

Sunday

10:45 am Hebrews Group
10:45 am Adult Sunday School -
Journeys in Faith

Tuesday

6:30 am Men’s Bible Study
4:30 pm Prayer Gathering

Wednesday

10:00 am Sisters In Christ
4:30 pm Anchored Kids
5:30 pm Men's bible study
6:00 pm Bells
7:00 pm Choir

Monday

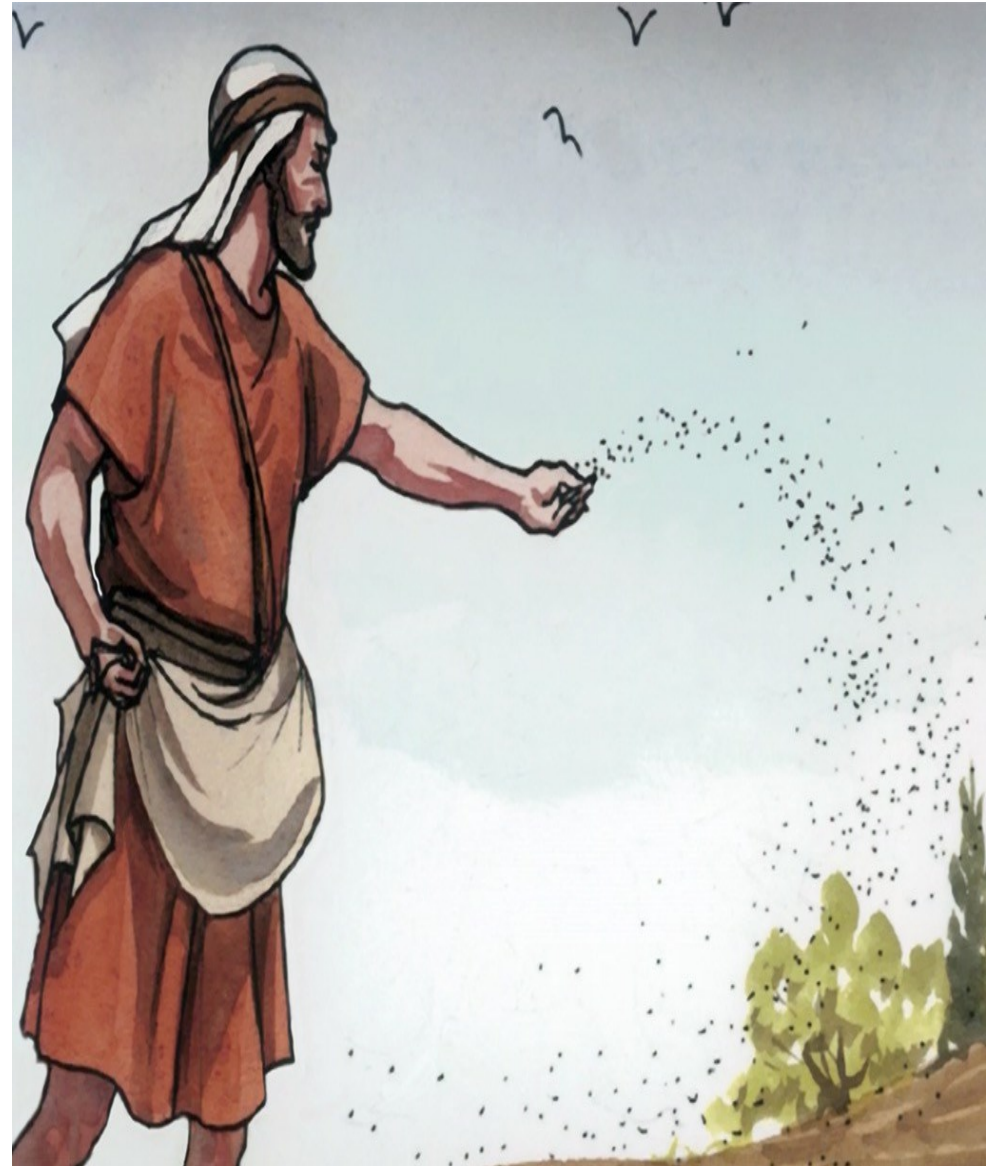
6:00 pm Bible Study (Men/Women)

The Prayer Room is open before, during and after today's service. Members of the Prayer Team are available to pray with you after the Service.

Sermon Notes

Series of horizontal lines for taking notes.

**The Parable of the Sower:
Consider How You Listen**



Prelude : “Prelude and Fugue in G Major” by J.S. Bach

Introit –“Harvest of Praise”– Chancel Choir

***Call to Worship**

***Opening Hymn**

UMH # 98 –To God be the Glory

Announcements

Congregational Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Prayer Anthem -“When Seed Falls on Good Soil” –Chancel Choir

Prince of Peace You are Holy
(Offering)
Goodness of God

UMH #95 Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

***Scripture**

Luke 8:4-15

***Scripture Response & UMH#393-Spirit of the Living God**

Message

The Parable of the Sower: Consider How You Listen

***Closing Hymn**

UMH # 664 –Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

***Benediction**

Postlude : “Praise Him! Praise Him!” by Chester Allen

***Congregation please stand as able**

Liturgist: **Keith Casteel**

Rev. Dr. Arun Paul - arun@decaturgrace.org

(Worship is recorded for T.V. viewing and other social media platforms)

Congregational Prayer

O Father God, our Creator and Redeemer, You made this earth of both sea and soil, and You watered it abundantly so that it produces a great harvest of fruit and grain for our physical sustenance. You drenched the furrows and smoothed out the rough places so that rich, smooth soil is ready for the planting. We thank You, Father, for the gifts of Your creation and for Your continued care for us on this rare and amazing planet.

O God, we worship and adore Your creative power and gift of precious life.

With life-giving water, You softened the ground and gave Adam the authority over it. In caring for the soil, Father, we know that thorns and rocks, weeds and brambles are always trying to invade the good soil, and constant tending is needed to sow and reap a good crop. Our hearts have weeds and brambles, too, Lord. The world is always ready to invade the good soil of our faith in You. Protect us, O God, from the evil around us that is always ready to confuse and complicate the good soil of belief.

Help us to tend our faith carefully and keep the soil of our hearts fertile for Your purposes.

Give us the tenacity, Father, to look for the rocks in our own soil that seem to appear without cause, because it is the nature of our original sin. Help us to pluck out the rocks of ingratitude, selfishness, ego, self-pity, and pride in our lives. Give us the grace to replace them with the fertile loam of mercy, grace, and hope so that the harvest we reap can be shared with others.

Give us ears to hear Your Word, O God Almighty, and follow it in spirit and in truth.

Help us to repel the temptations of evil, so that the hungry birds of anger, depression, doubt, and fear do not destroy the seed that is planted in us each time we read Your Holy Word. Instead, give us a hundredfold yield, so that others can see the faith and obedience in us that comes from the great harvest in our hearts and spirits. And get us out of the way of our own faith, Lord. Let us walk in paths of faith that avoid treading on the good soil that has been planted.

Work Your power in us and through us, Lord, so that we can glory in the harvest only You can bring.

We pray all of this and all of our unspoken petitions to You, Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as we prepare our hearts this day to once again hear the Holy Word You have given. Give us open hearts and open ears as we pray the way our Savior taught us:

(The Lord’s Prayer follows)