



Tidings of Joy

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

September 5, 2018

“Finding Mo Again”

If you are a sports fan, you know how difficult it is to regain momentum after it is gone. When you have it, everything seems to go your way. One success leads to another. Once you've lost it, the opposite happens. Failures follow failures. Just this week I watched an international tennis champion look like an amateur during the first game of a set because his opponent had the momentum. He was scoreless in the first game. After the break, he came out, won the first point, and built on that success to win that game and ultimately the match. (Tennis fans, I hope my game, set, and match terms are in order.)

Momentum works the same way in the church. Until the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples and gave them the boldness to proclaim the Crucified and Risen Lord as Savior of the world, Jesus' disciples were in a funk. The Lord keeps coming to them to teach and encourage them with the hope that the day and hour were coming when the power of God would fall upon them. When it did, nothing could stop the Christian Movement.

In the 1880s an Agnostic by the name of Robert Ingersoll wrote an article that American churches were in the process of dying and in one generation there would not be any of them left. A Methodist preacher and church planter named C.C. McCabe read the article while he was on a train. He got off and telegraphed Mr. Ingersoll, saying, “Dear Bob, in the Methodist church we're building a new church a day and we propose to make it two.” Word of this correspondence spread, and a song was written about it:

The infidels, a motley band, in council met and said,
"The churches are dying throughout the land, and soon they'll all be dead."
When suddenly a telegram came and caught them with dismay,
Reading, "All hail the power of Jesus' name, we're building two a day.
We're building two a day, dear Bob; we're building two a day!
All hail the power of Jesus' name, we're building two a day!"

The momentum of the Methodist movement continued through the post- World War II years into the 1960s. The Anti-establishment Movement of the 1960s and the divisions surrounding the Civil Rights Movement impacted the growth of the church. Methodist leaders were often on the right side of justice but not on the popular side. The last time the United Methodist Church saw an increase in membership and church attendance was before 1968.

Many congregations, like old First Church, held their own for years as multi-generational families continued to attend and support the church. Increased mobility, discretionary income, and jobs that took grown children hundreds or thousands of miles away have created competing options to church on Sundays. “Do I go to church Sunday or travel to see my grandchildren?” This Pop Pop understands the pull of going to see my grandchildren. Without a steady flow of new families into the church, no church can regain or maintain its momentum. Momentum starts, however, with one success that we build on.

We have a chance to regain momentum this week as we begin the *Grace United Worship Service* at 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We invite and welcome anyone, especially those who do not have a church home or folks looking for the kind of worship experience the service will create. If a few or many people come who have not come before or who have not been here in a long time, this service will serve God's purpose, starting something for God that cannot be stopped. It can be the success that restores our Mo to the glory of God. Pray. Help spread the Word. Attend. Worship.

Yours in Christ, *Hughey*

Grace

MODERN

WORSHIP

United

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9

**DECATUR FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH -
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

SUNDAY MORNING 11:15 - 12:00

**805 CANAL ST. NE
DECATUR, AL 35601**

UMM Second Sunday Breakfasts Resume

The guest speaker for this month's United Methodist Men's breakfast is **Ian Butler**, former FUMC Associate Pastor. **We will meet Sunday, September 9 at 7:45 AM in the Wesley Fellowship Hall.** Breakfast is served at \$5 for each member and guest attending. All men who are members or friends of First Church are invited. Feel free to bring your spouse or another guest.

Billy Hudson UMM President

UMW Circle Meetings

September 10 - Bernice Tidwell Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 10 in the Courtyard conference room with Jane Boozer as hostess. This is a change in location. Tidwell Circle will not meet at Jane's home.

September 11 - Lydia Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at Jane Vaughan's home. Her address is 510 Canal Street N. E.

First Friends (formerly Memory Café)

Yes, that's right! Memory Café has a new name! We hope our new name will encourage folks to come and enjoy friends from all over town. After meeting since January, we realized that all types of people enjoyed the food, fun, and friendship offered at Memory Café and we want our name to reflect the idea that everyone is welcome. **We will continue to meet on second and fourth Thursdays from 1:00-2:30 in Room 250 of the new wing.** EVERYONE is welcome!



PROVERBS 27:9

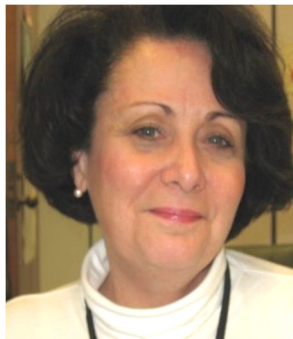
Our next meeting is September 13.

Hope to see you there!

