



Join us as we Gather together, Grow in Jesus Christ and Go serve

MAY
2021

Due West UMC

Keeping you updated as we Gather, Grow and Go



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“Why do you think that is?” That was the question. But you need to understand the conversation that prompted the question.

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Serving others and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to those who are far from God is the focus of missions at Due West UMC.

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dwKids

dwKids is committed to providing kids with the tools to make life easier by giving them a faith that will last forever. We strive to make church a place they want to be!

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Ignite Youth

Designed for 6–12th grade students to gather together, grow in Christ, and discover how they can go serve today and in the future. All are invited to discover God’s love at Ignite Youth Ministry.



Due West United Methodist Church

Available in App Stores





We want to give a big Due West
welcome the to Moore Family!

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Adults

We're all looking for community -- a place to fit in, a place to get to know people, a place to connect!

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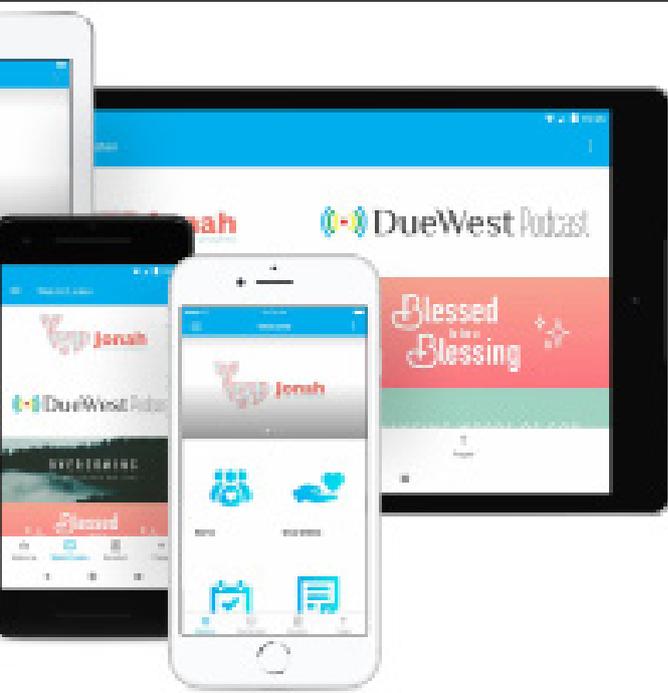
Events

We have thousands of events every year here at Due West UMC. For more information and to see all of our events, visit the calendar on our website.

Online Giving

You can give online using your smartphone, tablet or computer. Visit our website and select "Give Online" to begin giving through our system.

Contact Bree Collins at brecollins@duewest.org if you have any questions.



Pastoral

A letter from our
Pastor to you.

Update

Four Simple Reasons That Are Not So Simple

“Why do you think that is?” That was the question. But you need to understand the conversation that prompted the question. I was talking to someone about all of the great things God is doing in and through Due West. All of the ways that you all have been the church during the last year. All of the ways you have helped people in our community and around the world. Someone wanted to know, “Why do you think that is?” I didn’t have to think long before I said, “Four things.”

First of course, is the senior pastor. “Really,” you say? Yes, really. I guess I should tell you that my answers are listed from the least important reason to the most important reason. So what I am really saying is I am way at the bottom, not the top of the list! I am by far the least important... number 4 of 4.

Third is the staff. You never hear, “This is my ministry, I need to focus here.” What you hear is, “Where am I needed?” “Where can I help?” “What can I do?” Philippians 2 says that Jesus “took on the very nature of a servant.” We are called to do the same and our staff lives that out every day! Most of you don’t see the countless hours they put in, but you do see the joy they have as they live out God’s calling on their lives. We are blessed by each and every one of them.



Dr. David Campbell

Senior Pastor

The second most important reason God is doing great things here is you all. The greatest staff in the world can only do so much without a congregation willing to be the Church and you all are more than willing to be the church! A year ago there, were people wondering “how many churches will survive the pandemic?” Due West has done so much more than survive. We have found new and creative ways to carry the gospel into our community. You all have chosen to see open windows rather than closed doors. You have said, “The church is alive and well right here, right now!”

