

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NIV)

As I write this article, the remnants of Hurricane Florence are streaking through parts of the US, creating havoc. All along most of the east coast, local radio stations have been crackling with weather updates, and warnings that include the unsettling screech of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) sounding danger from severe thunderstorms, flooding, and possible tornadoes.

I'm truly thankful to God that we have such technology, but I also think about how fantastic it would be if the same technology could bridge its way into our personal lives! Wouldn't it be great to be forewarned about the potential tragedies and storms of life before they blew into your midst?

In a way, that's exactly what Jesus did in our Scripture from the Gospel of John. While far from specific, His warning about trouble is one that should not be glossed over. It is an assurance that our life in this world is a life into which rain *will* fall, a life into which storms and trials *will* come.

Notice that Jesus never promises that he will take us out of the storm, nor does he say that if you follow him you'll never experience the storms of life. Jesus simply tells us that in life's trials and tribulations, *he* is our shelter, *he* is our peace, *he* is our safe-haven. Why? Because *he has overcome* the world, and he has done so for our benefit. When *we* try to overcome the world we fail. But when we embrace Jesus, his victory becomes our victory.

When we come to Jesus in faith, and take shelter in his triumph, then the peace of which he speaks becomes our peace, in spite of the best-of-the-worst-trouble that this world has to offer. Remember Jesus' words from Matthew's Gospel, "*The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*"

In Christ, and Christ alone, do we find shelter for our soul.

In Christ,

Brother David

SECURITY

Please be advised of the following changes that are taking place at our church:

- The two single doors located at the back of the sanctuary by the outside fountain will be locked at all times.
- The Educational Building doors will be opened at 8:30 am on Sunday; during the 11:00 service, doors will be locked between 11:10 and 11:55 am.
- The sanctuary doors will be opened at 10:15 am each Sunday.
- During the 11:00 service, all outside doors will be locked except for the sanctuary doors at the corner of Strawberry and Decatur.

HURRICANE RELIEF IN THE CAROLINAS

The best way to respond to those who are affected, after prayer, is through financial contributions. If you would like to make a donation, make your check payable to FUMC with "Hurricane Florence" in the memo line. Or if you are interested in assembling relief kits, please go to awfumc.org to find the information on cleaning and hygiene kits. Demopolis First is a drop off location for our District.

COMMUNITY REVIVAL OCTOBER 14TH THROUGH 16TH 6:00 PM CHURCH AFLAME

NO WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY, WEDNESDAY NIGHT DELIGHT, OR ANY STUDENT MINISTRY ACTIVITIES ON OCTOBER 31ST

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We will have until October 28th to complete the mission project. Boxes and labels will be available on the table outside the Fellowship Hall. You will also find lists of recommended items for boys and girls within each age group. Place filled boxes under and beside the table. PLEASE INCLUDE ITEMS CONSIDERED NECESSITIES WITH A WOW ITEM. Also, please attach to the top of the box an envelope containing a \$9.00 check made out to FUMC Demopolis to cover shipping.

We encourage individuals, families, Sunday School Classes, and groups within the church to become involved in spreading the Gospel to children around the world through this ministry. We gladly accept financial donations and/or donations of items in bulk, such as soap, washcloths, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, plastic cups and/or bowls.

LET'S DO THIS, FUMC-DEMOP!

6TH ANNUAL DEMOPOLIS HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

George Franks Field at City Landing

We are joining with other area churches to host a city-wide Fall Festival for children 12 years old and younger and their families. There will be games, food, inflatables, trunk or treating and more!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need donations of individually wrapped candy for the trunk or treat. We also need volunteers to help with games and serve food. There is a bucket outside Jennifer's office for candy donations and a sign-up sheet on the office door. Please contact Jennifer Jordan if you can help or have any questions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL RETREAT

SPRINGVILLE RETREAT CENTER

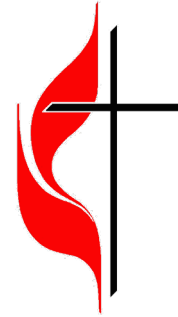
FRIDAY, OCT 19TH – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

SIGN UP DEADLINE AND \$50 DEPOSIT DUE OCTOBER 7TH

FUMC STUDENT MINISTRY

STUDENT PRAISE TEAM

The Student Praise Team will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm on Sunday afternoons.



THE WITNESS

The church that love is building.

Rev. David Willis, Pastor



First United Methodist Church

200 East Decatur Street

Demopolis, AL 36732

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