**A sweet friendship refreshes the soul.
Proverbs 29:9**

New Member

Please welcome **Anna Davis** as a new member of DFUMC. Anna joined on Aug. 26 and lives at 1604 River Bend Pl SE, Decatur, AL 35601-6702 and her phone number is 256-309-5280. She transfers to us from Central Baptist Church. Welcome!



Find Us On Social Media

"Like" us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/DecaturFirstUMC

First Church Children's Ministry

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

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Sept. 9

Sunday School 9:00am

Preschool Room #215- Dell Ward

K-1st Room #207- Jen Winkler

2nd- 5th Room #209 - Barbara Ashwander

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers-
Alexia Claborn & Jim King

Volunteers for Sunday, Sept. 16

Sunday School 9:00am

Preschool Room #215- Leigh Ann Blankenship

K-1st Room #207- Katie Caldwell

2nd- 5th Room #209 - Molly Ferrell

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers-
Bailey Copeland & Vickie Earwood

Volunteers

We are looking for Sunday School Teachers / Assistants, Children's Church Teachers / Assistants and First Fellowship Volunteers. Please contact Alexia if you are able to volunteer in any of these areas. The best way to contact me is by email, text or call at the following.

aclaborn@decaturfumc.org and cell 256-606-8646.

Wed. Night First Fellowship Children's Schedule

All ages will go to Choir at 6:00

Lessons will be from 6:25-7:00

Dates to Remember

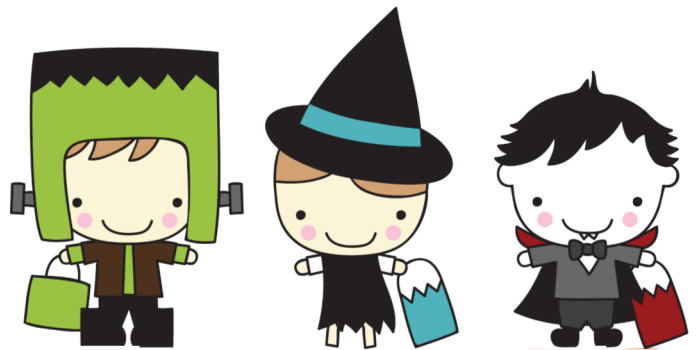
- **Sunday, Oct. 21st 5:00-7:00 p.m.**
Trunk-or-Treat
- **Wednesday, Nov. 28th 5:00-7:00 p.m.**
Keep Sake Christmas

Acolyte Schedule

Sept. 9th - Lydia Matthews & Miriam Matthews

Sept. 16th - LuLu Underwood & John Benton Claborn

Trunk-or-Treat
5:00 - 5:30 p.m.
&
Fall Festival
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 21st
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



* Trunk-or-Treat, Blow-ups,
Games, Prizes

*Hot Dog Dinner \$5
\$18 maximum per family

Wear your costume!

First United Methodist Church
Parking Lot / In Case of Rain
Fellowship Hall

For those of you who are decorating a trunk, please be ready by 4:30 - set up starts at 4:00

Please come and invite a friend!

Ladies' Bible Study News

Ladies,

We have enjoyed our study of Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from John* so much that we will begin a new study *Life Lessons from Mark* on Tuesday, September the 4th. If you would like to join us for discussion, laughter, prayers, growth in the word and commitment to Christ, we would love to have you! Remember, each lesson is "stand alone," so if you can't be present each Tuesday, you won't fall behind. Also, all ages are welcome! We meet from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Courtyard Conference Room. Let me know if you would like for me to order a book for you.

Peggy.black@hotmail.com

256-616-5373 (text or call)

Upcoming Youth Events

- *Wednesday night Youth First Fellowship. Dinner starts at 5:00, and we will start youth at 6:00.*
- *We will also be starting a new set-up for Sunday nights. We will still have our normal games and fun, but we will also have a time for small groups. The time has also expanded. We will have Sunday night youth from 6-7:30! We hope to see everyone there!*



Minister of Youth

Jonathan Creekmore

(662)736-0930

youth@decaturfumc.org

First Fellowship Has Resumed

On Sept. 12, we will enjoy Million Dollar Spaghetti Bake, French String Beans, Garlic Toast, Salad Bar, Peach Cobbler & Ice Cream. No reservations required! The meal will start at 5:00 p.m. 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

Here are the Adult Wednesday night class offerings finalized at the time we published this newsletter. Classes start at 6:00 p.m.

Began on August 29th – *The Will of God and the Lord's Prayer – Pray It, Not Say It (Room 354)*

Rev. Charles Boling will lead this class as they explore *The Will of God and the Lord's Prayer*. The book *The Will of God* by Leslie Weatherhead will be the guide during the course of this study.

