

From
the
Pastor

Dear Church Family,

Debbie and I are so grateful for your warm welcome and words of kindness.

Let me share a bit of biographical information about both of us.

Debbie was born in Springhill, Louisiana and then moved at an early age to Bay Minette, Alabama.

I was born in Frankfurt, Germany to a military family. After a few years of moving around for the military, my family joined the “race to the moon” and arrived in Huntsville, AL.

We both met while attending Huntingdon College in Montgomery. This introduced me to the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference. We both benefited from scholarships funded by churches like Demopolis.

We were married during the Christmas break of my first year of Divinity School at Duke University. In January we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary.

She typed many papers and honed her editing skills as I wrote an endless number of papers. She also began a banking career on the Duke University campus.

The trip home, for our first appointment, saw us move into a small mobile home behind one of the two churches we served...about two parked cars from the church building...on property that was a part of the church cemetery.

Debbie packed her baking pans...she knows the science of sour dough well...while we made several moves around our beloved Annual Conference. Many of those moves were east and west on I-10.

Eventually, Debbie found her niche in banking again. One of her most interesting opportunities involved working at banking operations center.

I like to read and write and I have spent years of my life in meetings. Both of us enjoy cooking (we love the parsonage kitchen). Debbie and I find our best moments happen when we are with people...doing all the things you could do before the pandemic!

If you see her walk around and speak to people on Sundays (or when we dream of meal times in the church) that is her gift. In many of the churches where we have served the running joke (really true) is that church folks **tolerate me but they love her**.

If you take some time to build a relationship with us...and let us use our gifts...I promise you that will make us as happy as anyone in the Kingdom of God.

We are thrilled to be in Demopolis.

Faithfully yours,

bill@fumcdemopolis.com



Don't forget to register each week for the service you would like to attend.

WE HAVE A NEW CAMERA! If you would like to help serve on the tech team, contact Dr. Bonnie or Kaitlyn.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
MISSION PROJECT**

Help us make our schools safer!

Please contribute to the
Sanitation Stations for Demopolis
City Schools. We are sponsoring 6
stations at \$100 ea.

APPLE TREE PROJECT

Each year, prior to the beginning of the new school year, our congregation has the privilege of helping foster children in our community by supplying a backpack and requested school supplies. DHR provides the church with a list of students and grade levels. Due to our congregation's generous financial support in previous years, instead of asking for donations for this school year, we will be using remaining funds to purchase supplies. Church and Society committee members will shop for the items and, depending on the status of COVID 19, Jennifer and the Youth department will help pack the backpacks. Thank you for the blessings you have provided for these children.

BACK TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY PRAYER RALLY SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH AT 6:00 PM FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PARKING LOT

We have all heard about plans to head back to school. Therefore, we need to gather and pray! Everyone is invited to join us for a time of prayer for all students, teachers, parents, administrators, and staff.



THE WITNESS

The church that love is building.

Rev. Bill Elwell, Pastor



Our Youth enjoyed outdoor movie night on Sunday, July 19.

**First United Methodist Church
200 East Decatur Street**

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Permit # 81
Demopolis, AL 36732

During the Motion 2020 Student Conference, our Youth cleaned out the second floor office and moved things to storage in the Yellow House.

