

The Voice

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DECATUR TX

August 2021



New Mission Statement — pg 5

Take a look at this break down of the new Student Ministry mission Statement and how they plan to live into it.

Back to School — pg 7

We want to send your kids back to school right! See what we have planned for Back to School Sunday.

Confirmation — pg 9

It's time for Confirmation- find out when classes start and how to sign your child up.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH

Promotion Sunday

Sunday, Aug. 1

Preschool Board Meeting

Monday, Aug. 2 @5:00-6:00pm, Room 209

Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry

Saturday, Aug. 7 @7:00am, Church Parking Lot

Back to School Burger Bash

Sunday, Aug. 8 @12:00pm, Church Parking Lot

Acolyte Training

Sunday, Aug. 15 @12:00-1:00pm, Sanctuary

Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 17 @6:00pm, Asbury Hall

Staff Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 19 @12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Community Yoga Class

Saturday, Aug. 21 @9:00-10:00am, Asbury Hall

WEEKLY EVENTS

Traditional Worship Service

Sundays @8:30am and 10:50am, Sanctuary

Pecan Street Mission Gathering Worship

Sundays @10:00-11:30am, Asbury Hall (MAC)

Lunches for Seniors

Tuesdays @10:30am-12:00pm Fellowship Hall

Chancel Bell Rehearsal

Wednesdays @5:00pm Sanctuary

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays @6:30pm Sanctuary

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

Send your meeting information and request to
info@decaturmethodist.org

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1- Charles Burton, Jayden Moody

4- Sharon Voss

5- Virginia Schitoskey

6- Marye Nella Armes, Gary Cocanougher,
Katy Stone

7- Mario Galindo, Madeline Peña, Russ
Thompson

10- Naomi Rawle

12- Jett Cartwright, Ramona Cerretti,
Noah Leath

14- Moises Piña

15- Nancy Butler

16- Jerry Watson

17- Kristi Bennet

18- Austin Anderson, Garrett Kirk

20- Hayes Flatt, Alex Forbis, Jodi Miller,
Carter Sanders

21- Meradith Culpepper, Chuck Heaberlin,
Stephen Reeves, Jack Stone

22- Dora Rose

24- Ben Bond

25- Mariah Fusco, Susan Hammond

26- Marsha Hafer

27- Wanda McCurdy

28- Melissa McAlister

29- Asa Johnson

30- Daisy Strempeke, Mason Woodruff

31- Betty Champion, Lynn Lambert

Find the online church calendar at
DecaturMethodist.org/Calendar

STAFF DEVOTIONAL

FROM SENIOR PASTOR, DONNY HAYWOOD

Grace and peace in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

I think that when we greet each other, it is understood that we are greeting each other to the glory of God. We are, in fact, created to be in relationship to God and to each other, and to praise God with our whole being. That's one of the great joys of our lives. Created by God, for God. And everything we do is a thankful response for the life we have been given. It really puts our existence into perspective, don't you think? Psalm 100:4-5 says, *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."*

I believe that the gates and the courts are the world around us - everywhere we look and go. So, we want to be ambassadors of that thanksgiving. We want to model it for those around us. Our gratefulness ought to be contagious. I desire to be part of a church that loves God and loves people and my natural go to face is one of happiness. I'm reminded of the Batman movie with Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson. Nicholson's Joker character had an acid warped smile. One of the criminals asked, "what's with that stupid grin?" and the Joker said, "life's been good to me." In my case, life has been good. God has been good to me. I suspect in spite of the rough times; God has been good to you too.

Don't be afraid to walk around with a stupid grin. Don't be afraid to seem overly thankful. Don't be afraid to let your attitude seem a little out of the ordinary. God didn't create us to be ordinary.

I'm excited to do ministry with you First Decatur.

In His service,

Pastor Donny

PRAYER REQUESTS

Tim Woodruff

Family of Sue Heaberlin

Gloria and Alvin Jenkins

Family of Shannon Ryan

Edward Waggoner

Michelle Hardy

Dr. Van Gardner Sr.

