

# The Voice

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DECATUR TX

May 2021



## **Easter Highlights — pg 4**

A look into what all it took to make Easter Sunday happen.

## **Tons of Buns — pg 6**

Learn all about the origin of this new ministry from Sylvia Hornback.

## **VBS — pg 7**

Vacation Bible School registration is open! Learn how you can register your child today.

# IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH

**Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry**  
Saturday, May 1 @7:00am, Church Parking Lot

**Endowment Committee Meeting**  
Thursday, May 13 @5:30pm, Room 209

**Blood Drive**  
Friday, May 14 @11:00am, Fellowship Hall

**VBS Volunteer Meeting**  
Sunday, May 16 @12:00pm, Asbury Hall

**Staff Meeting**  
Thursday, May 20 @12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

**Senior Breakfast**  
Friday, May 21 @8:00am, Church Parking Lot

**Office Closed**  
Monday, May 31

## WEEKLY EVENTS

**Traditional Worship Service**  
Sundays @8:30am and 10:50am, Sanctuary

**Pecan Street Mission Service**  
Sundays @10:00am, Asbury Hall (MAC)

**Student Ministry MAC Nights**  
Sundays @5:00pm, Fire Hall (MAC)

**Wednesday Bible Study**  
Wednesdays @10:00am, Virtual via Zoom

**Chancel Bell Rehearsal**  
Wednesdays @5:30pm Sanctuary

**Find the online church calendar at**  
[DecaturMethodist.org/Calendar](http://DecaturMethodist.org/Calendar)

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

1-Caleb Bennett

4- Deroy Bennett

5- Baylee McMaster-Murphree

7- Sara Cartwright, Ethan Fennewald, Sharon Walker

11- Elizabeth Buckley, Norbert Cox

12- Jeff Anderson, Marie Evans

16- Cheri Boyd, Will Klose, Lauren McCurdy

17- Lance Moody

18- Mickey Pangrac

19- Don Stone, Toni Tyson

20- Curtis Stone

21- Sean Browning, Dave Peterson, Angela Smith

23- Elizabeth Highlander, Tom Tumelty

24- Ron Pemberton

25- Jeanie Argo, Cindy Cox, Jase Reeves

28- Rose Barker

31- Jason Sanders, Wiley Stone

Want to see your groups and events  
on the church calendar?

Send your meeting information and request to  
[info@decaturmethodist.org](mailto:info@decaturmethodist.org)

# STAFF DEVOTIONAL

FROM TRADITIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR, LYNDA TROW

*The Lord is my strength and my shield, in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped;  
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.*

Psalm 28:7

In the April 9th edition of Wise County Messenger, there was an article by Richard Greene about beekeeping. In it, Mr. Greene speaks of his trepidation about working with bees, even though he was wearing a protective beekeeper's suit. One of his hosts told him, "If it gets overwhelming with the bees, know you are protected, ...just walk away and sometimes breathing through it will get you through it."

As I read this, I was reminded of my maternal grandmother, who had several bee hives, but never wore any protective gear. She told me that the key is to move very slowly and stay calm. When your heart races from fear, the bees feel threatened and move to protect themselves.

This last year, with the stress of dealing with Covid, the lockdown, isolation, financial stress, volatile political issues, unrest in our cities and our crazy weather, it has been easy to find ourselves overwhelmed. However, as people of faith, we know that we can always have a little talk with Jesus. He will always be there to help carry our burden. With His help, we can remain calm and breathe through it. As one of my favorite hymns says, "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."

Blessings,  
Lynda

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

Tim Woodruff

Dan Hammond

Barbara Swan

Bert Caraway

Tori Williston

Dianna Adkins

Annette Stephens

Email your prayer requests to [Prayer@DecaturMethodist.org](mailto:Prayer@DecaturMethodist.org)

# EASTER AT DECATUR METHODIST BY THE NUMBERS



# 3

Worship Services  
Community Worship  
on the Square,  
8:30 and 10:50am  
Traditional Worship

Thank you for helping to make Easter Sunday such a special day! See what all it took to make it happen.

# 50

Children participated in our Easter Egg Hunt and Activities



37 handbells played by our amazing bell choir



# 1

Awesome  
Easter Bunny



1 hour spent hiding 500 Easter Eggs  
That were all found in under 5 minutes



## Preschool Job Opportunity

Our Decatur Methodist preschool has a part time teacher position open for the 2021-22 school year. The hours are 8:00-2:30 every Monday & Wednesday, September through May. If you have a passion for loving and teaching young children, please contact Diane Howell at 972-742-6614 or email [children@decaturmethodist.org](mailto:children@decaturmethodist.org) for an application or more information.

