

First United Methodist Church
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THIS NEWSLETTER CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR

YOU!

Learning • Growing • Giving • Serving

Newsletter

DEADLINE!

Monday, February 25 at 1:00 p.m.



Thursday, February 28

8:30 a.m.—Character Builders Classroom



For any submissions you would like put in *The Voice*, call the church office at 627-3362 or email administrator@decaturmethodist.org.

If you want to see your church event pictures in *The Voice*, send them to us! We would love to include those for all the church members to enjoy.



A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church

The Voice

Rev. Dr. Brian Bosworth, Pastor
Rev. Ricky Harrison, Associate Pastor
(940) 627-3362; info@decaturmethodist.org

Issue 2 of 12
February 1, 2019

Youth: Patrick Stiel
Children: Ashley Craven
Secretary: Ann Piña
Administrator: Bonnie Wohlleben



In 1745, John Wesley established the first of what would become a yearly Conference, whereby Wesley had the opportunity to meet with his preachers and discuss matters of polity and procedures in the Methodist movement according to *Wesley and the People Called Methodists* by Richard Heitzenrater. At that first Conference in 1745, there were 3 members of the clergy and 6 laypersons (most of the 6 were serving as lay preachers) who met with Wesley. Over time, these yearly or annual Conferences would work to address other needs of this missional minded and growing movement.

The Methodist movement in what we now know as the United States faced its own sets of concerns and challenges as it evolved from a movement under the umbrella of the Church of England in the years preceding the American Revolution to becoming an actual church after peace was reached and the United States gained independence from England. One of the obvious similarities between the Methodist movement in Britain itself and in the British colonies of North America, and even as the new church was birthed following independence, was that of conferencing at various levels within the Methodist movement. This included an annual Conference where Wesley's influence (albeit long distance and through both writings and hand-picked intermediaries) was experienced in profound and long-lasting ways. Wesley saw conferencing as a means of God's grace and so Holy Conferencing continued to be an important part of transforming lives, making disciples of Jesus, and "spreading scriptural holiness across the land."

Today, Methodists still attempt to practice Holy Conferencing in some of the more obvious gatherings that incorporate "conference" into their titles: Charge Conference at the local church level; Annual Conference in a more regional, geographic level; General Conference which is the entire, world-wide gathering of United Methodists every 4 years; Jurisdictional Conferences which also occurs once every 4 years and are regional gatherings of representatives from a number of Annual Conferences in a geographic region; and Central Conferences which are like annual conferences that are beyond the United States that have been organized geographically as a means to come together and have voice.

In gatherings where "conference" is not a part of the title, Holy Conferencing also continues in similar ways that Wesley had organized the original movement—smaller, more localized groups he organized into classes, bands, and societies. Today, we conference in small groups such as Sunday School classes, life groups, Bible Studies, worship services, ministry teams, and church leadership committees and boards, to name a few. When we gather or conference, we not only listen for God's direction and empowerment, but we discern how best to live out our faith in a life of grace in relationship with God and others. Wesley knew that conferencing was a powerful way of helping to keep God at the center of our lives and focused on doing God's will and not our own.

I write about this because the Bishops of the United Methodist Church were asked at our last General Conference in 2016 to step forward and provide leadership for our church on the issue of human sexuality. The Bishops organized a group of 32 people (lay, clergy, and bishops) who identified on all sides of the various concerns and beliefs about human sexuality and the church's current official position on issues related to sexuality, to do the difficult work of Holy Conferencing together on these important issues. The Bishops called this group the Commission on the Way Forward in hopes that through Holy Conferencing, common ground could be identified that allows the church to maintain its unity and do what the church has always had at its heart and does well—serve the mission field. The Bishops have also called a special session of the General Conference to act upon the recommendations of the Commission on the Way Forward (there have been other related petitions submitted after the Commission finished its work that will also be considered) so that the work of General Conference in 2020 might not have the daunting work of previous General Conferences where unusual amounts of time, energy, and resources were expended attempting to address the issues of human sexuality. This special General Conference has been set for February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, MO.

Pastor's Voice Cont. on pg. 2

Pastor's Voice cont.

I encourage us all to be in prayer for our church, those whom we seek to serve in the mission field, our church representatives and leadership - not just as General Conference approaches, but beyond so that we always make what God wants and calls us to do to really be the most important thing. It seems clear to me that most of us have at least one opinion on the issues of human sexuality and how we will embrace, or not embrace the work of our General Conference in February. But I also know that God's love is bigger than any one issue we might think works to identify us, and that being a church means our diversity and our differences should be a strength and not weaknesses as we live out being a church with many members that make up one body, keeping Christ as the head the unified body. May God bless our Holy Conferencing as people called Methodists.

