

The Voice

A PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF DECATUR TX

September 2021



Staff Highlight — pg 4

Get to know Donny a little bit better. Our new Senior Pastor is this month's featured staff member.

ReConnect is Back — pg 7

Get the details on how you can order your book for this season's ReConnect session.

Children's Ministry — pg 10

Take a look at the new things we have planned for children this month.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS MONTH

Office Closed

Monday, Sept. 6

First Day of Preschool

Wednesday, Sept. 8, Wesley Center

Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry

Saturday, Sept. 11 @7:00am, Church Parking Lot

P.Y.C. Night

Saturday, Sept. 11 @6:00pm

Third Grade Bible Presentations

Sunday, Sept. 12, all worship services

Confirmation Classes Begin

Sunday, Sept. 12 @12:00-1:30pm, MAC

Anti-Racism Panel: Marcus Jones

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

Staff Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 16 @12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 21 @6:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Club 45

Saturday, Sept. 25 @12:00-3:00pm, Children's Wing

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 @11:00am-12:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Pastor's Bible Study

Wednesdays @10:00am, Room 209

Chancel Bell Rehearsal

Wednesdays @5:30pm Sanctuary

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays @6:30pm Sanctuary

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1- Cari Whittenburg

2- Lori Reeves, Nathan Robinson, Annette Stephens

3- Steve Williams

5- Angie Browning

6- Jane Pemberton, Marcy Perkins, Oxsanna Wilson

7- Ray Brannan, Stephanie Fothergill

8- Frankie Claborn, Noelle Piña

9- Wayne Stone

10- Alissa Butler, Reyna Rangel, Ruston Rieger

11- Chris Forbis, Wendy Moreland

13- Mary Beth Fennewald, Barbara Haley, Pryor Robinson

14- Quinn Helm, Shirley Hofstra

15- Reid Fothergill

17- Cooper Moreland, David Tyson

18- Ava Hunt, John Tally

20- J.D. Clark, Trumanell Maples, Cole McCurdy

21- Cuca Jones

22- Lauren Campbell, Bayli Miller, Meghanne Moreland,

24- Betty Jo Johnson

26- Eleanor Bond, Donna Reeves

27- Jagger Rosenbaum, Jakob Rosenbaum

29- Thom Lambert, Taylor Richards, Jack Sandford, Mildred Terrell

30- Parker Cullop, Patti Mahaffey

PRAYER REQUESTS

Tim Woodruff

Family of Ronnie Handlon

Family of Chuck Porter

Brazos Jernigan

Thom Lambert

Jeffrey Seal

Email your prayer requests to
Prayer@DecaturMethodist.org

STAFF DEVOTIONAL

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR, RICKY HARRISON

This past month I have been reading Judges and Acts during morning prayer. Through these scriptures, I have been re-minded of the vital importance of re-remembering who we are and Whose we are as the people of God.

Throughout Judges I see how easy it is for the people of God to forget who they are and Whose they are. These recent nomads have settled into a more comfortable life in the Promised Land, no longer wandering the desert and depending on God to provide manna in the morning dew and water from rocks. In their comfort, they begin to stop telling the stories of faith: the stories of suffering in Egypt, of God's hand breaking the bonds of slavery and leading them to freedom through the Sea, of God providing for God's people even as they wandered through the desolate deserts of life. When we stop telling the stories of who we are and Whose we are, "another generation grows up after us, who does not know the Lord or the work that he has done for us" (1:10). The Israelites "abandoned the Lord," yet God remained faithful and raised up judges like Deborah and Gideon to re-member and re-mind God's people. They would tell the stories of faith, stories of God's great love, and re-mind the people who they were and Whose they were. This cycle simply repeats itself throughout Scripture: we forget, God remains faithful, someone helps us remember; we forget, God remains faithful, someone helps us remember; we forget, God remains faithful, someone helps us remember...who we are and Whose we are.