Email your prayer requests to Prayer@DecaturMethodist.org

Staff Feature: Megan Everitt

Communications Coordinator

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

Working in communications, I know that our website, social media, or newsletters are often someone's first impression of our church. People's decision as to whether or not they visit our church is likely based on how our communication looks and sounds. In some ways it feels like a lot of pressure, but I really love the idea that the things I produce could be the reason that people join this community.

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

Romans 8:38-39. *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* I love this reminder that nothing can stop God from loving us. I also feel led to love others the way God loves me and use this verse as a reminder that there is no limitation to that love.

What book is currently on your nightstand?

I'm pretty basic. Currently on my nightstand I have "Bridgerton: The Duke and I" by Julia Quinn that I started reading after watching the Bridgerton series on Netflix, and this month's issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine.



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

At my fantasy dinner party I would invite Walt Disney because I am a huge fan of Disney movies and the theme parks. (I've been to Disney World in Florida 10 times!) I would ask him how he feels about the direction the company is in and how he feels about certain updates on classic Disney attractions.



Tell us about your family

I grew up in Lewisville, TX with my mother, father, and younger sister, Taylor. My parents still live in Lewisville in the house that I grew up in and I am so lucky to get to visit them very frequently. My sister lives in Orlando, FL. She is my best friend and although I don't see her often, I talk to her almost every day.

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

My perfect uninterrupted day would start with a caramel latte with an extra espresso shot at Trinity Street Coffee Bar. I would then head to Denton Square to walk, shop, and eat with my close friends. The day would end with a hot bath and a movie before bed. This is my idea of a perfect day off.

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

I guess I would ask if I made the cut to get in.

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

I love to crochet and knit. My grandmother taught me to crochet when I was very young and I taught myself to knit when I was about 20. My love to crochet baby blankets and to knit hats. I'd love to make one for you sometime- feel free to ask!

MISSION FOCUSED

a break down of Student Ministry's new mission statement and how they used it to form their fall event calendar



Gabe Rangel has served as the Director of Student Ministries here at Decatur Methodist for seven months now. In that time, he has worked to create a new excitement and momentum around the program. A part of that excitement includes the creation of their new mission statement: “Love Unconditionally, Serve Selflessly, and Grow Deeply.” When planning events and gatherings for our youth, this mission statement is what he turns to in order to decide what is put on the calendar. Take a look at the following list of some of our youth’s planned events for the Fall broken down into how they fit into the mission statement. Looking at their calendar this way helps give a better understanding as to what our students do and why they do it.

LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY

- We experience and show love through relationships! All that we do is surrounded by love. We surround our kids with trusted adults who invest their time and talents into our kids.
- **AGAPE Jr. High Nights:** Once a month, our Jr. High students meet up for a special night of building relationships and having fun! We believe love is FUN!
- **P.Y.C. Nights:** We love our students by loving the adults who care for our kids. Once a quarter, we invite parents/grandparents/guardians of our students to join us for dinner and conversation. Childcare is provided.

SERVE SELFLESSLY

- **Texas Ramp Project:** We have partnered with Texas Ramp Project to build a ramp for a local family once a quarter.
- **Mission of the Month:** Each month we choose a local mission to serve.

- **Sunday Mornings at 9:30am** there are multiple opportunities to serve right here in our church.

1) Love working with younger kids? Assist with Children’s Ministry in the Children’s Wing on the third floor

2) Love Tech? Join the Tech team and during this hour you can learn the in and outs of our A/V system and how to serve our church

3) Love to smile and just help out? Our Pecan Street Mission needs greeters, help to set-up, and other things.

Talk to Gabe and he’ll help get you plugged into the perfect place for you to help out!