See you in worship!

Brian

FUMC Financials Update

As of 1/30/2019

Giving to General Operating Fund

Year to Date: 43,054

Average Weekly Gifts: 10,763

Weekly Budget Need: 13,154

Continue the Vision Pledge

(Original pledge drive)

Total Pledged: 350,898

Pledge Balance Not Received: 17,357

See the Vision Pledge

(Current pledge drive)

Total Pledged: 316,130

Pledge Balance Not received: 60,335

Total Building Note Balance Due: 167,823



FUMC Podcasts now available
on iTunes!

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First United Methodist Church of Decatur



First United Methodist Church - Decatur, TX

First United Methodist Church
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Important Announcement Regarding the Noontime Holy Week Services

At the Administrative Board meeting held on November 11, 2018, a motion was entertained and then acted upon by the Ad Board to discontinue the Noontime Services and lunches that had occurred during Holy Week in recent years. The concern was raised about the increasing limitations to some of the classes and groups who were vital to the success of the services and lunches, the lack of participation from people outside the church (several reasons were identified) even with advertising and intentional acts to invite people, and the burden upon the team tasked with keeping this tradition afloat for the five weekdays of Holy Week.

There will continue to be evening services for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We are exploring opportunities to worship and share a meal together on the evening of Maundy Thursday in a way to heighten the experience and share a meal together that week.

The hard work and efforts of those who have made our Holy Week services and lunches a success in the past are greatly appreciated! A special thank you to you all for making this such an important part of our past traditions.

OUTREACH

Donations for WARM

Peanut Butter, Jelly

Sunday Refreshments

Life Builders Class

Guest Follow Up

Shirley Peterson

Care Corp

Sharon Walker, notifier

Sharon Voss, Shirley Byers



The family of Joe Goodwin
would like to thank everyone
for the love and support
you have shown us through
this difficult time.

The offers of food and the phone calls of concern were a great help and a balm to our sorrow.

We are grateful for our church family.

Blessings to all of you.

Doris & "The Clan"

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We have multiple areas that are in need of volunteers.

- Communion Server (Early Service)
- Care Corp
- Office
- Children's Dept.
- Youth Dept.

There are a variety of volunteer needs for each area.

Whatever your time constraints or talents,
there is an area that can use your help.



Filip Gartner and
his family from
Strasnice UMC,
our sister church in
the Czech Republic.



Worship Assistant

February 3rd

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Reader: Barbara Haley

Communion Servers: Asa Johnson, Ronnie & Debra Walker

Acolyte: Ben Bond

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Reader: Trumanell Maples

Communion Servers: Fred & Cheryl Renfro, Sally Rieger

Acolyte:

Counters:

February 10th

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Reader: Penny Holt

Communion Servers:

Jamie Walther, Marguerette Roberts, Virginia Caraway

Acolyte: Hannah & Trey Milliman

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Reader: Suzanne Hencken

Acolytes: Tucker Hammons & Abby Reeves

Counters:

February 17th

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Reader: Youth

Acolyte:

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Reader: Youth

Acolyte:

Counters:

February 24th

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Reader: Rita Tucker

Communion Servers: Jack & Sharon Smith, Virginia Caraway

Acolyte: Audree & Zachary Knox

10:50 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Reader: Jennifer Featherston

Acolyte: Lane Craven

Counters:

February Communion Set Up: Men's Class



"Now it Springs Forth!"
The View from Pecan Street

Two months ago, at the start of Advent, we celebrated the Grand Launch of weekly worship at Pecan Street Mission. This is a dream that has long been in the making here in the First Methodist family. The voice of God has long been whispering among this community, "Behold, I am about to do a new thing..." Where there used to sit an old Fire Station, this community heard the whisper of God's dream for what became the Methodist Activity Center. Where Asbury Hall used to sit empty on Sunday mornings, this community heard the whisper of God's dream for what has become Pecan Street Mission. The voice of God now whispers, "Behold, I am about to do a new thing – now it springs forth! Do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). The seeds of God's love that were planted in the fertile soil of this community long ago are finally beginning to spring up into beautiful and vibrant signs of new life. Each week as new people enter through these doors, as children shape Play Dough and scribble with crayons, as bodies are fed with brunch and souls are fed with community, as families come to encounter the Living God who knows them and loves – as these signs of new life spring up all around us, I encourage you to keep your eyes peeled! "Do you not perceive it?" Signs of God's resurrection love are sprouting, the dreams that once were whispers are beginning to shape new realities, people are coming to know the unconditional love of God in tangible and relevant ways. *This is the season, "now it springs forth!"*

If you haven't yet come to visit Pecan Street Mission, I encourage you to join us one Sunday morning at 10:45am in Asbury Hall. Come catch a glimpse of this bold, beautiful, and life-giving community God is forming right here in our own backyard.

