

## Women's Retreat

One of the best weekends of the year is approaching! It's time to register for the Decatur FUMC Women's Retreat. We encourage all women of the church to attend! We can't wait to share, laugh, and grow together in faith.

Important details about this year's retreat:

- **Who is invited?** ALL women of our church are invited to attend this retreat. We learn so much from one another when generations of women from different walks of life are able to attend.
- **What will we study?** We will be diving into a study of the Enneagram, a path of spiritual awareness. This year we have a new facilitator, **Debbie Gonia Hayes**. Debbie has been a retreat leader for many years with the North Alabama Conference Youth program. Debbie and her husband, John, have attended numerous workshops across the US learning about the Spiritual Enneagram. **Mollie Erickson** is also returning and will be interfacing with Debbie and adding interpretive yoga during our sessions on Saturday.
- **When is the retreat?** The retreat will be **March 8-10, 2019**. Our sessions with Debbie will begin on Friday evening, so we encourage you to stay both nights if possible.
- **Where is the retreat?** We will be returning to Camp Sumatanga in Gallant, AL. All rooms are similar to hotel rooms with double beds and a private bathroom. Linens and towels are provided. You may want to bring your own pillow and toiletries.
- **Why should I attend?** I'm excited to answer this question for you! I've asked a few ladies of FUMC to tell me their most meaningful take away from past retreats.

"I loved the relaxed atmosphere with women of faith at different places on their walk with God. There was lots of learning, laughter, and growth that weekend, growing closer to each other and to God."

"I loved the comfort and openness we all had with one another. I especially enjoyed the sharing of personal stories. These connections allowed me to have a whole new meaning of a church family within FUMC."

"I liked the fact that it was all ages and generations of women from the church. I liked seeing and hearing other's perspective on life experiences and our church."

If you have attended women's retreat before, I know these statements above resonate with you. If you haven't been able to attend in the past, please know we would love to have you join in the goodness, and we welcome you with open arms!

**How can I help?** Pray. Please pray for the women who attend this year's retreat, and pray for the women who are not able to go. Pray for our facilitators of the retreat. Men of the church, please encourage your spouse to attend and help out at home while she is away for these two nights. Pray for your spouse, mother, sister, aunt, cousin, or friend while she is away that God may speak to her like never before.

For more specific details and to sign up for the retreat, please see the **registration form included in this newsletter**. Additional copies can also be found in the church welcome center. We can hardly contain our excitement for this upcoming weekend in March! I can't wait to see you there.

*Calley Ondocsin*

## Church Prayer List Jan. 23

Death of Howell McCaghren, brother to Dot Jarvis

Van Windsor

Jane Blake

Susan Baughn, cancer treatments

Faith Elliott, granddaughter to Franklin & Jean Elliott

Laverne Armstrong

Ed Taylor

Gary White

Emmy Whatley

Libby Sims Patrick, daughter of Bill and Betty Sims

Lisa Sims Wallace, daughter of Bill and Betty Sims

Billie McLeod

Marilyn Todd, brain tumor

Jeff Crosswhite

Bill & Bettye Dennis

Kerry Hawkins, cancer

Martha & Robert Long

Bob & Mary Alice Johnson (friends & neighbors of Mary Jane Sasser. Bob has Lymphoma.)

Yvonne Michaels

Allyson Hanson

Brantley Motes

Deborah Stewart

Eston Lovingood

Virginia Smith

Joanne Wheat

Alice Ackley

Maryanne Robbin, cancer

Judy Coon

LaVerne Dollahite

Dot and Burl Oliver

Ronald Matthews

## Wednesday Night First Fellowship

*Our meal starts at 5:00 p.m. On Wed., Jan. 30, we will enjoy Poppseed Chicken Casserole, Vegetable Medley, Rolls, Salad bar, Ice Cream Sandwich Cake. 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. Money Desk for Jan. 30 is Barbara & Ed Kirby and Cleanup will be Vicki & Ronnie Dukes, Mary Malone, Mike Ward*

The following classes are offered this Winter/Spring on Wednesday nights starting on Jan. 9th from 6:00 - 7:00.

