



Tidings of Joy

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

April 25, 2018

“Let’s Communicate”

Having clear and open two-way communication is a worthy goal of any organization, but especially the church. After all, the Word of God was made flesh and lived among us in the person of Jesus Christ. As the Body of Christ on earth, the church is all about communication. So how are we communicating?

One improvement in communications requested by several folks has been implemented in the last week. You can now access the church calendar on our church website. Go to www.decaturfumc.org and click on the tab “what’s happening” and then on “current month calendar.” It will appear with all the activities that have been officially scheduled through Alyson in the church office. You can click on any event to find out time, location, and other details. While you are on the website, you should be able to quickly see what next week’s sermon topic is and what scripture is based on. You can click on the “see and hear” tab and find last Sunday’s sermon or last year’s sermons and any edition of the *Tidings of Joy* Newsletter from June of 2015 to the current issue.

The Facebook page for the church is www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC/. Go there to see current and upcoming activities, respond to posts, ask questions or provide clarification or information. Also, check out on Facebook the Urban Acre Community Garden updates at www.facebook.com/TheUrbanAcre/. It’s planting time for the spring and summer garden, so there’s a lot of activity on that site. You can also request to be added to the email group for The Urban Acre if you do not do social media. You can also keep up with the First Grace Child Development Center on Facebook at www.facebook.com/firstgracecdc/.

The *Tidings of Joy* Newsletter has been around for awhile and continues to be a communications tool that reaches people in the church who do not use a computer and those who do. It is published every other Wednesday. The email version is sent on the day of publication and volunteers fold and address paper copies on the day of publication, so they can be mailed that day. The deadline for submitting articles and announcements for the newsletter is Tuesday by 3:00 p.m.

The church bulletin is published weekly and distributed to worshippers prior to the service each Sunday. It contains the order of the worship service, some brief announcements about upcoming activities, and a listing of activities and events on the church calendar for the coming week. In addition to the printed bulletin, our lay leader Ken Chandler has enlisted a team of volunteers who welcome us each Sunday and make brief verbal announcements about important upcoming activities before the service begins.

At the time of prayer during worship, I invite any who have prayer requests to complete a prayer card to share those requests with the entire church for publication in the newsletter, or for the staff only to pray for on Mondays when we have our staff meeting.

I haven’t even mentioned text messaging and Groupme accounts through which some of our classes and groups communicate. All these are ways we are seeking to communicate within the church. All of them are helpful but none of them can match one on one conversation in person when we gather for worship or on the phone when we can’t attend.

Yours in Christ,

Hughey

Kenya Mission Opportunity



Several church members have expressed interest in a mission trip to Kenya to visit Michael Agwanda. His ministry is Life for Children. Michael was one of the missionaries who attended the Global Impact Celebration we had in February. Michael takes children (who are mostly without homes and living in the streets begging for food) and will find foster parents for them. By placing the children in foster homes, he not only minimizes the cost of helping the children but also provides them with loving homes to grow up in.

The trip will be in the September-November time frame. Michael said the mission trip would consist of a few days of work and a few days of sightseeing. I will contact Michael for more information and pass it along in the next week or so. As chairman of the Missions Committee, I am reaching out to see who may be interested in going on this mission trip. If you have an interest in going on this mission trip, please contact me to get your name on the list. There is no obligation at this time. We are just seeing how many may be interested. Additional details will follow.

Thank you,
Jack Ozier
jozier@willoproducts.com
256-642-1668

Save the Date!

***Let's Honor Burl and Dot Oliver
70 Years in Ministry
Sunday, April 29
Fellowship Hall
Covered Dish Luncheon (church will
provide the meat)
Following 10:00 Service***

Holy Land Tour March 4 - 13, 2019



- Information Meeting on Wednesday, May 2 at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

“Before you make your decision, you will want to have more information, review the itinerary, and have the opportunity to ask questions. Please attend this information meeting. Together we will review the highlights of the program and answer your questions.” Mark and Debbie Heard

New Member and Baptism

William Sellers Oletti, son of **Anna** and **A.J.**, was baptized on Sunday, April 22. He is the brother of **Reed** and **Louise Oletti**, grandson of **Keith** and **Bobbie Skelton** and great grandson of the late **Betty** and **Bob Harris** (all of this congregation) and grandson of **Geoff** and **Julie Oletti** of Atlanta, Georgia.

We are pleased to announce that **A.J. Oletti** joined our church rolls on Sunday, April 22 as a Profession of Faith. Welcome!



Austinville Elementary

Austinville Elementary is now participating in the Publix Partners program. You present this little green card when you check out and a certain percentage of the sales will be donated to Austinville Elementary. If you think you might be interested, please get your green card from me or in the Church Office. Thank you again for all you do to help!

Sincerely,
Jan Dean



Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, April 29

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 - TBA

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers-

Alexia Claborn & Mary Ila Ward

Volunteers for Sunday, May 6

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

TBA / Assistant - TBA

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers-

Jen Winkler & Ashley Ashwander

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

Vacation Bible School is 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.