If you have come to worship at Pecan Street Mission, then I encourage you to lean into the "Witness" commitment of our membership vows. When we joined this community of faith, we pledged to faithfully participate in ministry by our *prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness*. To "witness" is simply to tell what you've seen and heard. Tell of God's life-giving work here at Pecan Street Mission, tell of God's love made manifest in this new community of faith. Invite someone in your life who is not meaningfully connected to a community of faith to join you in worship one Sunday. Who knows, perhaps *you* might be a contagious carrier of God's love in the life of someone who desperately needs it.

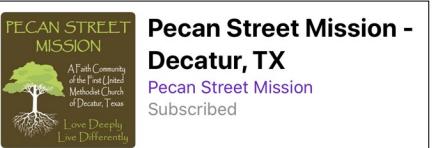
It's been such a joy to serve alongside the Decatur Methodist family in this season of planting. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us next!

In Christ,
Ricky Harrison

P.S. – Connect with Pecan Street Mission online (pecanstreetmission.org) or on FaceBook (facebook.com/PecanStreetMission).

PODCASTS AVAILABLE!

Search for "Pecan Street Mission" on any platform
Or find the sermons at <http://pecanstreetmission.org/sermons>



Haley Feuerbacher challenging us to hear the voices of Tamar & create survivor-centered spaces of grace.



Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry

Saturday, February 2
7:30 a.m., FUMC Parking Lot

Administrative Board Meeting

Sunday, February 10
12:00 p.m., Room 100

SPRC Meeting

Monday, February 11
6:00 p.m., Room 209

Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, February 12
6:00 p.m., Room 209

Family Ministries Team Meeting

Monday, February 18
5:00 p.m., Room 209

Staff Meeting

Thursday, February 21
12:00 p.m., Room 209

Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 23
7:00 a.m., Room 100

Update for Family & Friends in the Military

We are updating the Family and Friends in the Military Section of the prayer list.

Please contact the office if you or a loved one is serving in the military and you would like to add them to this special section.

Email:

Ann - secretary@decaturmethodist.org

Bonnie - administrator@decaturmethodist.org

Call: (940)627-3362



CHURCH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Tim Woodruff, Judy Lambert, Trumanell Maples, Jim Cunningham, Family of Joe Goodwin, Sharon Smith, Rev. Karen Martinez, Ann Henderson, Abby Bramlett, Noah Smith, 2019 Confirmands & Mentors, Grant Allen, Nathan & Chelsea Johnston, Blake Seaney, Jack & Brenda Sutton, Marijanne Visser-Nichols, Family of Sandra Little, Elaine Miller, Barbara Swan, Mary Spillers, Bryson, Family of Linda Carson Schertz, Aiden Gonzalez, John Nagy, Nancy Dickens, Sandra Page & Family, Sheila Greebon, Gloria Holmes, Stets Bryant, Madelyn Congdon

In the Military: Charlie Fortenberry, Michael Jordan, Jake Logue, Josh Murphy, Chris Hammond, Matthew Roberson, Kolin Rottner, Joshua VanNoy, Keygun Beaver and Bryce Dudley



- 2 - Audrey Micinski
- 4 - Courtney Carrillo
- 6 - Elizabeth Culpepper, Riley Fothergill
- 8 - Alea Peña, Ian Fitzgerald, Dwight Reeves
- 10 - Kyndal Klose, Norma Wood
- 11 - Sidney Carter, Luke Sandford
- 13 - Ann Peña, Robert Waggoner
- 14 - Steve Males
- 15 - Hailey Koger
- 16 - Mack Rieger, Cody Smith
- 17 - Charlie Long, Sharon Smith
- 19 - Miranda Frizzell
- 20 - Clay Montgomery, Tim Trow
- 21 - Tina Brazeal, Wayne Miller, Marcus Peña
- 22 - Jennifer Boaz, Braylinn Miller
- 23 - Sean Henderson
- 24 - Greg Johnson, Liam Woller
- 25 - Katy Sanders, Cate Young
- 26 - Julie Quiring
- 27 - Michael Bond, Matthew Laremore
- 28 - Keygun Beaver, Michael Zemmin

