University Heights UMC

Mission

A church that listens, loves and leads the community to Christ

Description

University Heights is a small membership church located next to Laurel Ridge Elementary School near North DeKalb Mall and Druid Hills Middle School. The neighborhood includes both original homeowners and families with young children. The Sunday morning congregation at worship has changed to almost half/half/ balance of those new to the community and long time members. The leaders continue to work on developing ministries of hospitality that invite and engage all to share and participate in worship, learning, service, witness, and fellowship.

Unique Opportunities in Ministry

Serving in a small membership church creates many opportunities to be hands on in all aspects of church life. It also allows the ministry intern the opportunity to connect with members of the congregation in a meaningful way. University Heights UMC has a long history of partnering with students at the Candler School of Theology and values its role teaching and learning alongside the ministry intern. The members of this congregation truly value the perspective of interns and seek to form relationships that will last beyond the scope of the Con Ed II program.
In 2013, University Heights UMC welcomed its second female pastor, Rev. Stacey Rushing, a 2008 graduate of Candler. Stacey brings to this experience the unique insights of a young clergywoman and her perspective as one part of a clergy couple (Stacey's husband, Dalton, serves North Decatur UMC). In addition to engaging the contextual realities of this congregation, University Heights UMC provides the opportunity to explore the issues facing young clergy and clergy couples, as well as, opportunities to partner with clergy, interns and congregants at a neighboring congregation.

Site Details

Outreach

University Heights is a North Georgia Conference Church of Excellence in Outreach. That includes: a covenant relationship with UM missionary in Laos, support of all UMC and North Georgia special offerings through gifts and educational programs; support of Decatur Cooperative Ministry; support of DeKalb County DFCS children before school and Christmas; monthly focus on a local project by bringing items needed; Box Tops for Laurel Ridge Elementary; pull tab rings for Ronald McDonald House; spring and fall clothing drives for residents of Branan Towers; local mission projects with Wesley Community Centers and Asbury Harris Epworth Towers seniors; and 5th Sunday for mission meal and educational program - to name a few. University Heights is host to a Cub Pack and 4 Girl Scout groups.

Meeting the Five Areas of Ministry

Administration:
- Observe and participate in the day-to-day activities of the church office
- Attend and participate in the work of the Administrative Council
- Engage in planning with leadership in the NOW (Nurture, Outreach, Witness &Worship) Ministry
Committees

Liturgy (Worship and Preaching):
- Serve as a leader in worship, participating in various parts of Sunday morning liturgy
- Assist in preparing for and serving Holy Communion monthly
- Participate in planning worship that illuminates liturgical themes and engages participants in unique ways
- Prepare and deliver a sermon.

Mission and Outreach:
- Work with Outreach Committee to plan and implement a mission opportunity for the church
- Participate in meetings with partner organizations such as Decatur Cooperative Ministries
- Identify areas of need in the community and create a ministry proposal

Pastoral Calling and Congregational Care:
- Participate in pastoral hospital visits and care during pastoral emergencies (as needed)

Religious Education:
- Plan and lead Advent and/or Lenten Devotional series
- Assist Sunday School classes in selecting curriculum
- Participate in planning special programs of the Nurture Committee such as Advent events for families

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>United Methodist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location Type</td>
<td>Urban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship Attendance</td>
<td>70-80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship Times</td>
<td>11:00 A.M.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Schedule</td>
<td>Sunday School, worship, PATH preschool, choir and handbell rehearsals, Hands-on-Ministry group; other monthly and/or quarterly events include Lemonade on the lawn and cider and cookies after worship; fellowship covered dish meals; Sunday School class special events usually focused around sharing meals; seasonal events for children before Easter and Christmas, VBS and Halloween. Cub Scouts and four Girl Scout troops meet throughout the month.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stipend?</td>
<td>Yes, for 2014-2015 the stipend will be $2500</td>
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<td>Distance from Candler</td>
<td>4 miles from Emory, 5 blocks from North DeKalb Mall.</td>
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<td>Accessible to persons with disabilities?</td>
<td>accessible, but the chancel area is not. The Community Center, fellowship space, is downstairs, but accessible by a separate drive and entrance. The classrooms are accessible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessible via public transportation?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can women be ordained?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>What role do women play in leadership?</td>
<td>The pastor is a clergywoman and women are involved in all levels of leadership.</td>
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Contact
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