In Acts, those who do not even yet know they are the people of God are re-minded and re-remembered into the community we call the Church. Through breaking bread,

sharing possessions, praising God, and praying daily these members of the early Christian community – the Body of Christ – are re-remembered to one another and to God. Paul constantly re-minds the community, "You are the Body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Cor. 12:27). As the Body of Christ is broken on the cross and in the bread and in the bodies of martyrs like Stephen, the people of God are re-minded and re-remembered into the Body of Christ for the world. Paul tells these communities, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:5). As the people of God, our entire being – heart, mind, body, and soul – are re-minded and re-remembered into the Body of Christ for the sake of the world.

I find it so easy to forget things in my everyday life. Even with the help of Google Calendars and Siri Reminders, I know I am easily prone to forgetting. I forget a birthday, a chore on my to-do list, to pray at the end of a long day. Yet, as I read Scripture, each morning I am re-minded that I am not the only one who easily falls into forgetfulness. From the very beginning, human beings so easily forget the great goodness of God's love, who they are and Whose they are. So Scripture re-minds us, "Remember the Lord your God" (Deut. 8); "do this in remembrance of me...do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me" (1 Cor. 11:23-26). And so each week we gather in worship, as the people of God, to re-member and be re-remembered into the Body of Christ, to re-mind and be re-minded into the mind of Christ Jesus; to break bread, share possessions, praise God, and pray once again that we might re-member who we are and Whose we are: the Body of Christ, broken and re-remembered for sake of the world.

Staff Feature: Donny Haywood

Senior Pastor

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

I am encouraged in my work by people. I love when someone “gets it.” And maybe for the first time. For a person to gain a better understanding of Scripture and Jesus is like icing on a cake. It makes a good day better. I think I’ve always been a people person. My time in the grocery store and the Blue Bell truck have helped me to become more approachable and personable. My interaction with people drives my passion.

Favorite Bible Verses and why?

My absolute favorite is Romans 8:28- All things work for good for those who love the lord and are called according to His purpose. To me, that means everything that we have experienced- good and bad- have led us to this place, and prepared us for this time.

My next would be Habakkuk 3:17-19. And that reminds me that no matter how bad things may seem, God is still good and still in control.

What book is currently on your nightstand?

The Post Quarantine Church, and Autopsy of a Deceased Church

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

Stevie Ray Vaughan, Louis Armstrong- just to hear their stories



Tell us about your family

Christi, my better ¾, is an English teacher. We enjoy traveling, Diners, Drive Ins, and Dives food, and anything to do with our kids.

Cortney is our oldest and married to Thomas. They are RNs in Sherman.

Megan is next and her boyfriend is Frankie. She is a flight attendant for United and he is a pilot for Atlas Freight. They live on a sailboat in the San Francisco Bay.

Cassidy is third and she is married to Malik. She is a middle school English teacher and Malik is in Real Estate.

Emily is our youngest and she is married to Brian. Emily is in nursing school, working on her RN. Brian is an insurance broker. Everyone but Megan and Frankie live in Whitesboro.

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

I’d probably retreat with Christi. Maybe a short road trip with a great lunch somewhere.

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

Why couldn’t some things be a little clearer? It might have saved much division.

Name something most people don’t know about you.

I love all kinds of music. And I especially love live music. Something about live drums that cant be beaten. (no pun intended)



A Look at Our Newest Acolytes

Virginia Caraway and Diane Howell facilitated our annual Acolyte training where four new Acolytes were trained. Those acolytes were then commissioned during the 10:50am Traditional Worship service on Sunday, August 15. We are proud to be a church that teaches our youngest members the importance of participating in and leading worship. When you see these kids serving on Sunday mornings, be sure to celebrate and encourage them.

Our Newly Commissioned Acolytes

Bexley Moody
Hannah Hunter
Brooklynn Steinkamp
Aubrey Steinkamp



What Is an Acolyte?

Virginia Caraway has been training, scheduling, and working with acolytes at this church for many years. She has written the following reflection to help people better understand just how important an Acolyte's role is and why she is passionate about the program.

What is an Acolyte? An Acolyte is a servant of God and His church.

One of the most beautiful and meaningful moments at the beginning of a service is the sight of young people lighting the altar candles each Sunday morning. The symbolism of bringing the light of the risen Christ into the church is very special to me. I have always felt it is important for acolytes to understand and appreciate the significance of this tradition.

