

Heart

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF DEKALB FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARCH 2018

A Journey in Prayer

As believers in Jesus Christ, we have been invited into a loving relationship with God as Father and Friend. This relationship is the first priority of intercession, and our journey must begin here. ~Dutch Sheets

According to Dutch Sheets, author of *A Beginners Guide to Intercessory Prayer*, "All of our Christian endeavors, including prayer, should be born out of intimacy with God." Prayer is a powerful force, as noticed in James 5:16, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." God has lovingly chosen to work through the agency of human beings. Sheets continues, "A sovereign God made a sovereign choice to limit Himself in many ways and situations to the

actions, decisions, and requests of human beings." When the people of God pray in faith God delights in responding, it may not be in a way that we expect, but He will respond. Beginning March 21, FUMC will initiate a new Intercessory Prayer Ministry, facilitated by Kaleb & Tonya Harp. In addition to prayer there will be an educational component to help participants better understand and incorporate prayer in daily life. The time has yet to be determined.

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday

March 25, 10:50 am

Journey to the Cross

Thursday, March 29, 6:30 pm

Good Friday

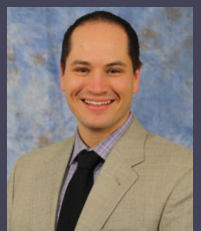
Personal Devotion 8 am to 8 pm

**See page 2 for more details*

Perspectives

By Rev. Matthew B. Smith

In the spring 2018 edition of DTS Magazine, pastor Garrett Kell contributed an article titled, *How Corporate Worship Strengthens Weary Saints*. In the presence of diversity he says there are two realities that bind us together. The first is our love for the Lord Jesus, and the second, we all suffer. In fact, our afflictions are so many that they could undoubtedly fill a library, "yet week in and week out, month after month, year after year, we gather to worship." It is through the gathering of God's people that He has promised to strengthen us and uses us to encourage one another.



There are six primary avenues that God uses to strengthen us. First, our worship is God's strength on display, "Our weakness supplies the perfect opportunity for God's strength

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Holy Week Services



One of the traditions of our rich heritage include the blessings of remembering and celebrating the events of our Lord through special worship opportunities. Holy Week begins with a Palm Sunday celebration Sunday, March 25, commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as a Messiah in stark contrast to the political figures of the day. The kids will wave palm

branches in procession as we celebrate this pivotal moment in His ministry. Thursday at 6:30 pm we will gather in the Sanctuary for a special one-of-a-kind service that celebrates both the Last Supper and the Passion of our Lord. We will share in Holy Communion and hear the story of Jesus' death as we're led from the Upper Room to Gethsemane to the

cross. On Good Friday, March 30, the Sanctuary will be open from 8 am to 8 pm for guided personal reflection. There will be a devotional guide containing the "seven words" of Christ on the cross to be used in personal devotion if desired. Holy Week is a great opportunity to include children and grandchildren in the stories of our faith that form the foundation of what Christians believe. This week also provides a framework to best understand the joyous celebration of Easter Sunday. The day our crucified Lord rose victoriously from the grave.

Matthew 6:33
"Seek first God's Kingdom"

Matthew 6:33 is a new challenge verse for FUMC. What does it mean to seek first God's kingdom? Each word is packed full of meaning, so think about it for a while. Remember that one thing is for sure, for God's kingdom to come, our kingdom must go.

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday March 11. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed!

Lay Servant Training

Lay Servant Training for the North District of the United Methodist Church will be *Friday March 16 to Saturday March 17*, at Lakeview Baptist Assembly, Lone Star, Texas. Applications can be picked up at the church in the Education Building or by e-mailing Bro. Matt at dekalbpreacher@aol.com. The church will cover the



cost of room/board and meals. The participant will be responsible for the \$15 program fee. Transportation will also be provided.