And number one? The true number One? Is The One. The Holy Spirit has led us, guided us, focused us, empowered us to be the church God

Christ is Risen!

has called us to be. The same Holy Spirit that descended on the day of Pentecost, the same Holy Spirit that was in John Wesley at the beginning of the Methodist Movement has been present with us. Without that Spirit, we are a collection of people trying to do good things. With the Spirit, we are the Church of Jesus Christ carrying the healing power of the gospel into a hurting world. That is why all our praise goes to God and not ourselves!

Four reasons. Simple, in that we can articulate them. But not simple. They are as mysterious and profound as the Church of God. Please know how grateful I am to be able to witness the great things God is doing through you!

If it's Sunday, you want to be at Due West,
David

Breathe



Due West UMC

“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’” - Matthew 25:21

Man, I love to hear a compliment! Especially from someone that holds a special place in my life...a parent, a spouse, a boss, a good friend...you get the idea.

In the parable of The Talents, Jesus gives us a picture of a boss talking to three of his employees, and we are given an insight to their relationship. It seems from the story that the boss entrusted each employee with a different amount of money for which they were held responsible. Each one of them handled the task differently. We don’t know why. We don’t know what inspired each of their actions or in one case, inaction.

Interestingly the employee that was only trusted with the single talent, was the only one who hid it, thus not gaining any benefit. Interesting, but not really that surprising I suppose. I myself am guilty of buying into the belief that “I only have a little to give” or “I’m only one person, what difference can I make?” But what I forget is that only one ounce is needed to change the balance on a 1000 pound scales!

I need to remember that if God has trusted me with a “talent”, then I need to not hesitate to share even that one. I may never know the difference that my single effort has made, but it’s not for me to know that. God makes the plant grow, He only asks me to plant the seed.

Missionaries at Work:

Missionaries are found everywhere! Even in the choir loft and sound booth! I hope I speak for the entire congregation when I say thank you to our great Music Ministry and Tech staff. They all put in countless hours every week but especially leading up to Easter Sunday. And wow, weren’t they a blessing to us? Make sure you take time to thank everybody involved.

Did your family have their Easter picture made at the flower cross in the South Campus prayer garden? This is a great tradition that we have started, and it wouldn’t be possible without a crew of Missionaries. Special thanks to Mary Margaret Smith and her “flower” crew for getting the cross and the area ready for Easter Sunday. And let’s not forget that our beloved Tom Rudd was instrumental in making it all possible by helping to create the wire frame that holds the flowers.

“In times of storms...” Huge thanks to all of the volunteers that took time out of their weekend to travel to Newnan, GA in the wake of the tornado a couple of weeks ago. Due Westers could be found passing out water, working chain saws, hauling limbs, and most importantly loving on and praying with the home owners.

Preschool Missionaries!

Thanks to our preschool families for collecting and donating hats and winter coats this past season for one of our ministry partners, The Craddock Center, located in Cherry Log, Ga.

Wednesday Lunch Crew:

Big props to this dedicated team of volunteers that meet each Wednesday afternoon at Harrison High School to load up 115 meal kits provided by the Cobb County Nutrition Department and HHS, and then deliver them to the families living in four different extended stay hotels! This group goes out rain or shine, hot or cold! Time commitment is availability on Wednesday afternoon from 1-3 pm.

Teach Love:

Take me out to the ball park! Our Teach Love ministry provided Subway dinner and a devotion led by Pastor Latham twice for the Osborne Cardinal Baseball team this season.

Serving in our Community:

As promised, the Mission Committee is rolling out what we hope to be a great variety of mission opportunities for you, your family, small group, Sunday school class, neighbors, sports teams, etc.

Event information will be promoted throughout the Spring and early Summer via the newsletter, the church website, the weekly DWInsight email, the Sunday Morning announcement videos and on our various Facebook pages. And as always, you can contact Mark Hellman, Amber Wilson or Kerri Casteel.

Upcoming Local coordinated events are as follow:

May 2: Sorting and packing resource kits for Simple Needs Georgia (Marietta). Great for all ages, groups or individuals. 1:30-3:30 pm. We need 5-10 volunteers. Please register with Amber Wilson by April 28 to reserve your spot.

