

Grace United on Hold for Now... to Be Continued

Our contemporary worship service, Grace United, will not meet this Sunday, February 10th. We plan to resume this service after rebuilding our band and determining if there is a better time for the service. This rebuilding and study will take several weeks to months of behind the scenes work before we are ready to restart the service.

Grace United began as a weekly contemporary worship service on September 9th of 2018 with a seven member band leading worship. Starting in November, work schedules reduced the band to five. Since that time, three other band members have had schedule conflicts reducing the band to two.

Attendance has also declined in recent weeks. The time of the service, 11:15 a.m., is not conducive to growing attendance at this service, although one family has attended regularly because the later time was better for them than our 10:00 service. The downside of attending Grace United is that you have no Sunday school option because Sunday school ends an hour and fifteen minutes before this service begins. A few attend Sunday school at 9:00, traditional worship at 10:00, and Grace United at 11:15. They are faithful attenders, but they are few.

All who have invested in Grace United over the past five months see and celebrate the fruit it has produced. The service has appealed to people who had not attended here prior to September. Some have attended regularly since the start and see DFUMC as their church.

We have had several visitors attend Grace United once or twice. Lately, there have been only a handful of church members present to greet them and no one in their age group. That makes it difficult for visitors to connect. Having few in the service also inhibits singing because not many of us want to hear ourselves singing a solo. We'd rather blend in with a crowd.

There are challenges we need to address and overcome for Grace United to become a sustainable and growing service. In the coming weeks, our priorities will be:

- **Rebuilding the Grace United Band**—we need vocalists, acoustical and electric guitarists, drummers, violinists, or those who play other instruments. **Contact Tommy Davis** if you have any of these skills and are willing to help the church make Grace United successful.
- **Develop a workable Sunday morning schedule** that places Sunday school between our two morning worship services *or* form discipleship groups that meet at other times.
- **Create and launch a targeted marketing campaign** in the church and community to invite those to whom less traditional worship more effectively communicates the Gospel and provides them an opportunity to worship God.
- **Prepare for a previously announced combined Worship Service** in the Fellowship Hall on March 31st led by the Grace United Band and followed by a Church-wide Fellowship Luncheon.

As your pastor I ask you to pray for Grace United. Ask yourself how you can help make this service successful. Be positive about the service and open-minded about adjusting the Sunday morning service schedule if it will help this service. Express appreciation to volunteers who have invested many hours setting up the space and preparing for this service weekly. Volunteer if you have musical talents that could enhance this service. Attend the Combined Worship Service and Fellowship Luncheon on March 31st. After the restart, attend Grace United yourself to discover if this style and format of worship allows you to experience the presence of God more personally and worship Him more fully.

Yours in Christ,

Hughey

Church Prayer List Feb. 6

Death of Mary Daniel	Death of Virginia Smith
Death of Adele New, Gerald New's mother	
Mary Love Eyster, broken leg (Weety Vickery's mother)	
Van Windsor	Jane Blake
Susan Baughn	Ed Taylor
Ruth Beasley	Laverne Armstrong
Gary White	Nita Lawrence
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	Emmy Whatley
Joanne Wheat	Alice Ackley
Maryanne Robbin, cancer	Judy Coon
LaVerne Dollahite	Dot and Burl Oliver
Ronald Matthews	Marian Sittason
Ken Schuppert	Unspoken

Church Membership Classes

Classes are held in the Courtyard Conference Room on Sundays at 11:15 a.m.

February 10, *Hughey Reynolds*
Essential United Methodist Beliefs



February 17, *Hughey Reynolds*
We Believe in and Rely on God's Grace

February 24, *Patrick Finley*
Discipleship Covenant Groups at DFUMC

On February 24th, the church membership class will focus on Covenant Groups here at First Decatur. During our time together, we will learn about the reasoning behind Covenant Groups, the lifespan of a Covenant Group, structure and replication of Covenant Groups. If you have questions or just want to learn more about this part of the discipleship emphasis here at First Decatur, join us or contact Patrick at pfinley@decaturfumc.org

General Conference Update

Please click on this link for a video message from Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett regarding the February 23rd – 26th Special Called General Conference of the United Methodist Church:

<https://www.umcna.org/postdetail/12745473>

Recent Baptisms at Decatur First



Bethany Elinoranne Townson
 December 16, 2018
 Parents: Brad & Penny
 Big brother: Henry Jurome



Luke Nolan Schemmel
 December 23, 2018
 Parents: Derek & Kate
 Big sister: Grace



James Brand Walton II
 January 27, 2019
 Parents: Nic and Anna
Grandparents pictured here:
 Jimmy Ray & Wendy Smith

Grandparents from our congregation: Rick & Caroline Sanders

Wednesday Night First Fellowship

Our meal starts at 5:00 p.m. On Wed., Feb. 13, we will have Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Debbie Heard's Divinely Delicious Squash Casserole, Rolls, Salad Bar, JoAnn Christopher's Banana Pudding. 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 Feb. 13 is Mervyn & Susan Michael and Cleanup will be Diane & Billy Hudson and Vicki & Ronnie Dukes

"The Holy Land" Led by Mark Heard (Room 351) **January 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

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) **January 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 \$13.00.

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

Patrick J. Finley, Pastor of Discipleship
pfinley@decaturfumc.org

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.