Some people believe the history of acolytes traces back to the days of Samuel in the Old Testament. The main duty of an acolyte throughout the centuries has continued to be the lighting and extinguishing of candles and acolytes today remain servants of the altar.

It is for this reason that I encourage acolytes to carry their torches high and be proud to be part of such a long and revered tradition of the church.

On a lighter note, Reverend Edwin B Womack, United Methodist pastor once wrote, "I become angry when people refer to acolytes as those sweet little children who light the candles on Sunday morning. Acolytes do not have to be little and often aren't sweet."

I believe all of ours are very sweet children and represent the tradition of acolytes with honor.

Upcoming Events



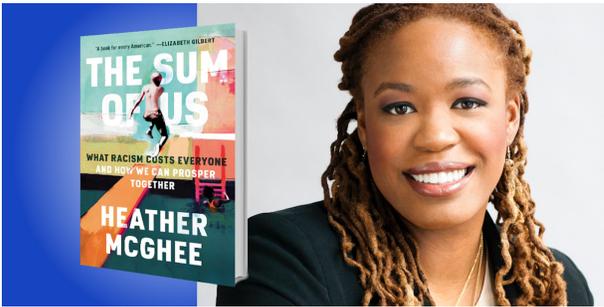
Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry

Join us for the Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry this month on **Saturday, September 11, 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. and 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.

Anti-Racism Speaker Event Hosted by Pecan Street Mission

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



Fall Anti-Racism Book Study Hosted by Pecan Street Mission

Book: *"The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together"*

Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a common root problem: racism. But not just in the most obvious indignities for people of color. Racism has costs for white people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out?

The Sum of Us is a brilliant analysis of how we arrived here: divided and self-destructing, materially rich but spiritually starved and vastly unequal. McGhee marshals economic and sociological research to paint an irrefutable story of racism's costs, but at the heart of the book are the humble stories of people yearning to be part of a better America, including white supremacy's collateral victims: white people themselves. With startling empathy, this heartfelt message from a Black woman to a multiracial America leaves us with a new vision for a future in which we finally realize that life can be more than a zero-sum game.

To participate in the Anti-Racism Book Study this Fall, contact Rev. Ricky Harrison (rharrison@decaturmethodist.org). This group will meet on Monday evenings from 5:30-7:00pm, (beginning September 20 and continuing for 10 weeks) in-person at the Outdoor Patio of the MAC Building at FUMC Decatur. Participants are expected to engage in the assigned reading each week in order to most fully participate in conversation.

New Study Series

ReConnect

Resuming Wednesday, September 8

Dinner: 5:45-6:30pm

Study 6:30-7:30pm

In Asbury Hall



We will begin the fall Reconnect session with Adam Hamilton's revised "When Christians Get It Wrong."

Following Jesus can be more about serving others rather than judging them.

More and more young adults have opted out of Christianity and the church. The reason? Christians. When young adults talk about the problems they have with Christianity and the church, they often name certain attitudes and behaviors they believe are practiced too often by Christians. With his familiar style, Adam Hamilton tackles these issues and addresses the how's and why's of Christians getting it right when it comes to being Christ in the world. Those who read When Christians Get It Wrong will gain a different way of understanding the issues that keep people away from Christianity and keep Christians from living a more compelling faith.

Books cost \$12 each. Place a book order by contacting Bonnie at admin@decaturmethodist.org, calling the church office at (940)627-3362, or signing up on the paper form in the church foyer.

Childcare will be available in the church nursery.



Roots & Branches: What Makes a Methodist

Pecan Street Mission Gathering
Conversation Series
September 2021

In the 1700's a pair of brothers, dissatisfied with their institutional religion and dry faith, set out to bring to life in a fresh way the Good News of God's love for all people. As they rode on horseback across England, the Wesley brothers gave birth to an ex-

pression of faith that held together the heart and the head, social justice and personal piety, God's Kingdom here on earth and in the life hereafter. In the fields of day laborers, with the children of coal miners, among the poor and the marginalized – Methodism was born.