May 22: Sorting food and packing food boxes for MUST Ministries (Marietta). Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Great event for small groups, Sunday school classes, teams, etc. We need 5-7 volunteers. Please register with Amber Wilson by May 19 to reserve your spot.

June 27: Sorting and packing resource kits for Simple Needs Georgia (Marietta). Great for all ages, groups, individuals. 1:30 -3:30 pm. We need 5-10 volunteers. Please register with Amber Wilson by June 23 to reserve your spot.

Several of our Mission partners have “open opportunities” for you to take advantage of: The Craddock Center (www.craddockcenter.org) : Located in Cherry Log, GA. This partner is only a few miles from the North East Ga mountain towns of Ellijay, Blue Ridge, and Blairesville, and all of the apple orchards! This could be a great part of a fun weekend in the mountains for your family, neighbors, or small group. Needs include general lawn care/trimming, sorting and labeling books for their bookmobile program. Contact Mark Hellman for more information.

Mt. Top Boys Home (www.mountaintopboyshome.org) Located in Sugar Valley, Ga. This partner is close enough to stop by the beautiful city of Rome, Ga and take in a Rome Braves game, or visit their growing downtown area. Combine some service with some fun! Great for families, small groups/Sunday school classes, neighbors etc. Needs include painting, yard care, etc. Contact Mark Hellman for more information.

SPARC: Single-Parent Alliance Resource Center: (www.singleparent411.org) One of our newest partners created through our work in the extended stay hotels. This organization helps single parent families transition from a hotel to more traditional housing. Book Buddies are needed to take part in a virtual reading program. After training, volunteers are assigned a Buddy to meet with once a week for a 30 minute reading session! Volunteers can be high school students and older! Contact Mark Hellman for more information

MUST Ministries Summer Lunch:

Our church has been designated as a distribution center again this year.

Look for the link to sign up on the church website as well as on the Missions Facebook page. You can volunteer on Tuesdays to help pack the lunch boxes, and on Wednesdays and Thursdays to help distribute lunches. If you are not able to pack or deliver lunches, please consider donating the food (shopping list will be included with sign up). Get your families, small groups or individuals ready to pack and deliver lunches to local hotels and apartment complexes.

Domestic/Local Mission Trip

We will be returning to Cleveland, Tennessee to once again participate in the Ocoee Outreach Program. We are scheduled to go the week of June 27-July 2. This is an exciting “intro to missions” trip, geared for families, individuals and groups. The team stays in a hotel and is treated to home cooked meals by local area churches. Activities include general carpentry and volunteering at local Boys and Girls Clubs. Contact Mark Hellman or Amber Wilson for more information about costs and registration.





SECTION

03

It is our hope that through these efforts we will all be able to “Grow Young Disciples.”



Preschool Sunday School

Jesus is Alive

Memory Verse: “Nothing at all can ever separate us from God’s love.” Romans 8:39, Nlrv

We are using a lemonade stand theme this month to welcome in the warmer days and introduce preschoolers to the amazing truth that “God loves me.” We want preschoolers to know that God has put a lot of planning and creating and love into each of them. And, just like you can’t separate the water from the sugar from the lemon juice once you mix them, NOTHING can separate us from God’s love. Throughout the month, our preschoolers will hear how the Bible teaches us that God made us in His image, has a plan for us, and will never stop loving us. So, think a lot of love and a little lemon – mix it all together and we will get an entire month of “God loves me!” Our prayer is that every preschooler will walk away knowing that God made them and God loves them. And NOTHING will ever change that!

Elementary Sunday School

Commitment - Making a plan and putting it into practice

Memory Verse: “Training the body has some value. But being Godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.” 1 Timothy 4:8, NIRV

Growing in faith is not something that happens by merely cramming more information about the Bible into a child’s brain. All of that knowledge in their head means nothing if we don’t help kids apply what that knowledge can do in their hearts. To fully experience faith, we want kids to practice their faith. And that takes commitment.

Step Up Sunday

5th Graders and their parents are invited to join us May 23rd at 4:45 pm under the pavilion as we celebrate the end of the school year and meet our Youth Director, Lora Parker Gayler. We will have cake to celebrate our 5th graders followed by a tour of the Youth Center. All 5th graders will stay and participate in Ignite from 5:30-7:30. Hope to see you there!

