A monthly publication of the First United Methodist Church

The Voice

Rev. Donny Haywood, Pastor
Rev. Ricky Harrison, Associate Pastor
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Issue 10 of 12
October 1, 2021

Children's Coordinator: Megan Everitt
Youth Director: Gabe Rangel
Secretary: Linda Hudler
Administrator: Bonnie Wohlleben

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

Newsletter articles are tough. What can I say in a page that is worthy of your time?

Your time is valuable. And often, it seems like there is so little of it to go around. On Sundays, I try to respect the time that you have set aside for worship. I do not like to go over the gift of an hour. I grew up in churches where that was an every week occurrence. But it is my belief, that if you steal from people often enough, they will begin to quit coming.

I love the Fall. We have begun to see milder temperatures (at least for a few days). High school football is once again king in Texas. Pumpkin spice is showing up in various places. And conversations are starting to happen about Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Time seems to fly from October 1 to January 1.

That said, we want to make the most of our time. We want to maximize the use for the more important things, without neglecting others. Scripture tells us that everything has its time. We read in **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8,** *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down,*

and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace."

We get caught up in the details and we forget what is important. These next few months are a good reminder of the things that we should be thankful for. We gather for high school football and celebrate kids, and good sportsmanship, and our city folk neighbors. We look toward Halloween, and we celebrate children, and joy, and candy, and we remember the Saints of the church. Bonus- we also have Trunk-R-Treat and enjoy the Fall weather outside. Thanksgiving is a season to remember the many blessings you have in your life and sit down with loved ones for a meal. It is a good time to remember that the table is a wonderful place to gather. Then, Advent and Christmas. We have all the joy of family and friends and children, but we mostly, we celebrate the birth of Jesus who lived and died for us, so that we might have a relationship with God.

I am excited to enter into this season with you for the very first time. It truly is "the most wonderful time of the year." Let us commit to looking for the joy of life, and love, and fellowship, and Jesus. Let us strive to let the negative go and focus on the things that bind us together. Let us remember that Jesus said to love God and to love our neighbor. And let us remember that we should always err on the side of grace.

In His service,

Pastor Donny

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Wednesdays
10:00 a.m., Room 209

Anti-Racism Book Study
Mondays
5:30 p.m., MAC Patio

Lunches for Seniors (Free)
Tuesdays
11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Decatur Cares Mobile Food Pantry
Saturday, October 2
7:00 a.m., FUMC Parking Lot

Preschool Board Meeting
Monday, October 4
5:00 p.m., Room 209

Pub Theology
Tuesday, October 12 & 26
7:00 p.m., Trinity Street Roastaurant

Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 19
6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Staff Meeting
Thursday, October 21
12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Trunk or Treat
Sunday, October 31
3:00 p.m., FUMC Parking Lot

Learning • Growing • Giving • Serving

CHURCH FRIENDS & FAMILY

Tim Woodruff, Justin Holt, Ms. Ross, Juan Monarrez, Tammy Rutherford, Josh Thompson, Family of Bert Little, Jamie Baird & baby, Leroy, Burt Caraway, David Henson, Taylor Henson, Clint Logue, Casandra Van Noy, Our Medical Community, Family of Charlotte Blackmon, Baird Family, Kelly & Steven Floyd and Evan William, Betty Carson, Charles & Carla Bass, Peggy Cundiff, Lyle, Thom Lambert

In the Military:
Jake Logue, Keygun Beaver, Bryce Dudley, Chris Hammond, Joshua VanNoy, Nathan Darington, Matthew Roberson
(Email prayer requests to prayer@decaturmethodist.org)

1 - Cynthia DesRoches, Dave Eaton
2 - Diana Allen, Megan Schitoskey
3 - Noah Smith
5 - Sharyn Helm, Jordan Null
6 - Jacob Vaughan
7 - Terick Hunt, Fred Renfro, Cliff Vick
8 - Shaylee Martin, Randy Shrull
9 - Crystal Klose
11 - Zayne Browning, Reese Sewell, Will Swanson
12 - Nancy Boyd, Dixie Parks
13 - Casey Edwards, Hillary Robinson
16 - Kevin Munnerlyn
17 - Jacie Stone
18 - Sarah Culpepper, Mayli Moreland
19 - Chad Berardi, Jo Woodruff
20 - Liz Lyles
21 - Ricky Harrison
22 - Corey Bosworth
23 - Henry Walker
25 - JoAnn Cocanougher, Rick Quiring, Bonnie Rawlings, Debra Wilkinson, Roxanne Williams
26 - Dana McCarroll
29 - Kendra Kaylakie, Aubrey McAlister, Abigail Roberts, Linda Smith, Jennifer Vaughan

We will be honoring our veterans with a slide show, Sunday Nov 7th. Please send a service photo, along with the full name, branch of service, and years served to Bonnie no later than Nov. 2nd. If you have participated in the past and would like to again, contact Bonnie to verify your information.