"The Holy Land" Led by Mark Heard (Room 351) **Jan. 9th - April 10th** The relationship of the two great commandments with the who, what, when and where of the Holy Land including the practical applications of the sites of Jesus' teachings

**The Sensible Shoes class led by Lisa Earley will resume on Jan. 9 until Jan. 30. Two Steps Forward led by Lisa Earley (Room 354) will start on Feb. 6th - April 10th. How does your own spiritual journey in the midst of struggles? This book study will look at the lives of four women and how their spiritual journey unfolded and hope developed. Everyone is welcome. The book can be found on Amazon for \$13.00.**

Women's Study: *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way* Led by Weety Vickery (Room 352) **Jan. 9 - April 10th** Find unexpected strength when disappointments leave you shattered. This book is written by Lisa Terkeurst. All ages are welcome and the book can be found on Amazon for \$13.

"Wesley Challenge" Led by Rev. Hughey Reynolds (Minister's Conference Room) **January 9th - Jan. 23rd** Come experience 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith where you spend three weeks working through 21 questions that will engage their physical, spiritual and emotional lives and their relationship with God and others. The resource for this will cost \$12.00.

*The Art of Neighboring* Led by Patrick Finley (Room 353) **Jan. 30th - March 6th** What happens when every follower of Jesus takes the Greatest Command literally? Let's find out together.

Lenten Study: Led by Rev. Hughey Reynolds (Minister's Conference Room) **March 13th - April 10th** Six-week Lenten Study of the book "Forgiveness" by Marjorie J. Thompson

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

## Church Membership Inquiry Classes

Sundays from 11:15-12:00

Fellowship Hall

Each Sunday through March

Different topic each week

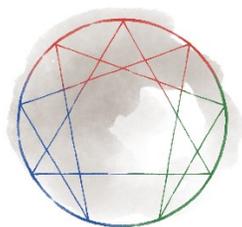
## Covenant Groups

Last fall, a new discipleship emphasis was launched here at First Decatur. Over the course of several weeks in August, Hughey and I preached a sermon series on discipleship and then an info session was held on the first Wednesday night to inform the church community about the discipleship plans, as determined by the discipleship committee. Part of the discipleship emphasis, as you may recall, are Covenant Groups. We began small with four groups so that we could test out the format and gain feedback from the participants. After feedback was obtained, we then invited others to begin the process of starting more Covenant Groups. It is encouraging to me to hear how these groups are going and how people are growing in their faith and relationships with others. Currently we sit at seven groups, and I want to walk with others through the startup of four to five more Covenant Groups. If you are interested in hearing more about Covenant Groups and potentially starting a group, please reach out to me and let's talk. I look forward to hearing from you.

Patrick J. Finley, Pastor of Discipleship  
205-515-3615 (Cell)  
pfinley@decaturfumc.org

The logo for Covenant Groups features the word "COVENANT" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a stylized geometric design consisting of interconnected lines and dots, resembling a network or a molecular structure. Below "COVENANT" is the word "GROUPS" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font.

**Decatur FUMC Women's Retreat**  
**March 8-10, 2019**  
**Camp Sumatanga**



The Sacred Enneagram:  
**A Path of Spiritual Awareness**

- Resource Leader: Debbie Gonia Hayes
- Mollie Erickson will be interfacing with Debbie and adding interpretive yoga during the sessions on Saturday (also offering an afternoon yoga opportunity)
- Friday Registration: 4:00 – 6:00 PM
  - Dinner 6:00 PM
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Session 7:00 PM

Housing in Retreat Center, buildings 1, 2 & 3. In 1 & 2 each room has two double beds, private bathroom, linens and towels. Building 3 is Single Occupancy rooms with a king size bed, private bathroom, linens and towels. Feel free to bring your own pillow and plush bath towel if you prefer. Transportation is on your own and we recommend riding in groups if possible. There will be some free time on Saturday afternoon for yoga, hiking, walking around the lake, reading, visiting and rocking by the fireplace. Bring your favorite snacks with enough to share. Drinks will be provided.