Vacation Bible School

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

Mark your calendars to attend Rocky Railway VBS Monday, June 7 - Thursday, June 10. You can register through May 5/24/21 on our church website.

Be a Volunteer!

Volunteer to help at Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School (June 7 - 10) and help kids discover that Jesus' power pulls us through! If you have not volunteered in the past, you'll find it to be life-changing for you as well as the kids! We are searching for both adult and youth leaders. Volunteers must have finished the 6th grade, love the Lord, love children, and like to have fun. You can register today on our church website!



The Due West UMC Preschool is closing in on wrapping up its 26th year here at Due West UMC. It has been a strange year with all of the Covid protocol and teaching during a pandemic, but our teachers and families are amazing. Everyone was cautious, courteous and worked together to help us remain open the entire school year. A special thank you to The Children's Ministry here at Due West. They graciously opened a virtual school to help care for and educate our teacher's children when schools were closed for virtual learning. It truly was a group effort to serve the young families of this community!

Easter is always a special time at the preschool. All of the children learn about The Easter Story. To hear our 4-year-olds recite the story in great detail, or hear our kindergarteners recite John 3:16 or listen to a 3 year old tell you that Jesus isn't dead but lives in their hearts is so special. There also was such excitement as they carried their baskets to gather Easter Eggs. A little boy in our 1 year old room just ran around screaming "eggs" as he gathered them quickly into his basket. We also had Natalie Jones, our preschool storyteller, come to tell the Easter Story. She dresses up and uses props to fully engage the children.

In May, we have a Spring Performance for moms and dads. We will host this in the Bldg A Sanctuary so we can separate families as they watch their little ones sing. They will also have several homemade surprises waiting for them in their seats. Jennifer Roberts, our music teacher, is helping them prepare for this special performance.

Stephanie Benore, our science teacher, has been working with an Eagle Scout to create a garden area for our preschoolers. He built 4 planting boxes where our children will be able to learn about plants and how to care for them. Each month, Mrs. Benore works with the children doing hands-on science experiments focused on our Bible story of the month.

We are excited to be starting a new 1st grade class next year! Because we are a new program, we would welcome any books or games focused around this age group. We still have one opening in this class. Please call or email for more details.

We also have a few openings in our kindergarten class for next year. It is a wonderful half-day kindergarten that prepares children for 1st grade. The children learn literacy and math skills as well as age-appropriate science and social studies units. We also incorporate Bible studies, prayer, and Bible verses into each day.

For more information about our preschool, to inquire about openings, or to donate any books, games or toys, please email mdavalos@duewest.org or call Michelle Davalos at 770-590-0982.

04 Ignite Youth



Whoever you are,
Wherever you're from,
You are welcome here.



Upcoming Dates:

5/9 - Sunday School at 11 in Youth Center
- No Ignite due to Mother's Day

5/16 - Sunday School at 11:00 in Youth Center
- Legacy Night at Ignite (Handprints for Seniors!)

5/25 - Sunday School at 11:00 in Youth Center
- Step Up Night (Rising 6th Graders(R6) Come to Youth)
- 4:45-5:30 - R6 gathering at Pavilion
- 5:30-7:30 - Final Ignite for all students (Including R6)

Mission Trip!

We are so excited to return to Morningstar for a few days of fellowship, singing, playing, and light labor work. This is a family-style trip, so transportation and accommodations will be family-based, but families can bring a friend!

The cost is \$415 per room and we are asking every unique family to pay a \$50 deposit. For more info, click [here!](#) Deadline to register is May 9th

2021 UMM College Scholarship

Deadline for application: May 21, 2021
Turn in to UMM mailbox in Admin 2 bldg

Applications can be found at:
duewest.org/youth

Save these dates:

June 7-10 : Vacation Bible School
June 12-15 : Morningstar Mission Trip
June 21 : Six Flags Trip!
June 27 : Pop-up Ignite

July TBA : Shoot the Hooch or Mountasia Outing
July 18 : Parents-only Ignite
July 25 : Ignite Open House

05

ADULTS

MINISTRY

March, 2021

Young Families

This year's Spring Fling was a huge success! Over 200 kids and their families came out on a beautiful Saturday morning to hunt for eggs, participate in a hopping contest, enjoy the petting zoo, and have their picture made with the Easter Bunny. This special memory-making event would not have been possible without the leadership of our Young Families Director, Amber Wilson and the Due West Staff. If you would like to help with future Young Family events, please contact Amber Wilson at the church office.

