

1. Missions Events Update:

Dunwoody UMC has always enjoyed hosting missions events like Foodstock and the Great Day of Service each fall. These two outreach events bring over 1,750 combined people onto our campus each year. It is always our desire to do the most good for the most people possible, but COVID-19 has required us to also consider social responsibility. After consulting with a variety of committees and community leaders, the leadership of Dunwoody UMC is formulating a plan that continues to serve our neighbors while maintaining healthy guidelines.

The first step is to reschedule some events to allow more time for strategic planning. For example, Great Day of Service is likely to be moved to March 20, 2021. This will not impact our 30th Habitat for Humanity build scheduled to start April 22, 2021. The second step is to limit group contact. Last year, Foodstock had 250 people per shift in the gym. This year, we will move Foodstock later in the fall and modify our event to create a safe environment, possibly spanning more than one day.

We remain committed to loving our neighbors and continuing ministry that is part of our core identity at Dunwoody UMC, but we ask for grace as we navigate these new challenges. Please continue to check our website and the weekly eConnections emails for updates.

2. Mission Mondays Update:

Dunwoody UMC has traditionally made lunches every Monday night throughout the summer to serve students who normally rely on free or reduced-cost lunches from their public school but are at risk of missing this meal over the summer. This program (also called "Smart Lunch Smart Kid") was organized by [Action Ministries](#). This summer, Action Ministries has decided not to put their church partners at risk, so DUMC will not have Monday night gatherings to make lunches. However, Action Ministries has created an alternate plan of service! [Click here to see how you can help.](#)

Action Ministries will still meet the needs of these at-risk students, but they will build food kits in their sanitized warehouse. These food kits will serve many different communities around Atlanta (including DeKalb county), and Dunwoody UMC can help in the following ways:

- **Donate money towards assembling food kits** (they call them "Superpacks" because it's technically 2 days worth of food, not just a single lunch). Individuals or small groups can send a check to P. O. Box 1071, Rome GA 30162. Please put SLSK and then the County (DeKalb) in the memo line. Dunwoody UMC has already committed to fund the first 500 Superpacks for the month of June!

- **Gather a team of 9 people to assemble Superpacks at the Action Ministries warehouse.** This ensures the food kit building is monitored and socially responsible. To sign up, [click here](#).
- **Make 'Happy Mail' (notes for kids and/or birthday cards for the Superpacks recipients) from home.** Mail or deliver the Happy Mail to Action Ministries (4025 Welcome All Road, Atlanta, GA 30349). This is a great service project for our younger church members!
- Individually, you may choose to **deliver & distribute Superpacks to the summer feeding sites**, but Dunwoody UMC will not be coordinating this. You will need to contact the SLSK Coordinator, Laura DeGroot, by emailing SISKDekalb@actionministries.net, or calling her at 678-656-2618.

3. Donate and Volunteer at The Community Assistance Center (CAC) Food Pantry

The Community Assistance Center (CAC) Food Pantry - 8607 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30350 - accepts food donations Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m. Donations should be taken straight to the CAC, instead of being dropped off at the church. **Sign up to volunteer at the main branch [here](#).**

The CAC has also organized a **summer lunch program**, with food provided by the U.S. Dept. Agriculture at the CAC's newest satellite location located at: 5 Dunwoody Park #113 (near the Georgetown area). The meals are pre-packaged, and volunteers help with drive-by distribution. **More information is on their sign up link [here](#).**

4. At-Home Service Projects for Children

In conjunction with VBS, the Missions Department has created four different YouTube videos (appropriate for kids) that are "Service Projects You Can Do At Home." Please visit the [Children's page](#) on our website, and click on the Virtual VBS link to view the videos.

5. Missions Survey Results

During the month of March, Dunwoody UMC's Missions Committee offered a survey and collected information regarding our outreach events and opportunities. We learned a lot about our community's volunteerism, and we have compiled the results [here](#).

6. Virtual Service Opportunity: Read to Kids this Summer!

Project Transformation North Georgia is a UMC ministry that transforms communities by engaging at-risk children in purposeful relationships. They have created an opportunity for volunteers to read with these students virtually. Volunteers will work alongside an intern to facilitate reading and social/emotional learning in small groups of approximately 10 kids

online. These circles meet for approximately 40 minutes, and all training will be provided. A background check is required to participate. For more information, please click [here](#) or email Diane Ward at ward@ptnorthgeorgia.org.

7. New: Landscape Ministry at DUMC

Pam Tallmadge and the Dunwoody City Council have identified local homeowners who are having a hard time keeping up with their landscaping and basic outside home care during the pandemic. We would like to potentially create a Landscape Ministry! Please email Chris Mixer (chris.mixer@dunwoodyumc.org) your phone number and email, plus services you are able to provide (mowing, pressure washing, etc.). As opportunities are made known, we will pass along homeowner's information. You can also email Pam Tallmadge at pam.tallmadge@dunwoodyga.gov if you have questions.

8. Buy a Mask and Empower Women!

Corners Outreach (the organization that hosts Hightower Homework Club) has employed women in our community to make masks so they can continue to stay home with their children, while bringing in a living wage. All purchases support local mothers in caring for their families. Read about them in the AJC [here](#), or [purchase a mask](#) to support them!

9. Developing Opportunities

Dunwoody UMC is working with many local partners to do even more in our community! The following opportunities are emerging, but not finalized yet. Please keep checking back for updates!

- Adam Graham, the Georgia Regional Director of [The Society of St. Andrew](#) (the group that helps us with the Potato Drop during Great Day of Service) is working on a new project. Some farmers are willing to donate fresh foods for neighbors in need. We are scheduling a date to serve as a one-day distribution center where we can re-package produce and provide it to local food banks and community organizations. Details in process.
- We are still partnering with Hightower Homework Club and [Corners Outreach](#). On Wednesday, May 20th, Dunwoody UMC took them a supply of snacks and packaged foods for the students, and we will continue to look for opportunities to benefit them over the summer. One idea is to create and provide "take-home craft kits" since we will not be able to host our annual HHC Summer Camp in June.
- Dunwoody UMC hopes to re-open Package of Hope (our food box distribution program the last Saturday of each month) soon, but we are determining how to do it in a safe & socially responsible way in partnership with Action Ministries' warehouse. The potential next day could be Saturday July 25th. We will keep you updated.

- Our “Friends in Christian Growth” Sunday School class has traditionally organized a Back-to-School-Backpack project in July that benefits local students. We are looking to proceed with the project and should have details soon.