A \$40.00 deposit is required by Feb. 17, 2019 and is deducted from the total cost. Make checks payable to DFUMC, earmarked Women's Retreat. Turn in the bottom portion of this form and your deposit to the Church Office or Karen Taylor.

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 Cost per person: Includes housing, meals, and program expenses.

Two nights Double Occupancy	\$164.00 (per person)_____	Friday and Saturday nights
One night Double Occupancy	\$92.00 (per person)_____	Friday or Saturday night (circle one)
Two nights Single Occupancy	\$212.00 (per person)_____	Friday and Saturday nights
One night Single Occupancy	\$116.00 (per person)_____	Friday or Saturday night (circle one)

***Staying both nights is encouraged because Debbie begins the study Friday evening.***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: CELL \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Request: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please be sure that your roommate requests you as well!*

## **2018 Church Finance Update: Action and Information**

We are grateful to God for FUMC members and friends who supported the Lord's work last year.

Towards a \$788,000 Ministry Budget, your church received \$790,000 in offerings. Meanwhile, your church spent 94 percent of the budget, so offerings exceeded expenses, resulting in a small carryover applied to a budget reserve currently amounting to about two month's worth of expenses. For the seventh straight year your church spent less than it received and had no Ministry Budget deficit. We praise God for that record.

Your Finance Committee chose an in-house, inexpensive, fall stewardship campaign done with many volunteers plus staff help from Pastor Hughey, Financial Secretary Cindy McCulloch, and Secretary Alyson Quinn. Budget requests for 2019 came in at \$838,000. Under 2018 Finance Chair Drew Ward, requests were pared down to a 2019 Ministry Budget of \$781,000 approved unanimously by the Finance Committee under 2019 Chair Ronnie Dukes and by the Administrative Board earlier this month. The Finance Committee uses a conservative formula to set a prudent budget: (1) pledges should total 75 percent or more of the proposed budget, and (2) spending should not exceed prior year income. Both criteria are met in the \$781,000 Ministry Budget for the New Year.

After meeting the annual budget with no deficit, our second financial goal is to pay down and eliminate your church's debt from the 2006-2008 building/renovation program and do so by 2022. In the new, five year "Building Believers" campaign, your church received 2018 offerings of \$215,604 and, after interest payments, reduced debt last year by \$188,772. Current debt is \$709,000.

Our third church financial goal is the Faith Promise. Last year, First Church paid \$108,400 in Faith Promise gifts to local missions (\$57,100), national missions (\$19,925) and international missions (\$31,375). With a local Ministry Budget contribution of \$5,000 earmarked for the annual Global Impact Celebration or GIC expense in February, Conference Apportionment mission causes of well over \$40,000, and our Faith Promise gifts, your church committed about \$160,000 to mission causes "...across the street and around the world." We are the hands and feet of Jesus in our second mile gifts to Faith Promise. Decatur First is now a leading mission giving church in the North Alabama Conference.

Thank you for all your pledged and unpledged offerings to the Lord's work through our 2019 Ministry Budget, your second mile pledged, unpledged, and memorial or honorarium offerings to the Building Believers capital/debt reduction cause, and to your second mile, pledged and unpledged offerings to Faith Promise mission causes. We pray God's blessings on you and yours in the New Year and to our beloved First United Methodist Church, its staff and members, and to all those who devote their time, talents, presence, witness, and offerings to God's work through our faith community.

See you in church Sunday.

Respectfully,

Your 2019 Finance Committee

**Ronnie Dukes**, Chair

# Youth Ministry News



- Last day to buy Boston Butts will be January 27th. It's \$40 for an ≈9lb butt, an 8 pack of buns, and a bottle of sauce. Contact Jonathan if you would like to order.
- The youth will be going to WinterJam on February 1st to see some of Christian music's best artists. The event is free for any youth attending.
- On February 3rd, our group will be partnering with Wesley Memorial for a Super Bowl party. More info to come!
- We are gearing up for our summer Beach Camp! We will be heading to Orange Beach on June 20-25.