## Preschool Enrollment

It is time to enroll for the 2021/2022 school year! At the First United Methodist Preschool, we offer classes for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:30am to 2:30pm. We follow a curriculum that is play focused and allows us to teach letters, numbers, shapes, colors, and so much more!

Students also participate in chapel time where they sing songs together and learn Bible lessons and stories. We are so excited to have you join our preschool. You can find an application on the church website, [DecaturMethodist.org/Preschool](http://DecaturMethodist.org/Preschool). Check out our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/FUMPDecatur](https://www.facebook.com/FUMPDecatur), to get a sneak peak into what a day at First United Methodist Preschool is like. For more information or to take a tour, please email [preschool@decaturmethodist.org](mailto:preschool@decaturmethodist.org).

## The Heart of the Church Traditional Worship Highlight

Remember, when you were little, your Mom showed you how to clasp your fingers and play the game "Here's the Church, and here's the steeple" etc, etc. I thought about that. Here's the church and here's the people. So, who are the people? Of course, we have our pastor who brings us the good news each Sunday. Church staff that keeps the church running. Sunday school teachers who lead out little ones and brave souls who teach the adult classes. I must say, one of my favorite things about our church is the choir. It is led by a brave person who overlooks the wrong notes we sometimes sing. It is the heart of the church, for me. I can marvel at the beauty of our sanctuary with its stained glass windows; but the music that pours forth each Sunday is balm for my soul. I've sung in church choirs since my junior high school days. It just seemed like a natural thing to do. Due to Joe's work, we moved a lot and attended many different churches. While I may not have become deeply involved with very church, you could usually find me in their choir for the duration of our assignment. I still enjoy being a part of the choir and thank God for the opportunity he has afforded me.

Ref: PS 149-1

-Written by Doris Goodwin





# Tons of Buns

*By Sylvia Hornback*

Hello, Friends!

Tons of Buns is a new ministry here at FUMC. It all started in the new Cornerstone Sunday School class while studying a lesson in the quarterly. The key verse for that Sunday was, "My brothers and sisters, when you show favoritism you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has been resurrected in glory." James 2:1. Class discussion led to types of visitors we have coming to our church and did we show favoritism. That led to asking, "How many of the visitors coming for the Mobile Food Pantry have ever come into our church?" Unfortunately, the answer was none.

We started talking about ways we could reach people already coming to us at the Mobile Food Pantry. We decided to go to them and get to know

who our neighbors are. On the first Saturday of each month, approximately 200 families are served at the Mobile Food Pantry and we didn't know them.

Those in need are there in our east parking lot before the sun comes up waiting patiently in their vehicles. Waiting to give their names and how many people in their family so they can drive through and gather the boxes of food. Sometimes, a car has a representative for four families, and sometimes a single elderly person is there for food.

In March, a group went to each car, introducing ourselves and offering a cinnamon roll and a cup of coffee. We had milk for the children riding along. Some were shy, but they greeted us with smiles. We wore nametags and learned their names. We had young and old volunteers and those who spoke Spanish so we could communicate. It was the first step in getting to know each other and show that we care.

Afterward, the volunteers gathered to have one of those delicious cinnamon rolls. Volunteers from the food distribution, from our church, from across town, and from Bridgeport came to show God's love with their hands, their hearts, and their smiles.

*Join us to help or just come and have a cinnamon roll and a cup of coffee on Saturday, May 1.*





# Vacation Bible School

## June 14-17 • 5:30-7:30pm

This summer, VBS will invite children to be strong in the Lord while they explore how we put on the Armor of God! Kids, ages 4 yrs–5th grade, will dive into Old and New Testament stories and learn how the Armor of God works in their own lives as they follow and serve God. Each Day will include opportunities to engage in crafts, music, stories, and games. **Register your child today at [Decatur-Methodist.org/VBS](http://Decatur-Methodist.org/VBS).**



## VBS Volunteer Lunch

May 16 12:00pm Fellowship Hall (MAC Building)

All VBS Volunteers and those interested in helping with VBS are invited to a Volunteer Lunch. We will go over the details of the Vacation Bible School daily schedule and the activities for each station throughout the week.



## Cassie and Kelly Send Off Celebration

Mark your calendars for **June 6** for a reception in Fellowship Hall following the late service to bid farewell to Cassie and Kelly Wade and send them off to their next adventure.

Cassie and Kelly have requested any appreciation gifts be directed to *FUMC Scholarship Fund*, a mission dear to their hearts. Donations and thank you notes can be mailed to the church office, or dropped in the designated basket in the sanctuary. Donations may also be designated online. (Be sure to note "Cassie Send Off" in the memo.)