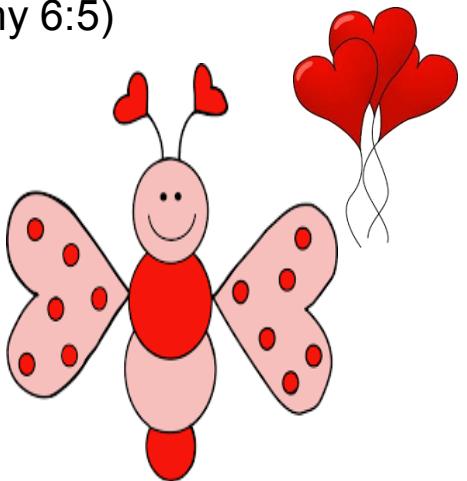
Decatur Kids

FEBRUARY

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Upcoming Happenings

CIA Animal Shelter Day – March 16th
 Palm Sunday – April 14th
 Easter – April 21st
 Mother's Day – May 12th
 VBS – June 9-12th



Camp Bridgeport

Children in grades 3rd - 5th that are interested in going to Summer Camp this year, please email me of your kiddos interest in attending at children@decaturmethodist.org.

Possible dates for this are....

June 24th - 28th
 July 22nd - 26th



Children's Dept. Volunteer's

1st Sunday - Jennifer Featherston
 2nd Sunday - Jamie Milliman & Casey Edwards
 3rd Sunday - Debra Walker
 4th Sunday - Barbara Haley



General Operating Fund Report:

Hallelujah! Giving to the General Operating Fund increased by \$26K from 2017 (4%), with much of that coming in December. We also had to transfer \$39K to this fund from our reserve Memorials Fund during the first part of the year to meet operating expenses. Our total annual expense increased by \$25K from 2017, due primarily to increased Staff expense (full year for Assoc. Pastor and Youth Director, plus half year for new PSM worship leader), partially offset by lower Administrative and Conference Apportionment expense. The Net Income summary report for this fund is shown below:

JAN-DEC 2018 NET INCOME STATEMENT -- GENERAL OPERATING FUND (at 12/31/18)			
	YTD JAN-Dec, 2018	YTD JAN-DEC, 2017	
DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Undesignated Gifts	642,325	630,000	616,295
Transfers from Desig. Funds	39,172	39,635	6,000
Total Income		681,497	669,635
Staff Expense	350,742	360,753	303,730
Program Expense	53,284	63,350	52,406
Administration Expense	165,302	162,400	182,177
Conference Apportionments	83,132	83,132	89,048
Debt Service	-	-	-
Total Expense		652,460	669,635
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	29,037		(5,065)

NOTE: The above Surplus caused our General Fund Balance to increase from \$21,752 to \$50,789!

Designated Funds Report:

In addition to the above report on the General Fund, I have prepared the following information about selected Designated Funds of the church, so you can see latest balances in these funds. I have also prepared the following information about the church's Endowment Fund and CTV Loan Balance. (Currently, all interest received from Endowment Fund investments is being transferred monthly to the CTV Fund and used to meet required interest and principal payments on our Loan.)

JAN-DEC 2018 SELECTED DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES (at 12/31/18)			
Name	Balance 1/1/18	Net Change	Balance 12/31/18
Sunshine Fund	5,713	2,296	8,008
Memorials Fund	137,205	(52,440)	84,765
Capital Improvements Fund	-	10,603	10,603
Kitchen Equip. Fund	1,307	(1,164)	143
Stained Glass Repl. Fund	1,051	1,000	2,051
Playground Fund	1,839	-	1,839
Nursery Fund	445	175	620
CTV (Building) Fund	23,025	(1,150)	21,876
Ambassadors Fund	1,246	627	1,873
Czech Rep. Ministry Fund	3,427	500	3,927
Church Chest Fund	6,924	(1,541)	5,383
Local Missions Fund	5,305	(334)	4,971
Pecan Street Min. Supt. Fund	4,157	(4,086)	71
Scholarship Fund	5,622	(2,100)	3,522
Endowment Fund Principal	430,711	300	431,011
CTV Building Loan Balance	275,000	(102,079)	172,921