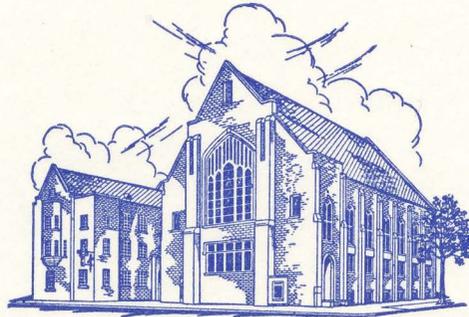


# Central Methodist Church

John Rutland  
Pastor

JACKSON AT 6TH AVE., S. E.  
Decatur, Alabama



November 16, 1962

Honorable George Wallace  
Governor-elect of Alabama  
Bell Building  
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Mr. Wallace:

The people of Decatur and many of your friends all over the State are encouraged by the strong statements you have made of late. We are glad to know that you are going to keep the KKK out of Tuscaloosa when the Negro student is enrolled.

Most of us share your objections to the Federal Government's stand on de-segregation. We also share your desire to avoid violence and anarchy. We believe that you, as a Christian, as a Methodist, and as an American citizen will graciously accept the orders of The United States Courts.

We Alabama Democrats see some things about our great national party that we do not like. However, we are Americans first. We know that ours is the party which is strongest for freedom and justice for all - regardless of race, creed, or economic station.

I congratulate you on your determination to keep law and order in a situation that you and thousands of other Alabamians despise. I am not surprised at the courageous action on your part. A man who has served as Superintendent of a Methodist Sunday School can not but believe in the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God.

It is far more important that we remember our vows of Baptism and Church membership than to seek popularity in a time of deep distress. The stand you are taking now may cause some of your more reactionary friends alarm. Thank God you have the courage to follow Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Thankfully and Prayerfully,

John Rutland  
JR:vhd