**Minister of Youth**  
Jonathan Creekmore  
(662)736-0930  
[youth@decaturfumc.org](mailto:youth@decaturfumc.org)

**Wednesday night Youth First Fellowship resume Jan. 9. Dinner starts at 5:00, and we will start youth at 6:00.**

**We will have Sunday night youth from 5:30-7:30! We hope to see everyone there!**



## First Church Children's Ministry

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

### Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Jan. 27

**Sunday School 9:00am**

Preschool Room #215- Carrie Hart

K-5th Room #209- Calley Ondocsin & Barbara Ashwander

**Children's Church**

10:00 Service Teachers- Alexia Claborn & Jen Winkler

Volunteers for Sunday, Feb. 3

**Sunday School 9:00am**

Preschool Room #215- Leigh Ann Blankenship

K-5th Room #209- Katie Caldwell & Mary Earley

**Children's Church**

10:00 Service Teachers- Alexia Claborn & Elaine Maxey

### First Fellowship Kids

We are learning about Super Heroes of the New and Old Testament! Please join us on Wednesday nights as we travel through the Bible to meet Super Heroes that get their super powers from God!



Children's Choir 6:00- 6:25  
Super Hero Lesson 6:25- 7:00

### Acolyte Schedule

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> Miller Roberts & Davis Roberts  
Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Lydia Matthews & Miriam Matthews

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, Jan. 27, 11:15 a.m.**  
Grace United Contemporary Service

Last day to buy Boston Butts will be Jan. 27th.  
Call Jonathan at (662) 736-0930

**Sunday, Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m.**  
UMYF

**Wednesday, Jan. 30, 5:00 p.m.**  
First Fellowship Meal and Classes

**Wednesday, Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m.**  
Choir Rehearsal

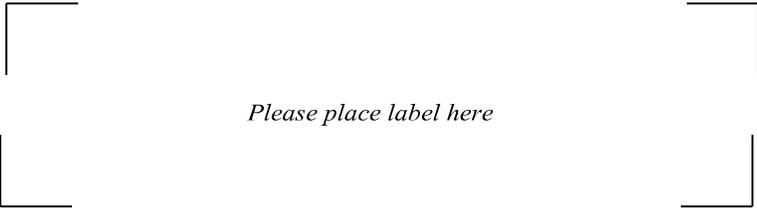
**Thursday, Jan. 31, 6:30 a.m.**  
UMM Bible Study - Courtyard Conf. Room

**Thursday, Jan. 31, 7:30 a.m.**  
UMM Breakfast at City Cafe



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DECATUR, AL 35601  
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FAX (256) 355-2241  
www.decaturfumc.org

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Decatur, AL  
35601  
Permit No. 226



Please place label here

Hughey Reynolds, Sr. Minister, hreynolds@decaturfumc.org  
Jonathan Creekmore, Youth Minister, youth@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, January 27**  
Rev. Hughey Reynolds preaching  
10:00 a.m. - Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
"Living by the Spirit" Luke 4: 14-20  
11:15 a.m. - Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, February 3**  
Rev. Hughey Reynolds preaching  
10:00 a.m. - Traditional Service, Sanctuary  
"Us and Them" Busted" Luke 4: 21-30  
11:15 a.m. - Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall

## Scheduled To Serve Jan. 27

**Acolytes:**  
10:00 - Miller and Davis Roberts  
**Ushers:**  
10:00 a.m. - Kin Copeland, Sage Copeland, Bert Pippen, Jimmy Sykes, Stephen Brown

## Wednesday Night First Fellowship

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*Money Desk for Jan. 30 is Barbara & Ed Kirby and Cleanup will be Vicki & Ronnie Dukes, Mary Malone, Mike Ward*