This Sunday's UMM Breakfast

All men who are members or friends of First Church are invited to breakfast this Sunday, **February 10**, starting at 7:45 AM in the Wesley Fellowship



Hall. Our special guest speaker is our own First Grace Child Development Center Director **Daryenne Eads**. First Grace continues to touch the lives of well over 100 children, is well respected in the community, and serves as a mission outreach for our church. We all benefit from knowing about First Grace and the good work going on there. Breakfast is \$5.00 per person attending. This week's Chief Chef is Steve Blake. Men are encouraged to bring their spouse or other guest, and anyone interested is welcomed to attend.

Hilltoppers

February 17, Sunday (Please note this date change)

Join us in the Fellowship Hall at **5:30 p.m. on February 17** for a **Valentine's Dinner with special entertainment**. Our youth will be helping with the dinner. The cost will be \$10.00 per person with all of the proceeds going to our Youth Department. Please sign up in the Welcome Center or on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall.



First Friends

First Friends will meet on Thursday, Feb. 14 from 1:00-2:30 in room 250 of the New Wing.

We hope you will join us for fellowship, fun, and food!



Pastoral Care Request

Our pastor and ministry staff would like to know when a member of your household is scheduled for surgery or hospitalized with an illness. This information will allow them to respond appropriately with a phone call, a visit, a prayer, or other forms of spiritual support. There are several ways to inform them. Call the church office (256-355-0277) during office hours, call or text our pastor directly (256-417-5930) and include your name in the text, or provide the details on a prayer card if surgery is several days in the future. Please include the location and time of the surgery as well. This will help all of us grow a culture of spiritual care at DFUMC.

Youth Ministry News



Thanks to everyone who bought a Boston Butt from us for our fundraiser! Your gracious donations will help us build our youth in their relationship with Christ while also affecting the people around us, near and far!

We will be heading to Beach Camp in Orange Beach, AL on June 20th! This week will involve so much fun while also getting our youth involved in worship, connecting with God, and mission projects! Our youth are looking very forward to this trip!

Minister of Youth
Jonathan Creekmore
(662)736-0930
youth@decaturfumc.org



Wednesday night Youth First Fellowship resumed 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

As we prepare for this year's VBS, we are reflecting on all who helped make last year's a success. Thank you again to all who donated time, money, and goods. We are once again in need of items and will continue with the tradition of having a donation board outside the fellowship hall to communicate our needs. Most donations are under \$20, so please consider helping any way you can.

Wanted: volunteers who like to have a roaring good time! Our VBS dates for 2019 will be June 10-13, with registration opening in March. It takes a LOT of work to pull off VBS each year, so a lot of volunteers are needed! If you're interested in roaring with us, contact Bailey Copeland (baileycopeland@gmail.com) or Carrie Hart (carriglenn@aol.com).

Sunday Morning Volunteers

Volunteers for Sunday, Feb. 10

Sunday School 9:00am

Preschool Room #215- Jessica Mitchell

K-5th Room #209- Jen Winkler & Molly Ferrell

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers- Alexia Claborn & Mary Malone

Volunteers for Sunday, Feb. 17

Sunday School 9:00am

Preschool Room #215- Carrie Hart

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

Children's Church

10:00 Service Teachers- Alexia Claborn & Larry Sturges

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

Feb. 10 Miller Roberts & Davis Roberts
Feb. 17 Mary Emma Harper & Nelson Earley

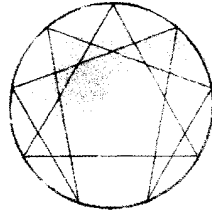
Decatur FUMC Women's Retreat

March 8-10, 2019

Camp Sumatanga

REMINDER:

February 17th is the due date for this registration form and your \$40 deposit. This amount will be deducted from your total retreat cost.



The Sacred Enneagram: A Path of Spiritual Awareness

A past attendee said, "Camp Sumatanga is a beautiful place to share with God and others from our church—some you already know and some you come to know as a result of the retreat. That is great! The food, the fellowship, the hike to the cross, the yoga and the sharing of God's word together all are a part of a wonderful weekend!"

Will you join us this year? You won't regret it!

- 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
 - 1st 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.

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!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Feb. 10, 7:45 a.m.
Men's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m.
UMYF

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 5:00 p.m.
First Fellowship Meal and Classes

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 14, 6:30 a.m.
UMM Bible Study - Courtyard Conf. Room

Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 a.m.
UMM Breakfast at City Cafe

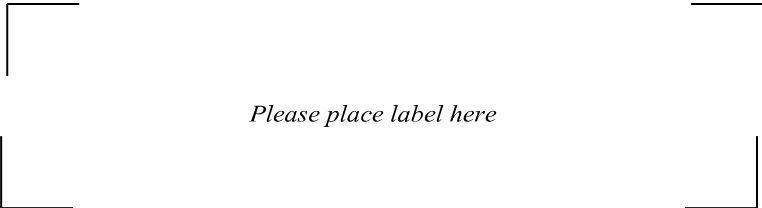
Thursday, Feb. 14, 1:00 p.m.
First Friends, Room 250

Sunday, Feb. 17, 5:30 p.m.
Hilltoppers Valentine's Dinner, Fellowship Hall



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35601
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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, February 10
Rev. Hughey Reynolds preaching

10:00 a.m. - Traditional Service, Sanctuary
"Going Deeper for a Catch" Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, February 17
Rev. Charles Boling preaching

10:00 a.m. - Traditional Service, Sanctuary
"STUFF" 1 Samuel 10: 17-25 (KJV)

Scheduled To Serve Feb. 10

Acolytes:
10:00 - Miller and Davis Roberts

Ushers:
10:00 a.m. - Jeff Earley, Bob Vaughan, Jim Riant, Jim Worthey, Larry Weaver

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