Military Bible Stick Update

Early February FUMC collected money for the Military Bible Stick, a ministry of Faith Comes By Hearing. Gifts received totaled \$1000 which will be matched, for a grand total of \$2000. As a result, 80 service men and women and their families will have access to a Bible stick. A Chaplain in Germany says, "The Soldiers are far away from home and what is comfortable . . . The Bible stick will be a great help." Thank you for helping give the powerful gift of God's Word.

Perspectives *(Continued from page 1)*

to be put on display (2 Cor 12:9). Secondly, God's Word is good news for struggling saints. "We need to hear God's voice especially during our greatest times of trial . . . there is nothing more relevant to the human heart than the Word of God." Third, God also strengthens us through observing ordinances. God strengthens His people when they gather around the Word, the waters of baptism, and the Lord's Table. "God designed these ordinances to be taken together by the church to remind us that we have a High Priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses (Heb 4:15)." Fourth, we set our gaze on God. "Prayer is one of the most fundamental reasons believers gather. Prayerfulness marked the early church and should mark us as well." Fifth, "God strengthens us through our singing, as we 'address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart' (Eph 5:19)." Lastly, the end is just a beginning. "When our gathering ends, we scatter. Yet we do not go alone. We go out as a community strengthened from what God has done among us. From our gathering we grow in unity. Relationships have formed, grown, and furthered."

The challenge I offer you; let us gather together in worship, strengthening each other in all we do, making ourselves ready for service in His kingdom, both now and in the world to come.

Prayer List

For Those Who Mourn

Family & Friends of Vanessa Barnett Walker
Family & Friends of Jessie Sanders

Nursing Home Residents

Bob Griffis, The Lodge, Mt. Pleasant
Moeta Newman, Reunion Plaza, Texarkana
Mary Clawson, Ponderosa
Kathleen Hopkins, Ponderosa
Iva Jean Barrett, Ponderosa
Lucy Hillis, Ponderosa
Barbara Lunceford, New Boston
Laura Gunn, Gilmer

For Our Members

Jim Fowler
Dorothy Sheridan
Bobby & Wanda Tidwell
Charles Vanderburg
Bill Thompson
Opal Waller
DeVeda Foster
Bill & Dorothy Lee
Lynn Davies
Mary Ann Tidwell
Lynn Rains

For Our Family & Friends

Sara Rowan
Pat Coronel
Beja Mlinarich, cancer, daughter of Bill & Dorothy Lee
Mike Jones, cousin of Bill Jones, surgery
Shirley Nevill, sister of Catherine Pearson
Joan Grigson, daughter of Loleta Murray
Clara Green, cancer, sister of Linda Sanford
Gloria Cunningham Chaney, sister of Marsha Telford
Tina Constantine, sister of Jim Constantine
Chris Henderson, Becky Buttram's nephew
Lynn Barnett, cancer
Ralph House

Lynnda Ell & Muriel Watson
Tina Petty, cancer
Jean Phillips
Carrie Megason, cancer
Paul Nichols, cancer
Mike Sanders, heart surgery
Charles McCrary, Kansas City, MO, brother of Mike McCrary
Tammy Matthews
Diana Melton
Riley Danielle Wright
Jay & Arlene Bennett, Boyce's niece
Curtis & Susan Richison
Nikki Daniels, brain tumor
Cleo Green
Tommy Dudley, cancer
Robert & Linda Hickey
Marvelle Pinkham
Barbara Mebane
Linda Coates
Elaine Sparks, cancer
Angela Tidwell, Carolyn Pirkey's cousin
Caleb Barksdale
Paula Tye, Richard Engle's cousin
Max, 9 yr old, leukemia
Emma Jean Marrale, 1 yr. old with cancer
Marilyn Barron, cancer
Nona Crane, cancer
Jami Davidson, cancer
Patsy Martin
Michelle Stryk, cancer
Julie Inman Matthews
David Hawkins, friend of Harry Sanford
Bob & Dulcie Murray
Linda Kight May
Mari McFatridge, cancer, friend of Molly Willey
Jackie & Mary Ann Hawkins
Jordan Morris, leukemia, great nephew of Molly Willey
Dena Dunson, cancer
Bobby Lum, cancer

