitchell / Assistant - TBA

K - 2nd grade Room #207
Diane Summerlin / Assistant - TBA

3rd-5th Grade- Room #306
Jennie Roberts / Assistant - TBA

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers-
Davia Newman & Anna Oletti

Volunteers for Sunday, April 22

Sunday School 9:00am

Pre-school Room #215
Katie Caldwell / Assistant- TBA

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

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

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers-
Calley Ondocsin & Alexia Claborn

5th Annual Birthday Bag Celebration Wednesday, April 25 during First Fellowship

Birthday Cake will be served!

To benefit families through
Committee on Church Cooperation (CCC)
Neighborhood Christian Center (NCC)
Austinville Elem. Backpacks

We are asking our church families to help make other's lives a little happier by collecting the following items. This year our Children will assemble the bags so please bring the items in a grocery bag and we will do the rest!

- **Cake mix**
- **Can of frosting**
- **Candles**
- **Party napkins (a package with a minimum of 8)**
- **Party cake plates (a package with a minimum of 8)**
- **Party table cloth**
- **Party Cups (8)**

Please drop the items off for the bags to Alexia's office, or outside the Fellowship Hall in the green tubs. We will need them by April 25.

Our goal is to make 90 bags to provide an instant birthday celebration for children/youth/adults who sometimes don't know where their next meal will come from. If you have any questions please contact Alexia Claborn, 256-606-8646.



Dates to Remember:

May 13th - Muffins with Mom during the Sunday School hour
May 20th - "Pop" into Summer Party during Sunday School Hour
June 11th -14th - VBS 9:00 a.m. - Noon
June 17th- Donuts with Dad during the Sunday School hour



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. It takes a lot of time, energy, and donations to Shipwreck all of our VBS attendees. If you don't have the time to volunteer, please consider donating! **You'll find all that we need listed on the donation board, located right outside the Fellowship Hall.** Most items are under \$20! If you can, grab a bottle off the board, and provide that donation to help make this our best VBS yet.

We will be holding a VBS training Sunday, April 22nd, immediately following the 10 a.m. service. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.



Children's Wednesday Night First Fellowship

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

April 15th - Bristol Rayne Teal & Mary Emma Harper

April 22nd - LuLu Underwood & John Benton Claborn

Youth News

Sunday Morning – April 15th

We will gather for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and discuss the passage that Hughey will cover at the 10:00 a.m. Service. If you are rushed and do not have time to feed your student, don't worry - we'll have doughnuts.



Sunday Night – April 15th

Dinner at Mi Hacienda at 6:00 p.m. (We will meet there)

Monday Morning Devotional on Instagram Live (ignite FUMC) April 16th – 7:00 a.m.

At 7:00 a.m. via the student ministry Instagram account, ignite_FUMC. The devotional are around 15 minutes and will continue every Monday until the end of the school year. Anyone is welcome to watch!

Wednesday Night – April 18th – Youth (6PM – 7PM)

Sunday Morning – April 15th

We will gather for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and discuss the passage that Hughey will cover at the 10:00 a.m. Service. If you are rushed and do not have time to feed your student, don't worry we'll have doughnuts.

Sunday Night - April 22nd

Youth gathering at the church 6PM – 7 PM

Monday Morning Devotional on Instagram Live (ignite FUMC) April 23rd – 7am

At 7:00 a.m. via the student ministry Instagram account, ignite_FUMC. The devotional are around 15 minutes and will continue every Monday until the end of the school year. Anyone is welcome to watch!

Wednesday Night – April 25th – Youth (6PM – 7PM)

We will celebrate our seniors and share a pizza meal together as it will be the last Wednesday gathering of the school year

Thanks,

Patrick Finley Pastor of Discipleship and Youth

256.355.0277 (Office) 205.515.3615 (Cell) pfinley@decaturfumc.org

Partnership with the Center for Youth Ministry Training

SPRC is pleased to announce that our church has begun a partnership with the Center for Youth Ministry Training (CYMT). CYMT, affiliated with Memphis Theological Seminary, equips youth ministers and churches to develop effective youth ministers. Through this partnership, our church will receive a graduate resident youth worker. The resident, vetted by CYMT and selected by church members, will serve our church over a three year period beginning this summer. **Patrick Finley** will mentor our resident and continue to be active with youth of our church. One of our church's responsibilities is to provide housing for the resident. If you know of suitable housing (garage apartment, duplex, apartment) please contact **Jeff Earley** at 256-822-4673, **Diane Summerlin** at 256-654-9401, or **Becky House** at 256-227-8282.

Thank You!

Thank you for allowing us to decorate our beautiful sanctuary to celebrate the rising of our Lord and Savior. We absolutely have more fun and we welcome anyone to join us. We always decorate 9:00 a.m. the Saturday before Easter. The only skills required are an open mind and the ability to vacuum. Please mark your calendars and join us next year! This year the following ladies all played a part in creating the flowers for Easter Sunday:

Ashley Ashwander
Stephania Baggs
Nina Mae Blackburn
Louann Corazzari
Lisa Earley
Sherrie Paler

Beth Roberts
Elizabeth Royers
Connie Torbert
Lou Underwood
Leslie Weaver
Catherine Ann McConnaughay



I cannot thank these ladies enough for all they did. They are my sisters!

Love,

Stefanie Underwood

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 15, 11:00 a.m.
Discipleship Meeting, Courtyard Conf. Room

Sunday, April 15th 6:00 p.m.
UMYF Dinner at Mi Hacienda (We will meet there)

Tuesday, April 17, 10:00 a.m.,
Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room

First Fellowship April 18, meal starts at 5:00 p.m. with classes at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 18, 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice

Thursday, April 19, 6:30 a.m.
UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room

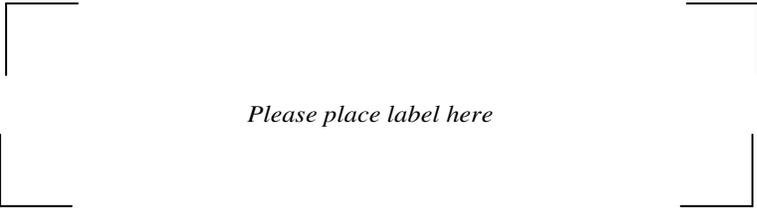
Thursday, April 19, 7:30 a.m.
UMM Breakfast at City Cafe

Thursday, April 19, leave from church at 10:30 a.m.
Hilltoppers Trip (details inside this newsletter)



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Hughey Reynolds, Sr. 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

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

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

Wayne Keller, Accompanist

Ruth Moyers, Organist

Melissa Wiley, Housekeeper

Upcoming Sunday 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, April 15 - Only one service at 10:00 a.m.

"No Such Thing As a Private Appearance"

Luke 24: 36b - 48

Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Sunday, April 22 - Only one service at 10:00 a.m.

"His Name Saves"

Acts 4: 5-13

Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Scheduled To Serve April 15

Acolytes:

10:00 - Bristol Rayne Teal & Mary Emma Harper

Ushers:

10:00 a.m. - Stan Davis, Bob McAnnally, Jack

Ozier, Jimmy Sykes, Ronnie Dukes

First Fellowship Wednesday Night April 18

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. **No reservations required!**

Meal Price: \$7.00 for ages 11 and up, \$2.00 for ages 3-10, Kids 2 & under eat free, \$18.00 Family max, \$6.00 salad bar, \$7.00 takeout

Menu for April 18: Breakfast for Supper: Breakfast Casserole, Cinnamon Rolls, Fruit Salad, Biscuits, Cheese Grits, Salad Bar, Orange Ice