

“The Voice” insert February 2016

Healthy Church Initiative Update

Thanks to those of you have completed the online survey, which is an important part of our church’s Self-Study. For those of you who haven’t, you may still go to the church’s website and click on the Healthy Church Initiative logo along the left side of the computer screen. That will take you directly to the survey.

We also have been assigned our Weekend Consultation dates when the Self-Study, interviews, focus groups, and workshops will occur. April 22-24, 2016 is an important time for the Church. Several people will make-up the Weekend Consultation Team and they will begin their work with interviews of Church leaders and staff on Friday. They will also conduct Focus Group meetings Friday evening (for church members who are non-leaders, young adults, youth, and regular guests) and then again with the Ad Board on Saturday morning. Saturday also includes an all-church workshop from 10am-3pm which will be conducted by the Lead Consultant. We will provide lunch that day and have nursery available both Friday night and all day Saturday. On Sunday, following the late service, the prescriptions will be read and presented to the entire Church.

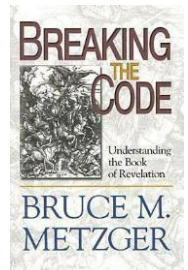
In the days that follow, three Town Hall meetings will be scheduled to ask questions or share with others about the prescriptions and our experiences.

Finally, a Church Conference will be requested where the Church will vote on whether to accept the prescriptions.

Your input and faithfulness to this process is appreciated and vital to its success and the future of our Church.

Breaking the Code

Starting on Sunday, January 31st during the Sunday School time, an 8-week study called *Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation* is being offered to anyone interested. The sessions will be held in the Wesley Center. There is no cost to attend, but the book with the same name as the study, written by author Bruce Metzger can be purchased (it can be ordered through the Church Office) for greater understanding.



Lenten Madness: Meet at the Center

Is your favorite college or university vying for a spot in the NCAA basketball tournament this spring? There will be excitement and fervor, not to mention a healthy share of heartbreak this basketball season as teams from all over the country compete for that shining moment in April. During Lent, we will “Meet at the Center” and hit the spiritual court with a sermon series that highlights where consolation and desolation meet for perhaps one shining moment. Series begins February 14th.

Souper Bowl Sunday

The Children's Camp Ministry will be serving soup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th, to help fund their summer camp trip. They will be serving chicken and dumplings as well as tortilla soup. You can place to go orders during the Sunday school hour or join us in the fellowship hall.

There will also be an auction benefiting the Scholarship Fund.



New members Wayne & Norma Miller

Wayne & Norma transferred their membership in January from another United Methodist church to join FUMC Decatur. When you see them, take the time to stop and say hello and welcome them into our family!

Open Doors

The open Doors Sunday School class is a group of adults that have discussion based lessons based around the life we live as Christians. We are very involved in our community, enjoy fellowshiping together, and try to live with a servant's heart.

For our advent study, we decided to put our love into action! From making Christmas cards and ornaments with the kids Sunday school classes for our homebound members, making and delivering cookies to our service personnel, shopping, sorting and delivering goods for Wise County Hope Shelter, we wanted to give back. Our class has service projects throughout the year as well.

The past few months we have been making it a point to get together and fellowship outside of the Sunday school hour. We have had a fall bash, Friendsgiving, Christmas party with decorating cookies, and soon in March, we will be having an Easter party, where kids can decorate eggs, and have an egg hunt!

This year during the Sunday School hour, The Open Doors class will continue the with the Converge bible studies. Each four week study is topical based on scripture with insights/ideas and a time for questions and answers. In February we will study "Who You are in Christ" and "take a look at how our faith in Jesus radically changes who we are and our relationships with God, each other, and the world." This study uses Paul's NT letters to explore our identity in Christ, how self-perception affects who we become and what we accomplish when we choose to live according to God's way of justice, mercy and love".

As you can see, we are learning and growing together in faith, and we would love to have you join us! The Open Doors class meets in the Library on the 3rd floor each Sunday at 9:40. Submitted by: Megan Hughes

Baptism of The Lord Sunday



We celebrated and renewed the vows of our Baptismal Covenant