GROW DEEPLY

- **MAC Nights:** During MAC nights on Sundays at 5pm, our students will eat some great food, play a few games, and, most importantly, will dive through a passage of the bible. In order to “Grow Deeply,” we go through a passage together, hear a little from Gabe, and then split up into small groups. We invite students to put themselves in the shoes of who we are reading about, to wonder, ask questions, and even disagree.
- **Coffee Talks Sr. High:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays our Sr. High students meet up at Trinity Street Coffee Shop at 6:30pm. They drink hot or cold drinks and tackle parts of scripture and see how it applies to their life.
- **Sunday Worship:** Our students are encouraged to attend one of the three worship services that our church has to offer.
- **Fall Retreat:** This Fall, we’re heading out to Possum Kingdom for a weekend of worship, fun, enjoying nature, and building community.
- **Confirmation:** Students of at least 6th grade will begin their journey of taking their faith as their own. They will go over different topics, discover what is unique about being United Methodist, participate in a Confirmation Retreat, and so much more!

Gathering with Pastor Donny

Since his appointment at the start of July, our new Senior Pastor, Donny Haywood, has been getting to know the church and congregation by meeting with various groups.

Pictured here is the Cornerstone Sunday School Class that gathered at the home of Dick and Sylvia Hornback on July 15 to get acquainted with Pastor Donny and his wife Christie.



Anti-Racism Speaker Events Hosted by Pecan Street Mission

Racism in Social Services & Non-Profit Work: An Evening with Elizabeth Randle, Executive Director of CASA of Wise & Jack Counties

Monday, Aug. 2, 5:30-7:00pm in Asbury Hall

Elizabeth Randel has served as Executive Director of CASA of Wise and Jack Counties since February 2019. Previously, she was an Advocate Supervisor and Program Director with CASA. Liz holds a degree in

Business Management and has two years experience with CPS as a Conservatorship Caseworker. She will speak about the intersections of race and racism within social services and the non-profit sector, in addition to how race and racism impact the work of CASA. Liz will present and then engage in Q&A.

Racism in Higher Ed, Campus Ministry, and the Church: An Evening with Rev. Marcus Jones, Director of the MSU Wesley Foundation

Monday, Sept. 13, 5:30-7:00pm in Asbury Hall

Community Yoga Class

Pecan Street Mission will be hosting a free, community yoga class led by fitness instructor, DeAnne Martin on **Saturday, August 21, from 9:00-10:00am**. We will explore the many physical benefits of yoga, such as balance and flexibility, as well as utilizing yoga as a spiritual practice.

All are welcome to join! If you are in need of childcare, please let us know at info@decaturmethodist.org.

Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry

Join us for the Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry this month on **Saturday, August 7, at 7:00am** in the church parking lot. If you are available to come serve, we would certainly appreciate your help!

Please park behind the church in the parking lot off Church St. & Pecan St. that we share with the Wise County Messenger. Be sure to wear closed-toed shoes and come dressed to be outside the whole time.



Help Serve in Traditional Worship

We are in need of worship assistants! All you need is to be willing. We will train you if you've never served in that way before.

Worship assistants help in various roles such as Communion servers, Communion set-up team, lay readers, ushers, and greeters.

If you are willing to serve in any of the those areas, find the sign up sheets in the church foyer, call the church at 940-627-3362, or email admin@decaturmethodist.org.

Thank you for your willingness to serve!



BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY AUGUST 8

BACK TO SCHOOL BURGER BASH

On Sunday, August 8, at noon we will close out the Summer with a Back to School Burger Bash! We'll gather in the church parking lot to serve up burgers, frozen dessert, and we'll have fun water slides for kids. So gather up the family and bring a swim suit because this will be an event that you won't want to miss!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 8, we will celebrate the new school year with Blessing of the Backpacks in all three worship services- 8:30 and 10:50am Traditional and 10:00am Pecan Street Mission. Children will be encouraged to bring their school bags to worship for a special blessing and will receive a backpack tag to remind them that God will be with them all throughout the school year!

This Sunday will also mark the promotion of children and youth into their next age group activities. Children starting Kindergarten are now invited to participate in Children's Sunday School on the third floor Children's Wing at 9:40am and youth entering 6th grade can now participate in Student Ministry events.



Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School gathers **on Sunday mornings from 9:40- 10:40am**. Children ages 2-4 years will meet in the child care and nursery room on the second floor, and Kindergarten- 5th grade will meet in the Children's Wing on the third floor. Children will learn about the Bible and God's love through music, games, art, drama and science.

Helper Schedule

- Aug. 1-** Debra Walker/Diane Howell
- Aug. 8-** Trumanell Maples/Diane Howell
- Aug. 15-** Megan Everitt/Diane Howell
- Aug. 22-** Patina Berardi/Leah Clark
- Aug. 29-** Sara Flatt/Megan Everitt



The A-Team Schedule

- Aug. 1-** Audrey Rambo
- Aug. 8-** Connor & Carlee Berardi
- Aug. 15-** Trey Milliman
- Aug. 22-** Hayes Flatt
- Aug. 29-** Hayes Flatt

Save the Date Acolyte Training - August 15

Join the A team! Acolyte training with pizza and ice cream treats will take place at **12:00pm on Sunday, August 15 in the sanctuary**. The A team is open to all 3rd-6th graders. Virginia Caraway and Diane Howell will be training the children in how to serve the church as worship leaders during the Sunday services.

Acolytes are best known for their role of bringing in the light of Christ to begin traditional worship through the lighting of the candles on the alter, and carrying the light out to the world at the end of the service.

If your child is interested in becoming a member of the A team, or if you have any questions, please talk to Diane Howell or send her an email at children@decaturmethodist.com



Kidz Worship

Kids in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are invited to **Kidz Worship during the 10:50am traditional worship**

service. (Older children will be encouraged to make use of the activity bags and participate in worship with their families.) Children should start in the sanctuary with their families and then, after the children's moment in worship, the children may leave with Mrs. Diane for Bible stories, games, and craft activities in the Children's Wing. Children will then return back to the sanctuary for communion or the last hymn.

Helper Schedule

- Aug. 1-** Alea Peña/Diane Howell
- Aug. 8-** Trumanell Maples/Sharon Walker
- Aug. 15-** Megan Everitt/Diane Howell
- Aug. 22-** Diane Howell/Leah Clark
- Aug. 29-** Sara Flatt/Megan Everitt





STUDENTS

All 6th-12th graders are invited
to be a part of Decatur Methodist Students
where we believe that we are created to
Love Unconditionally, Serve Selflessly, and Grow Deeply

August Calendar

8 -Back To School Burger Bash 12pm

15 -MAC Night 5pm

22 -MAC Night 5pm

29 -Confirmation Orientation 12pm

29 -MAC Night 5pm

**PARENTS & STUDENTS
YOU'RE INVITED
FALL LAUNCH NIGHT
AUGUST 15TH @ 5PM**

MAC Nights

Sunday nights at 5:00pm at the MAC Building. MAC Nights will include missions, small groups, and will follow the lectionary. *“Creating a space for students to wonder, grow, serve, and become empowered to create a better world for the sake of Christ.”*

Coffee Talks

Sr. High students (9th-12th grade) meet every first and third Wednesday at 6:30pm at Trinity Street to talk about faith topics that will relate to their age group.

Agape

This group is just for Jr High students (6th-8th grade). On Saturdays once a month, Jr High kids can invite friends and gather to talk about faith topics that will relate to their age group.

CONFIRMATION 2021

The United Methodist Church uses the term “confirmation” to mark the first time a baptized Christian publicly “confirms” the vows of their baptism and becomes a professing member of the church. Here at Decatur Methodist, we encourage students in at least 6th grade and up to go through the confirmation process.

If you would like more information or are ready to sign up, contact Gabe Rangel at worship@decaturmethodist.org.

There will be a Confirmation Orientation on Sunday, August 29 at noon and Confirmation classes will begin Sunday, September 12.

First United Methodist Church
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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
to be in next month's
issue of The Voice.**



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