For nearly 300 years, people called "Methodist" have been attempting to live out the way of Jesus within this unique theological tradition. Join Pecan Street Mission this Fall as we explore the roots of our Methodist tradition and what It looks like to live in this branch of the Christian family. In a conversational format, we'll consider aspects of the faith that make Methodism unique and how those roots branch out from Pecan Street.

Check Out What We Did



Back to School Bash

Our Back to School Bash was a huge success! Our new Senior Pastor, Donny Haywood, was well initiated with the dunk tank, while kids were happily entertained on the 19' water slide. Hot dogs and hamburgers were served to 70 people while the Kona Ice truck provided dessert. A huge shout out to Pam and Randy Schull for cooking and preparing lunch.

The event was a great success! Thanks to all who came to celebrate the start of the school year with us!



Student Ministry's Fall Kick Off

Student Ministry kicked off their Fall event calendar on Sunday, August 22. Parents were invited to join their kids for MAC Night. There were raffle prizes, group games, and small group discussion.

As a part of their lesson, students wrote messages of encouragement on stones and left them all around campus. If you find a stone, feel free to take it home and know that Decatur Methodist Students love you!

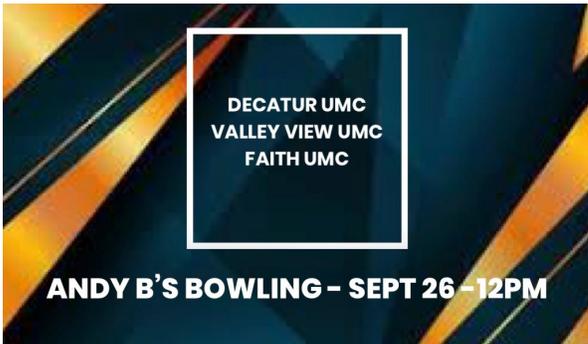




Decatur Methodist Students

Love Unconditionally, Serve Selflessly, and Grow Deeply

STUDENTS



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.

September Calendar

- 1** -Coffee Talk @Trinity Street 6:30pm
- 11** -P.Y.C. Night 6:00pm (Parents ONLY)
- 12** -Confirmation Begins noon-1:30pm
- 12** -MAC Night 5:00pm
- 15** -Coffee Talk @Trinity Street 6:30pm
- 18** -Guys Fishing Day 6:00am
- 18** -AGAPE Jr. High Night
Bowling 3:00pm
- 19** -MAC Night @5:00pm
- 22** -See You at the Pole
- 26** -Valley View and Decatur Methodist
in Denton
- 29** -Fields of Faith





Decatur Kids

Kindergarten- 5th grade



Children's Sunday School Fall Kick-Off

Sunday, September 12, 9:40-10:40am

K-2nd: Bible learning should be fun! In our K-2nd Sunday School class, kids will learn through active challenges, storytelling, and play. All of that combined with carefully crafted questions will help kids tie scriptural truth into their own lives.

3rd-5th: Presenting third grade Bibles is a big tradition within the Methodist Church. But after receiving them, how do they learn to use them? In our 3rd-5th grader Sunday School class, students will practice skills that will help them understand and feel comfortable using their Bible.

Parents Gathering: Looking for a place to relax and chat with other parents while your kids are in Sunday School? The church library on the third floor is the perfect place. The coffee bar is fully stocked and there will be simple scripture and discussion questions available to help get conversation going.



Megan Everitt
Children's Coordinator



Don't miss out on communication about our upcoming events!

Update your email and other information by contacting Megan at children@decaturmethodist.org.

Pecan Street Kidz

Sundays during Pecan Street Mission Gathering

Children who are worshipping with their families at Pecan Street Mission in Asbury Hall on Sunday mornings at 10:00am are welcome to participate in Pecan Street Kidz. Families will participate in worship together and after our music and spiritual practice are concluded, children will be led by a volunteer into the Kidz Space for activities, art, and storytelling that teach scripture in a way that is hands on and kid friendly.