940-627-3362 or admin@decaturmethodist.org

Email any prayer requests to prayer@decaturmethodist.org

Help Bonnie Rawlings celebrate her 100th Birthday!

Sunday, October 24th · 2:00-4:00 pm
Asbury Hall (MAC)

Drive through the parking lot and honk and wave, or come inside and say hello.

The family has requested masks be worn on all who choose to come inside.

Thank You

Thank you to for all the kind words, cards, and gifts, and to the Cornerstone Class for organizing such a wonderful retirement party. I was truly overwhelmed.

Thank you, Thomas Laird

October 3
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Barbara Haley
Communion Servers: Virginia Caraway, Jamie Milliman
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Chad Berardi
Communion Servers: Fred & Cheryl Renfro

October 10
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Mickey Pangrac
Communion Servers: Bob Pangrac, Debra Walker
Communion Set Up: Sharon Meyer
10:50 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Trumanell Maples

October 17
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Virginia Caraway
Communion Servers: Jane Pemberton, Sharon Meyer
Communion Set Up: Virginia Caraway
10: 50 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Youth

October 24
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Penny Holt
Communion Servers: Gay Corn, Kathy Silvey
Communion Set Up: Debra Walker
10: 50 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Coyne Flatt

October 31
8:30 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Gabe Rangel
Communion Servers: Debra Walker, Virginia Caraway
Communion Set Up: Jim Henderson
10: 50 a.m. Worship Service
Lay Reader: Fred Renfro

October Communion Set Up: Seekers Class

November Communion Set Up: Cross & Flame Class

Decatur Kids

Sunday, October 31
3:00 - 5:00pm

Trunk-or-Treat is a fun, family friendly event designed to be a safe alternative to trick or treating. Volunteers will park in the church parking lot, decorate the open trunks of their cars, and pass out candy as children make their way around. Children are encouraged to come in costume as they collect treats, play carnival games, and win prizes. We'll be serving hot dogs and we'll have shaved ice for dessert. It will be a blast!

You can help us out with Trunk-or-Treat by signing up to decorate a trunk! Decorate as an individual, together as a family, or with a Sunday School Class. There will be prizes for the most creative decorations. Be sure to arrive at the church between 2:00-3:00pm on Sunday, October 31, to come get a parking spot and set up your trunk.

You can sign up in the church foyer or email Megan Everitt for more information.

children@decaturmethodist.org

We are in need of candy and small prizes for Trunk-or-Treat. Donations can be brought to church foyer.

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. This month we will meet on **Saturday, October 30, at the church at 2:00pm**. We will be driving out to Hall's Pumpkin Patch in Grapevine. We will be back at the church for pick up at 6:00pm. We'll stop to eat on our way home. Bring money for dinner.

Kindergarten Bibles

As Methodists we present Bibles to children at various stages of life. One stage of life that is often overlooked is our kindergarten prereaders. We believe that as young children are beginning to learn the building blocks of reading that they should have a Bible that is appropriate for them to practice those skills with.

On Sunday, October 24, we will be presenting Storybook Bibles to our kindergarteners and first graders.

If you would like to have a Storybook Bible presented to your child, please email Megan Everitt.

children@decaturmethodist.org

Decatur Methodist Students

STUDENTS

The Gathering - *Students can meet in the Firehall on Sunday mornings at 9:40 to hang out, have breakfast, and enjoy some great discussion.*

Coffee Talks - *High schools are busy and so twice a month grades 9th - 12th meet up at Trinity St for a coffee to talk about all things important to them.*

AGAPE *is meant for grades 6th - 8th only! We focus on building relationships in a fun way! The month of October, we will be going to the Decatur Movie Theatre to watch a movie and hang out together!*

Confirmation has started! *Cody Hunter, Abby Reeves, Connor Berardi, and Trey Milliman have started their faith journey together with Gabe and their mentors. Coming up they are going to St. John's Catholic Church, which is the first of a few trips to other faith communities! Keep them in your prayers.*
Confirmation Sunday is in January.

Fishing Trip - *The boys of Decatur Methodist Students when fishing on Sept. 18 at Lake Bridgeport! They caught over 30 fish in about 2 hours and had lunch and a small devotional on the lake! Thanks to Chris and Tish Tackel for hosting the boys.*

Youth Director: Gabe Rangel
youth@decaturmethodist.org
940-577-1203

Upcoming Mobile Food Pantry Dates

October 2nd
November 6th
December 4th
(December Food Pantry will be held at Wise Health Systems)

7:00 - 10:00 am

We will be hosting the Mobile Food Pantry on the first Saturday of the month from 7:00-10:00am in the church parking lot.

We utilize the "Drive Thru" method. If you are available to come serve, we would certainly appreciate your help!

Contact Ricky with any questions or to sign up to volunteer.

associate@decaturmethodist.org

The nursery is available and ready for your precious ones during all worship services for children birth thru 3 yrs.

Contact Alea Peña or the church office if you have any questions.