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

Acolyte Schedule

April 29- Lydia Matthews & Hunter Claborn

256-355-5555



First Grace
Graduation will
be on Thurs-
day, May 10 at
6:00 p.m. in
the Fellowship
Hall



Jesus
loves me
THIS I know
for the BIBLE
tells ME SO

May UMM Sunday Breakfast



Our special guest speaker for the Sunday, May 13 UMM Breakfast is **Pamela Bolding** from the Neighborhood Christian Center. She will be accompanied by husband **Tim**. Pamela and Tim are First Church friends and together lead the close by Neighborhood Christian Center, one of Decatur most successful Christian outreach ministries. First Church supports the NCC through the GIC/Faith Promise missions offerings, and many FUMC folks volunteer and financially support the NCC as well.

Breakfast at \$5 per attendee will be served at 7:45 AM in the Wesley Fellowship Hall followed by a short UMM business meeting and Pamela's talk. All men who are members or friends of First Church are invited. Bring your spouse or other guest if you like. Other church members are welcomed to attend as well. Join us on Mother's Day for this Christian fellowship opportunity.

Bob McAnnally, UMM President

LIVING PROOF *live*
BETH MOORE
worship by **TRAVIS COTTRELL**
HUNTSVILLE, AL
SEPTEMBER 15, 2018
PROPOST ARENA AT THE VON BRAUN CENTER

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) 303-6205

Mountain Mania

15K and 5K

5:30 a.m. - Registration
7:00 a.m. - 15K starts



June 2, 2018

Burningtree Country Club
Decatur, Alabama

Always be joyful

**NEVER STOP
PRAYING**

*be thankful in all
circumstances*

1 THES 5:16

Youth News

It's hard to believe that we are right up against summer already. While we are thinking about vacation plans and enjoying the good weather that is hopefully around the corner, it is never too early to think about where and how to serve the church body in the fall. The area I would like to highlight this week is our youth program. Currently, we have three meeting points during the week in which the youth are engaged:

Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. If you have felt God calling you to serve or open up your home, I would love to talk with you about our upcoming plans for the youth at First Decatur. Please feel free to call me on my cell or send me an email. I look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks,

Patrick Finley Pastor of Discipleship and Youth
256.355.0277 (Office) 205.515.3615 (Cell) pfinley@decaturfumc.org



Next Memory Café Is May 10

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.

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.

Church Prayer List April 25 Edition

Bill Dunivant, recovery from pneumonia

Mike Schubert, recovery from heart bypass surgery

Becky House, recovery from broken leg

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

Eric and Laverne Armstrong

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

Dick Williams

Libby Sims Patrick, daughter of Bill and Betty Sims

Steven and Hilary Blakeley

Judy Coon

Alice Ackley

LaVerne Dollahite

Deborah Stewart

Dot Oliver

Marian Sittason

Jeff McCulloch

Kerry Hawkins

Ronald Matthews

Your News Wanted

Please let the church office staff know about news that happens to you. 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 e-mail, please use address aquinn@decaturfumc.org. Thanks!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 29, 11:00 a.m.
Oliver Reception, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.
UMYF

Tuesday, May 1, 10:00 a.m.,
Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room

Wednesday, May 2, 5:00 p.m.
Holy Land Trip Info Session, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, May 2, 5:00 p.m.
Philippians Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room

Wednesday, May 2, 6:00 p.m., Choir Practice

Thursday, May 3, 6:30 a.m.
UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room

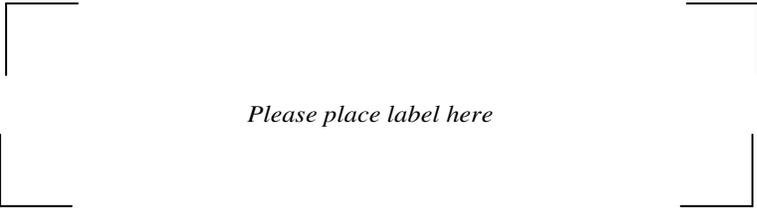
Thursday, May 3, 7:30 a.m.
UMM Breakfast at City Cafe



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Permit No. 226



Hughey Reynolds, Sr. Minister, hreynolds@decaturfumc.org **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 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 29 - Only one service at 10:00 a.m.
"Loving God through Meekness, Mercy, and Mission"
John 15: 1-8
Rev. Wylheme Ragland, preaching

Sunday, May 6 - Only one service at 10:00 a.m.
"I'm In for the Fruit"
John 15: 9-17
Rev. Hughey Reynolds, preaching

Scheduled To Serve April 29
Acolytes:
10:00 - Lydia Matthews & Hunter Claborn
Ushers:
10:00 a.m. - Billy Hudson, Sammy Dean, Mike Ward, Drew Ward, Jim Riant

First Fellowship Wednesday Night is over for the season.