Linda Groom, cancer
Tonya Barger, cancer
Don Elliott, cancer
John Rader
Mike Hobbs
Leah White, cancer
Kysia Johnson
Tom Ward, liver transplant complications
Athena Brackett, friend of Richard Engle
Peggy Jaynes
Bruce Crouch
Laura Lakey, cancer, friend of Pat Newkirk
Rosa Cheatham, friend of Harry Sanford
Dana Walker, friend of Delphin & Linda Germany
Jamie Larey, friend of Kay Willhite
Bryce Tjrner, double lung transplant
Maxine Pearson, skin cancer
Wanda Looney, cancer
Tim Bulanek, cancer
Ken & Joyce Howard
Debbie Schliesman, cancer
Glenda Barrett Campbell
Janet Jones, sister of John Westphalen
Joni Haldeman
David May (cancer)
Sam Moore (cancer)
Maddox Skipper
Caregivers

For Our World & Leaders & Our Servicemen & Women Serving Our Country

Roscoe Schwab, Military
Cody Dickens, Military
Michael Tucker, Military
Michael A. Hunnicutt, Military
Richard Matthews, Military
Lt. Travis Waller, Military
Jeanette Weir, Military, El Paso, TX
Robert F. Waller, Ft. Benning, GA

Reader and Scripture

March 4 — Robby Bates—Nehemiah 8:9-12
March 11 — Janie Matteson—1 Chr 16:31-34
March 18 — Chris Moser—Mark 14:32-42
March 25 — Philip Calvit—Mark 11:1-11

Attendance and Giving (February 2018)

Average Sunday School Attendance — 59
Average Worship Attendance — 121
Monthly Income Needed for Budget — \$19,024.50
Income for February — \$17,674.

DeKalb Hope Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter; Canned Meats; Canned/Dry Soups; Canned Veggies; Instant Rice; Canned Fruit; Pasta; Spaghetti Sauce; Oatmeal; Cereal; Ramen Noodles; Chili; Crackers; Personal Toiletry Items

Communion Servers

Rev. Matthew Smith; Philip Calvit, John & Debbie Booth

Children's Sermon

March 4 — None
March 11 — Rev. Matthew Smith
March 18 — Randy Pirkey
March 25 — Renau Garner

Children's Church

March 4 — None
March 11 — Worth & Cynthia Matteson
March 18 — Jason & Julie Hawkins
March 25 — Camille & Katie Fouse, Lecia Barrett

Ushers

3/4—Randy Barrett, Mike Farris, Philip Calvit, Perry D. Hawkins;
3/11—Boyce Rhea, John Garner, Jim Constantine, Fred Gilliam;
3/18—Harry Sanford, Bill Jones, Tommy Barnett, Dwight Barnett;
3/25—Worth Matteson IV, Jason Hawkins, Brian Triplett, Troy Zeringue

Thank You

To All the Members of DeKalb First Methodist Church:

Thank you so much for your prayers for this past year as I was fighting breast cancer. Fortunately, I have finished my treatment and am currently cancer FREE. I honestly do not believe I could have gotten through this without the support of family and my many friends. I looked forward every week to your card and appreciate so very much all of your prayers. Even though we only know Robby & Betty Bates, we do know you are all very special people with huge hearts. Again, THANK you for all of our prayers. May God Bless you ALL!!!
Jenny Aaron, Surprise, Arizona

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful Peace Lily. I look at it and know the love and care that it represent from my Church Family.
God Bless You All, Carolyn & Randy Pirkey & Family

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued prayers! It means so much to me that you all have stayed faithful to pray me through this journey. I have finished chemo, and bilateral mastectomy surgery is scheduled for February 9th.
Love, Jami Davidson

All prayer partners of the DeKalb First Methodist Church:

Thank you so much for all your prayers that have made a difference in my healing. I am doing good and appreciate your prayers every week.
Love in Christ, Peggy Jaynes May God bless each of you!