627-3362 or admin@decaturmethodist.org

Watch for Email Scams

We live in a great technological age, it is also sometimes great for scammers.
If you receive an email from an FUMC staff member that doesn't sound right, it probably isn't. They usually want you to send them money, gift cards, or contact them urgently. And they normally tell you to not tell anyone else. Look at the senders email address, it will always be from @decaturmethodist.org if it is a legitimate email from an actual staff member. If you receive one and are not sure, you can always contact the office. 940-627-3362

Meet the new church secretary - Linda Hudler

I moved to Decatur from Fort Worth in 2013. I am married to Chris Hudler and have two children, our daughter Kendall is 22 and our son Nathan is 19. I worked for Decatur ISD in the athletic department before coming to work here at First United Methodist Church. I am excited about my new position within the church and look forward to meeting everyone.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to the loving generosity of our church family The First United Methodist Church Preschool was ready to welcome 20 students in September, who are thriving, playing and making new friends. They are reading donated books organized on donated display bookshelves just the right size for little ones. The new playground toys are quite popular, and donations have stocked a snack heaven in the kitchen. Paper goods, sanitizers and cleaning supplies are keeping us clean and healthy, while your generous supply of pens, markers and art paper are helping the teachers with their jobs of loving and teaching the two through five year olds.

We are looking forward to visiting the Pumpkin Patch in October, and practicing good manners and safety while "Trick or Treating" in the church staff offices. Our chapel time is every Wednesday at 10:15 in the sanctuary. Please come join us and share our time in "God's House". Sometimes pastor Donnie or Mrs Diane leads, but you could just as well see Ms Bonnie, Miss Megan or Mr Gabe and pastor Ricky.
Come see God through the eyes of children, or experience His love through their hearts.

All our Preschool friends say THANK YOU and come to see us soon!

A New Energy

Sunday Morning with Children's Ministry

Written by Children's Coordinator, Megan Everitt

There is something exciting about all of the new beginnings that come in the Fall. The excitement of going back to school, getting back into routine. We have seen this trend of "coming back" within our Children's Ministry.

On Sunday, September 12, we had our Sunday School Fall Launch. Children's Sunday School is not a new thing for this church by any means, but there is a new energy around it. On Sunday mornings at 9:40am, our elementary aged children gather together on the third floor Children's Wing for song and music with Traditional Worship Director, Lynda Trow, and pianist, Karen Forbis. Lynda and Karen lead our kids in classic kids' Christian songs. Children then break into two separate classes.

Our Kindergarten through second graders, led by some amazing volunteers, have been diving into the book of Genesis. They're learning scripture in hands on ways with games and art. After being presented with their own Bibles, our third through fifth graders, led by Mrs Diane Howell, have been practicing the skills that will help them understand and feel comfortable using their Bibles.

We have many families with children worshipping together in our 8:30 and 10:50am Traditional Worship Services. I've worked to revamp our Children's Activity Bags in the Sanctuary with age appropriate sermon note pages and activity sheets that correspond with Pastor Donny's Sermon Scripture and let me tell you, those kiddos are engaged! I love reorganizing the bags on Monday mornings to find the notes and completed activities that get left behind.

Across the parking lot in Asbury Hall our Pecan Street families have opportunities for their kids as well. After music and prayer with their family, as parents begin sermon discussion children are invited into the Pecan Street Kidz classroom where they will learn Bible stories through creative storytelling, art, and activities.

There's a rousing energy around Children's Ministry right now. I am anxious to harness this energy and grow this program. If you would like to be a part of this new energy by volunteering with Children's Ministry please contact children@decaturmethodist.org. Thank you for continuing to be a church that loves and supports children.

Worship with the Decatur Methodist Family

In-Person Worship

Traditional @ 8:30 & 10:50 am
Modern (PSM) @ 10:00 am

Worship via Live Stream

(All Services)
Facebook @FUMCDecaturTX | @PecanStreetMission
www.decaturmethodist.org/Live

Email Prayer Requests to
prayer@decaturmethodist.org

Ways to give:

Online @ decaturmethodist.org/give
Mail checks to P.O.Box 302, Decatur, TX 76234
Text to Give: Text decaturmethodist to 77977

Let Us Know You're Here!

In an effort to be more streamline, efficient, and (BONUS!) cut costs you can now text when you are here on Sundays instead of passing that paper notepad down the pew for everyone to sign. Simply text your **first and last name** to the following number on Sunday. One person can sign in for the whole family with one text.

- 8:30 Traditional Service: 401-379-fumc (3862)
- 10:50 Traditional Service: 201-375-fumc (3862)
- 10:45 Modern (PSM) Service: 401-402-0psm (0776)

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THIS NEWSLETTER CREATED ESPECIALLY FOR

YOU!

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@fumcdecaturtx

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Instagram

Newsletter DEADLINE!

Monday, October 22

Folding Team

Thursday, October 28
8:30 a.m.—Room 209

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.