# Staff Feature: Diane Howell

Children's Ministry Coordinator

## What encourages you in your work? What or who drives your passion?

Seeing the delight or pride on a child's face or their parents and relatives' faces, adults revisiting the innocence and joy of childhood, the ah ha moment when someone including myself gets it! All of these make my work fulfilling. Curiosity and love of learning and experiencing new things drives my passion.

## What is your favorite Bible Verse(s) and why?

Matthew 7:12. "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets." This reminds me to treat others as I would like to be treated.

## What book is currently on your nightstand?

The books currently on my book stand are "Shepherds Abiding" by Jan Karon from the Mitford series, "The Last Train to Key West" by Chanel Cleeton, and a Southern Living magazine.

## If you could throw a fantasy dinner party, who would you invite and what would you ask them?

If I had a fantasy dinner party I would invite my mother and father to come back from heaven and I would ask them all the questions I never got to ask, or never thought to ask when I was younger and thought I knew everything.



## Tell us about your family

I am married to my husband, Mark of 47 years, whom I met on a blind date when I was a freshman at Auburn University. He is my best friend! We have three children. Oldest daughter Marie is married and working as science coordinator at McKinney ISD. She has a daughter, 20 majoring in cyber security and a son, 17 graduating from high school this year. Second daughter, Michelle is married, a software engineer, has a nine year old son and lives in Frisco. Our son, Kenneth is a former Lacrosse coach and current high school math teacher at Jesuit Prep School for Boys in Dallas. He is married with a four year old son and a two year old diva living in Frisco. We have a labradoodle (Sambo) and a rescue boxer catahoula mix (Prince) We love them dearly, except when we don't!

## If you had 24 uninterrupted hours to spend, what would you do? And who would you spend it with?

If I had 24 uninterrupted hours, I would spend them with my husband in Key West. If I couldn't get there I would watch an Auburn football game on tv while eating a dozen steamed blue crab or stone crab claws. I would then read some of the books I have stacked up, preferably outside in a hammock. Someone has to help me get out though, or I end up on the ground. This is the reason for having my husband there.

## What is one question you would ask at the Pearly Gates?

"Can I come in?"

## What is something most people don't know about you?

Most people do not know that I was junior Olympic swimmer, held several national records, and was on the first women's swim team at Auburn University.



### The A-Team Schedule



Welcome to the acolytes installed Sunday Morning to serve at the 10:50am service! They have gone through training and are now commissioned to serve as worship leaders responsible for bringing in the light of Christ and then taking

it out for discipleship in the world. We applaud these young people dedicated to serving the church at an early stage of their lives.

May 2 - Audrey Rambo

May 9- Conner & Carlee Berardi

May 16- Hayes Flatt

May 24- Trey Milliman



### Kidz Worship

Children ages pre-k through 5th grade are invited to participate in Kidz Worship during the 10:50am worship

service. After the children's moment in worship, the children may leave the sanctuary with Mrs. Diane for Bible stories, games, and craft activities. Children will return back to the sanctuary for communion or the last hymn.

### Helper Schedule

May 2- Alena Peña / Debra Walker

May 9- Trumanell Maples/ Sharon Walker

May 16- Patina Berardi/

May 23- Sara Flatt/ Leah Clark

May 30- Diane Howell- 5th Sunday event

June 6 - Alea Peña/ Debra Walker

### Children's Sunday School *Coming Soon!*

Children's Sunday school will return **Sunday, June 20th, 9:40- 10:40**. Children ages 2-4 will have Sunday school class in the child care and nursery room on the second floor, and K- 5th grade will meet in the children's wing on the third floor. They will learn about the Bible and God's love through music, games, art, drama and science.

A fun hands on learning experience! At this time the ages for Kidz Worship after the children's sermon will change to Pre-K through 2nd grade. Older children will be encouraged to make use of the activity bags and participate in worship with their families.

# DECATUR STUDENTS

6th-12th grade students

## May 2- Mission Sunday

Each month our students will participate in a service project on our Mission Sunday. Look out for more information about this month's project on the Student Ministry's social media pages.

## May 16- MAC Night

Sunday nights at 5:00pm at the MAC Building  
*"Creating a space for students to wonder, grow, serve, and become empowered to create a better world for the sake of Christ."*

## May 23- End of Year MAC Night @Main Event

Student Ministries will be going out to Six Flags on Sunday, April 25. The cost will be \$20. Please email [youth@decaturmethodist.org](mailto:youth@decaturmethodist.org) to RSVP by April 18.

## Sr. High on the Square

Sr. High students (9th-12th grade) meet every first and third Wednesday at 6:30pm at a local spot on the square. This month, Sr. High Nights will be May 5th and 19th.