It does the heart and soul good to know others are thinking of you and praying you will be well soon. Such is our Church Family we appreciate so very much. The Prayer Breakfast card, with so many names of friends, as well as those we do not know, so inspiring! Our Challenger's Class support, personal cards, Facebook notes and phone calls offering to bring food, take us to the doctor, etc!! We are very Blessed know we can depend on our Church members in time of need. Thankfully John's pneumonia is better and my flu is too...have to regain strength! Thank you, and God Bless us all! Ruth & John Westbrook

To: My Prayer Warriors

Thank you all so much for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. The cards from you are very encouraging.
May God Bless You All Always. Love, Wanda Looney

Thank you so much for your prayers. The Lord always sees us through when there are prayers going up.
Thank you again. Sincerely, Sylvia Wilson (and the loved ones of Joe Wilson)

Prayers are definitely working for my Mom Joyce Bridgers. We moved her yesterday to my house on Hospice. She is doing good in comparison to this last week. The Cardiologist said it was a miracle she was alive after placing the stints. The nurses said a few days ago they did not think she would make it through the night. Her body was so cold and shutting down; however we are still praying for continued recovery and quality of life. She is now getting up and down and going to bathroom with our assistance. We're just taking it one day at a time, but we are very hopeful. Thanks for all your love and prayers and please continue to keep her on your daily prayer list and at church. God is wonderful and we are very thankful for this time with Mom.
Georgia Willhite

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts and concerns. I felt it – and have been anxious to “get back”!
I thank God for each of you!
Charles Vanderburg

FUMC Designated Giving Policy

Designated Gifts Disclaimer: The Church Council of First United Methodist Church, DeKalb, TX reserves the right to remove any designations or restrictions on gifts when it is in the best interest of the church to do so. At the point in which a designated gift fulfills its purpose any remaining amount shall be shared with the broader mission of DeKalb First United Methodist Church.

Calendar

Every Sunday

Coffee with the Pastor, Fellowship Hall 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:45 — 10:30 am
Worship 10:50 am

Every Tuesday

Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall — 7:00 am

Every Wednesday

Children's Choir — immediately after school — 5:00 pm

Meal for UMCF & UMYF — 6:00 pm
UMCF (Cubs — 5th & 6th grade) — 6:30 pm
UMYF (Youth — 7th—12th grade) — 7:00 pm
Chancel Choir — 6:30 pm

Every Wednesday February 21 through March 28

Lenten Dinners & Devotions — 6:00 pm — Fellowship Hall

Every Thursday

“Piecemakers” Fellowship Hall — 10:00 am — 2:00 pm

Saturday, March 3

DeKalb Hope Mission Day — 9:00 am—12:00 pm — DeKalb Hope

Sunday, March 4

Communion Sunday, Sanctuary — 10:50 am

PLEASE BRING CANNED GOODS FOR HOPE

Tuesday March 6

Church Council — 6:00 pm — Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 11

Daylight Saving Times Begins — Saturday night at bedtime —
Spring Clocks Forward one hour

Monday, March 12 through Friday, March 16

Spring Break

Wednesday, March 14

Nursing Home Ministry — 2:00 pm

Thursday, March 15

Amazing Grays, Potluck — 5:30 pm

Friday, March 16 through Saturday, March 17

Lay Servant Training — Lakeview Baptist Assembly — Lone Star, TX

Saturday, March 17

St. Patrick's Day

Sunday, March 18

UMW Following Morning Worship — Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 29

Journey to the Cross Communion & Passion Service — 6:30 pm

Friday, March 30

Good Friday Personal Devotion (come & go) — 8:00 am—8:00 pm

DeKalb First United Methodist Church

210 W Austin * P.O. Box 396 DeKalb, TX 75559

Office: (903) 667-2705 * Fax: (903) 667-5585

Parsonage: (903) 667-2338

Church Email: dekalbsecretary@aol.com

Pastor's Email: dekalbpreacher@aol.com

www.dekalbmethodist.org