9:40am Sunday School Helper Schedule

Sept. 5- Debra Walker and Megan Everitt

Sept. 12- Trumanell Maples, Sharon Walker, and Diane Howell

Sept. 19- Sara Flatt, Megan Everitt, and Diane Howell

Sept. 26- Patina Berardi, Leah Clark, and Diane Howell



The A-Team Acolyte Schedule

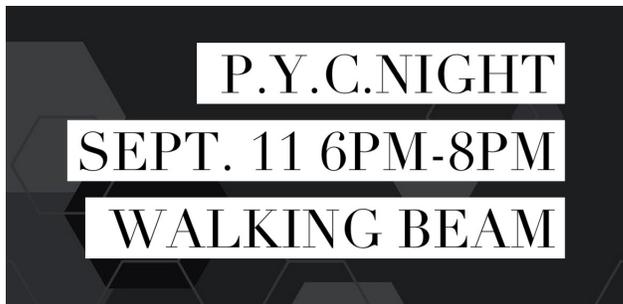
Sept. 5- Brooklynn & Aubrey Steinkamp

Sept. 12- Connor & Carlee Berardi

Sept. 19- Audrey Rambo & Hayes Flatt

Sept. 26- Bexley Moody & Hannah Hunter

September Happenings



P.Y.C. Night

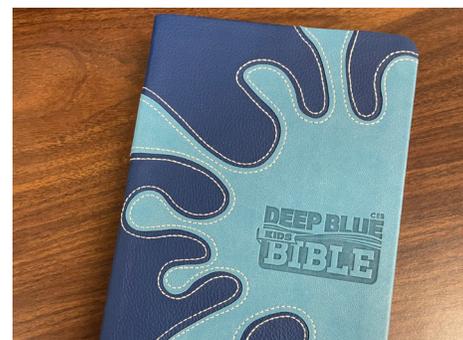
Saturday, September 11, 6:00-8:00pm

Join Gabe and Jessica Rangel at Walking Beam in Bridgeport as they host the Parents of Youth and Children. We are all parents in a tough time and we want to create a supportive environment for adults raising children! Childcare is provided at the church, but please RSVP by September 8 to Gabe at 940.577.1203 or at worship@decaturmethodist.org.

Third Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, September 12

Studying scripture is one important way that we learn about God. To help promote this spiritual practice at a young age, we celebrate the tradition of presenting third graders with a Bible as a gift from the church. You can be a part of this tradition and support our third graders by being in worship on September 12 at 10:50am Traditional Worship and 10:00am Pecan Street Mission Gathering.



A New Gathering Just for 4th and 5th Graders

Saturday, September 25, noon-3:00pm

Club 45 is a new program just for our fourth and fifth graders created to build relationships that will help ease the transition from Children's to Student Ministry. Club 45 will meet once a month. This month we will meet in the Children's Wing for pizza and a church wide scavenger hunt. Invite a friend! It will be a blast!



FUMC Mission Project:
Supplies for
FUMC Preschool

FUMC Preschool Supply Drive

The preschool is in need of several items to replace old and broken items or to replenish stock. Pick something from the list or shop their Amazon Wish List for other classroom needs. Printed lists and collection baskets are in the 2nd Floor Foyer and the MAC.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Hand Sanitizer | Wet Wipes (for hands) |
| Ziploc Bags (all sizes) | Paper Towels |
| Goldfish Snacks | Teddy Graham Snacks |
| Fruit Chew Snacks | Pretzel Snacks |
| Tri-Fold Nap Mats | Newsprint Drawing Paper |
| Manilla Paper (12x18 and 18x24) | |
| Finger Paint Paper (12x18 and 18x24) | |
| Little Tykes Red Cozy Coupe Riding Toy | |
| Clear Storage Containers with Lids (5qt/shoebox size) | |



Pick something from the list or shop their Amazon Wish List for other classroom needs

First United Methodist Church
104 S. Miller Street
P.O. Box 302
Decatur, TX 76234-0302

Presorted Standard Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 166
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**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
info@decaturmethodist.org
to be in next month's
issue of The Voice.**

Financial Update

**YTD gifts - \$279,490
2021 Budget Need - \$661,692**

**Gifts to Sanctuary AV Project
as of 8/24/2021 - \$111,555
Expense to Date - \$120,773**