Find us on social media to learn more about what's going on in Student Ministry



@FUMCDecaturStudents



@DecaturMethodistStudents

# CELEBRATING OUR *Seniors*

**Senior Breakfast**  
Friday, May 21  
8:00am  
FUMC Parking Lot

**Senior Recognition  
Sunday**  
Sunday, May 23  
10:50 am Worship  
Sanctuary



## Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry

Join us for the Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry this month on Saturday, May 1, and again next month on Saturday, June 5.

Please wear closed-toed shoes and come dressed to be outside the whole time.

## Traditional Worship AV Team

We are adding to our traditional worship AV team. The volunteer who is right for this job enjoys mixing sound in the Sanctuary for the best worship experience. Or maybe you have a knack for creating slides which capture and enhance the attention of those who are engaging in worship. Or are you the person who enjoys computers, the internet, and the world of production in a streaming format? Then we need you to join our team.



We train! Our goal is to have a team of four volunteers per service on Sundays.

All interested people should contact [info@decaturmethodist.org](mailto:info@decaturmethodist.org). A member of our tech team will contact you to tell you more.



## Blood Drive Wise County Blood Drive First UMC Decatur

Fellowship Hall  
104 S. Miller Street  
Decatur, TX 76234

**Friday, May 14, 2021**  
**11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**



American  
Red Cross

# ANTI-RACISM BOOK STUDY

DEAR AMERICA,

👤

Notes of an  
Unocumented Citizen

Jose Antonio Vargas

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

**MONDAY**

**EVENINGS**

**5:30 - 7:00 PM**

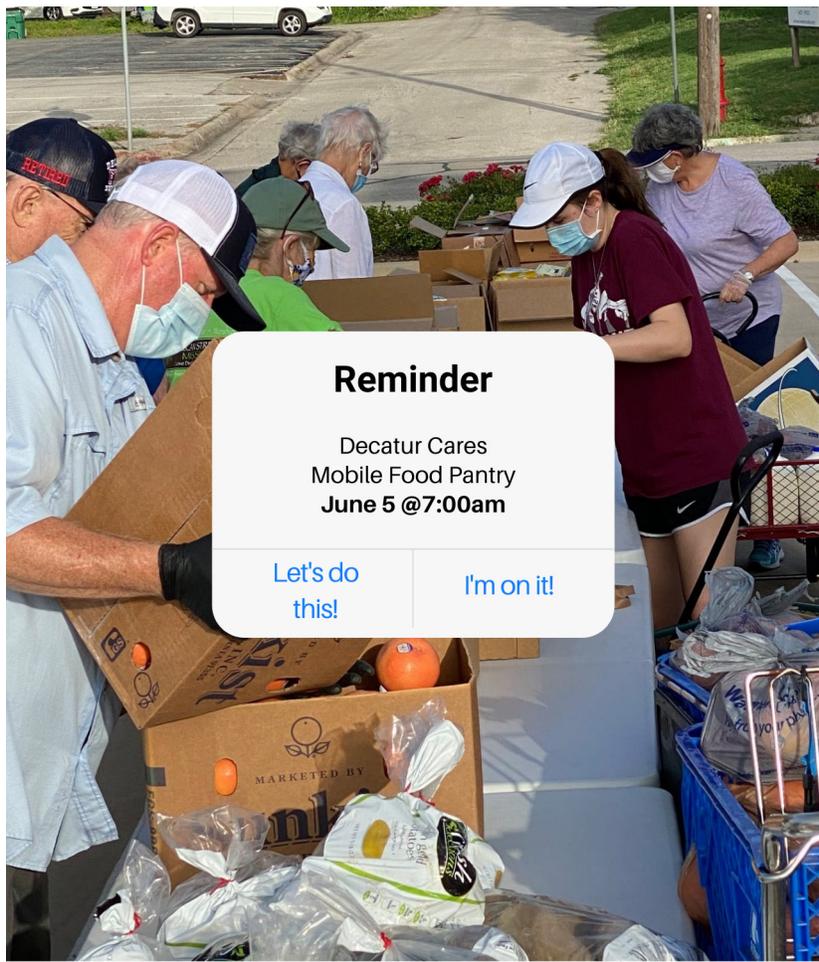
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**We want to feature your  
group or ministry!**

**We're always looking to feature the  
amazing things going on within our  
church community.**

**If you would like to share a feature,  
story, or photos, please send them to  
Megan Everitt at  
[meveritt@decaturmethodist.org](mailto:meveritt@decaturmethodist.org)  
to be in next month's  
issue of The Voice.**



**Reminder**

Decatur Cares  
Mobile Food Pantry  
June 5 @7:00am

Let's do  
this!

I'm on it!