The Young Women's Bible Study (Courtyard Conference Room)

Began on September 5th - Decatur First United Methodist Church History 102 (Minister's Conference Room / 3rd Floor)

Wylheme H. Ragland will lead this class and the study will explore church history from the end of the Civil War when our congregation was a member of the Tennessee Conference. We will review our entrance to The North Alabama Conference in 1870 and end with the merging of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South and The Methodist Episcopal Church in 1939 to form The Methodist Church. Information on pastors, laity, and early Decatur will provide the context for our study.

Children's Choir will be at 6:00 for all ages. From 6:25 - 7:00, preschool will have class in Room 215 and elementary age will have class in Room 306.

Youth will start at 6:00 p.m. and Adult Choir Practice will be at 6:30 p.m.

Church Prayer List September 5

We have learned that Debbie Heard's brother-in-law, Bramlett Osteen III of Florence, died this weekend when the bicycle he was riding was hit by a car along Wilson Dam Highway. Please be in prayer for the family during this time of loss.

Aaron Belk, Glenda Pentecost's brother, died in Memphis, TN.

Ronald Headrick, Hughey Reynolds' cousin, died in Lineville, AL

Charles Phelps Schooley, Jo Anne Schooley's husband, died in Decatur on August 25.

Ken Berry Martha & Robert Long

Bill & Bettye Dennis Eric and Laverne Armstrong

Joanne Wheat Jeanne Smith

"Bert" Johnson (Deb Graham's mom) moving to assisted living in Canada

Kerry Hawkins, cancer Maryanne Robbin, cancer

Libby Sims Patrick, daughter of Bill and Betty Sims

Mitzi Walker, cancer Diana Walker

Dick Williams Ronald Matthews

Judy Coon Alice Ackley

LaVerne Dollahite Deborah Stewart

Dot and Burl Oliver Kooper Rooks, cancer

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.

Scholastic Book Fair Benefits First Grace

- Location: Bride's Room
- September 10 - 14
- 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Our church family is invited to shop for books or make a donation. Please make checks to First Grace and specify "Book Fair."



Update on Men's Bible Study

This study will start on Sept. 6 and continue each Thursday at 6:30 a.m. in the Minister's Conference Room. The group is studying a book titled *Brothers, Stand Firm* by Steve Bateman.



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!

256-355-5555
256-214-3584



Upcoming Events

Sunday, Sept. 9, 7:45 a.m.
Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Sept. 9, 6:00 p.m.
UMYF, Youth Wing 3rd Floor

Monday, Sept. 10, 10:00 a.m.
Bernice Tidwell Circle, Courtyard Conf. Room

Monday, Sept. 10, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
First Grace Grandparents' Day, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 10:00 a.m.,
Women's Bible Study, Courtyard Conf. Room

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 10:00 a.m.,
Lydia Circle, Jane Vaughan's home

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 6:00 p.m.,
Administrative Board, Minister's Conf. Room

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 5:00 p.m.
First Fellowship Meal and Classes

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m., Choir Practice

Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:30 a.m.
UMM Bible Study, Minister's Conf. Room

Thursday, Sept. 13, 7:30 a.m.
UMM Breakfast at City Cafe

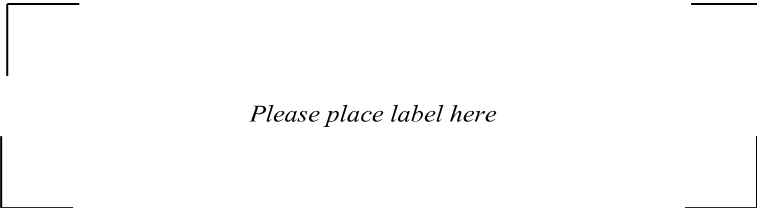
Thursday, Sept. 13, 1:00 p.m.
First Friends, Room 250 New Wing

Saturday, Sept. 15
GFWC AFWC District I Fall Meeting
Fellowship Hall



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Cindy McCulloch, Finance Secretary, cmcculloch@decaturfumc.org
Alyson Quinn, Church Secretary, aquinn@decaturfumc.org
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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, September 9
10:00 a.m. - Traditional Service, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. - Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall
"A Level Playing Field" James 2: 1-17
Rev. Hughey Reynolds



Sunday, September 16 - 10:00 a.m. - Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. - Traditional Service, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. - Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall
"Taming Tongues and Thumbs" James 3: 1-12
Rev. Hughey Reynolds

Scheduled To Serve September 9

Acolytes:
10:00 - Lydia Matthews & Miriam Matthews
Ushers:
10:00 a.m. - Bob Vaughan, Larry Weaver,
Jimmy Sykes, Norman Roby, Ronnie Dukes

First Fellowship Wednesday Night

On Sept. 12, we will enjoy Million Dollar Spaghetti Bake, French String Beans, Garlic Toast, Salad Bar, Peach Cobbler & Ice Cream. No reservations required! The meal will start at 5:00 p.m. 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