

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday in Lent

- 8:45 am Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday school
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
- 6:00 pm Student Ministry
- 6:00 pm Growing Healthy Churches

Monday, February 27

7:00 pm Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts

Tuesday, February 28

6:00 pm Women's Bible study

Wednesday, February 29

- 5:30 pm Fellowship supper
- 5:30 pm Student s.H.e.d. Ministry
- 6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
- 6:30 pm Children's Ministry
- 6:30 pm Adult Bible study
- 7:30 pm Chancel Choir practice

Sunday, March 4

Second Sunday in Lent

- 8:45 am Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am Sunday school
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship Service
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm Baby shower (FH)
- 4:30 pm Wesley Acres Ministry
- 6:00 pm Student Ministry
- 6:00 pm Growing Healthy Churches



Olan Mills will be at the church to take family portraits for directory March 8, 9, and 10

Call the church office to reserve your time or sign up at church.

Worship With Us

*Ninth Street
United Methodist Church*
(corner of 6th Avenue and 9th Street SE)
Decatur, Alabama
256-353-5846
www.ninthstreetumc.com

Sundays
8:45 am: Contemporary service
9:45-10:45 am: Sunday School
11:00 am: Traditional service
6:00 pm: Evening service

Our Mission:
We the members of Ninth Street United Methodist Church seek to worship God, live our faith, and share the love of Christ by making disciples and serving others.

Non Profit Org.
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Decatur, AL 35601
Permit #175

Ninth Street United Methodist Church
1227 Sixth Avenue SE, Decatur, AL 35601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Ninth Street United Methodist Church

THE MESSENGER

February 22, 2012

LENT

The season of Lent is the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) leading to Easter, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. It's observed in many ways by Christians. The most traditional way is to focus on giving up some favorite or harmful behavior as a way to express personal discipline. That can be helpful - if we're not secretly looking forward to resuming such behavior in a few weeks.

Lent calls us to do at least two things: reflect and repent. A famous story Jesus told can be worthwhile to remember during these days. It's the one about two people who went to the Temple to pray.

One person went to the center of the crowded Temple. He prayed loudly, clearly meaning to call attention to himself. He thanked God that he wasn't as bad as other folks. The second person went to a far corner and prayed in a hushed voice that could be heard only by God. He asked forgiveness for his own sins.

Both persons concentrated on themselves, one in the wrong way and the other in a way that Jesus approved. The contrast was Jesus' point. It was self-centeredness versus self-examination. Each produces a distinctive behavior.

Self-centeredness leads to judgment of others. We may not be perfect, but we're better than those people. Negative goodness, grading on the curve, building ourselves up by putting others down is the tone. Self-examination, however, leads to repentance and confession. My sin, my weakness, my need for forgiveness is the focus.

During Lent we can learn that when we practice the second kind of behavior, we don't have the time or the inclination for the other one.

John Rutland, Jr.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our first outreach activity that has grown out of our Sunday night services will be this coming Saturday, February 25, beginning at 10:30 am. We have a good group that will be participating in our attempt to reach our neighborhood. Good things are going on in our church, and there is an enthusiasm for outreach. We need your help, even if you haven't signed up yet. Join us this Saturday.



The Pastor and church family express Christian love and sympathy to Faye Christopher and family in the death of her brother, Ray Chittam.

DEAR CHURCH

Thank you all for the thoughts and prayers while I was in the hospital. Your prayers helped my family and me get through a trying time.

Glenda Messman

* * * * *

Thank you for your acts of kindness during my surgery. Thanks to Sabine Eldridge for bringing me the beautiful altar flowers. A special thanks to Brother John for his visits and prayers.

Billy Don Looney

YOUR CHANGE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

The Society of St. Andrew is an organization that salvages fresh, nutritious produce from American farms, produce that otherwise would be left to rot, and delivers it to agencies that serve the poor across the nation. Special collection baskets have been placed in the sanctuary for your pocket change that is given to The Society of St. Andrew. Next time you see the baskets, drop in your change, and help change the world.

*You are invited to a
Baby Shower for
Britney Stroup Green
(daughter of Ron and Celeste Stroup)
March 4, 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Fellowship hall
Britney is registered at
Target and Babies-R-Us
IT'S A BOY!*

*You are invited to a
Baby Shower for
Melissa Ghee McWhorter
March 11, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
Fellowship hall
Melissa is registered at
Target and Babies-R-Us
IT'S A GIRL!*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Can you believe March is almost here? Where has the time gone? Summer will soon be here!

Vacation Bible School will be an important part of our summer. This year we will explore the exciting *Holy Land Adventure*. During this event families will explore the culture of ancient Babylon when Daniel and his friends were in captivity. The people in ancient Babylon worshiped many fake gods, but Daniel and his friends had the courage to stand firm and believe in the one true God.

If you would like to volunteer your time during VBS, you can help participants understand that our one true God is always with us, just as God was with Daniel so long ago. Kids will walk away with the comfort of knowing that God will be with them when things change, when they need help, when they're afraid, when they're lonely, and when they're thankful.

We need volunteers in all areas. The dates for VBS are June 12 - 14, and the program on Friday, June 15. We will begin at 6:00 pm each evening and end at 8:00.

Just call the church office and leave your name to help. You will be a blessing to the children and the children will truly bless you!



CONFIRMATION

A Confirmation class for young people in 6th grade or above will begin soon. Call the church office to register.

Student Ministry

*"Serving Him Each Day" (s.H.e.d.)
For students in grades 6 through 12*

FUND RAISER LUNCHEON Sunday, March 18, at noon in the fellowship hall

MENU: Spaghetti-Bake, bread, salad, dessert & beverage

Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of our Spring Break trip to St. Simon's Island in Georgia on April 23 - 27. We will be working on missions daily during our stay as well as having fun and growing in our faith.

FOOD FOR BACKPACKS

Thanks to our United Methodist Women and others who donated to the Backpack Nutrition Program. The food was distributed to West Decatur Elementary this month. Many children were helped and according to our contacts at the schools, many families are very appreciative.



**Take the
time to
pray!**

In the Hospital and Recovering as of February 22

Peggy Matthews - Huntsville Hospital
Dennis Ferguson - Decatur General
Polly Higginbotham - River City Care and Rehab
Lynn Christopher - River City Care and Rehab