Ladies' Tea

June 12 | 11:30 - 1:00

Women's Ministry invites you to a Ladies Tea on June 12. Come enjoy a little time to yourself sipping some tea and enjoying a tasty lunch and fellowship.

This event will be based on Jeremiah 18:6b as told from the viewpoint of a teacup. Tickets are \$25.00 each.

Register Here

Contact Women's Ministry Director Kcasteel@duewest.org.

Morningstar Mission Trip

June 12-15 | [Register Here!](#)

We are so excited to return to Morningstar for a few days of fellowship, singing, playing and light labor work. Meals will be on your own, as will transportation. This is a family-style trip, so transportation and accommodations will be family-based.

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Brunswick, Ga. Everyone will transport themselves/their families. We are asking every unique family to pay a \$50 deposit that will be used for program supplies and trip needs.

Visit morningstarcfs.org to learn more.

Exercise Classes at Due West

[Click Here to Follow Us on Facebook](#)

*All exercise classes are held in Bldg B

Monday
Tone & Tighten
9:30 am (Nursery)

Yoga for All
10:35 am (Nursery)

Senior Fit
11:35 am

Tuesday
Cardio-Kick
9:30 am

Zumba
10:35 am

Wednesday
Cardio-Sculpt/Tabata
9:30 am (Nursery)

Yoga for All
10:35 am (Nursery)

Senior Fit
11:35 am

Thursday
Yoga-Pilates
9:30 am

Friday
Tone/Tighten/Lengthen
8:30 am (Nursery)

Boot Camp
9:30 am (Nursery)





Summer Camps!

Recreation Ministry

June 7-10 - All Sports After VBS Camp ([Register](#))

June 21-25 - Challenger Soccer Camp ([Register](#))

July 12-15 - Flag Football Camp ([Register](#))

Center for the Arts

July 19-23 - Sparkle Fairy Rainbow Unicorn Camp Ages 3-5

9am-12pm / [Register Now](#)

Our Musical Productions are full, but be sure to come check out their show!

Disney's Descendants

Saturday, June 19 at 5pm

Tickets go on sale June 1

Check back for more info then!

With thousands of events every year, it is impossible to fit them all in one place. Here, we want to give you a quick glance at May, 2021.

UPCOMING



What's happening at Due West?

06

New Church Management System

We are in the process of changing church management systems, so if you see some changes or get emails from Planning Center Online, don't be alarmed! Be sure to tune-in either in-person or online in early June to learn more about how these changes will help Due West Gather, Grow and Go!

May At-a-Glance

09

Mother's Day Offering

Each year, our church receives a special Mother's Day offering for the ministry of Wesley Woods. If you would like to give, please do so between now and Mother's Day, and mark your gift "Mother's Day Offering." If you would like to learn more about Wesley Woods, visit wesleywoods.org.

10

Gospel Bluegrass Open Jam Starts Back!

6:45pm-8:45pm | Bldg B

All are welcome to come to this Bluegrass Jam session! We meet weekly on Mondays in the FLC.

16

United Methodist Men Breakfast

Breakfast! Breakfast! Breakfast! All men in the church are invited to gather on the Third Sunday of each month for a country breakfast, fellowship and great speakers. Breakfast is held in the Family Life Center at 7:00 am. Again - all men in the church are welcome! We hope to see you there!

17

UMM Golf Tournament

Benefits the UMM Charity Fund!

Register by May 8 by emailing Butch at butchgaudette47@gmail.com!



Due West UMC

Volunteer at Due West! Email info@duewest.org for more info!



01

Give
Online

duewest.org/give

02

Prayer
Requests

duewest.org/prayer

03

Devotion

duewest.org/devotion