

Joys and Concerns of the Church and Community

- Thanksgiving for the beautiful and hope-filled Word shared by **Rev. Adei Grenpastures** yesterday.
- God's comfort and solace for **Bob Kuhl** and his children, **Matthew, Ethan,** and **Hannah**, who are grieving the loss of wife and mother, **Lucy Steiner**. The family are good friends of the **Brewer-Calverts**.
- **Wiley Harris** and **Danl Giles** request prayers for their niece and for **Danl's** sister **Katie**.
- **Dee Cordell** requests prayers for her mother, **Carol Westman**, who is recovering from an illness.
- **Jeanette Duncan** requests prayers for her daughter-in-law, **Stephanie Duncan**, who has been diagnosed with castleman's disease, a rare lymph disease.
- **Sarah McClelland** and **Dave** and **Laura Andrew** request prayers for traveling mercies for all of those traveling over the holidays.
- **Dave** and **Laura Andrew** request prayers for all of our service members who are away from home.
- **Mark Ranney** requests prayers for his friend **Jay**, aged 25, who is battling cancer and is not responding to rehabilitation. Also, **Mark** is traveling to see his family for Thanksgiving.
- **Cathy Keeler** requests prayers for continued healing for her mother and father; both are doing better!
- **Julie Fleming** and **J.D. Fleming** request prayers for **Vicky Likens**, who is in treatment for leukemia.
- Prayers for steadfast faithfulness, protection, endurance, and safety for Christians in Iraq.
- Prayers for resolution to the violence in the world.
- Prayers for the safety and endurance of emergency response personnel over this holiday week.
- Prayers for openness to God's guidance of our government leaders.
- The ministries and mission of Decatur First, and the prayerful discernment of faithful stewardship.
- Prayers for strength and focus to make it through this semester for all students.
- **Yvonne Capshaw**, friend and colleague of **Michael Dodd**, her mother and husband, **Rodney**, have both been diagnosed with cancer.
- Continued prayers for recuperation and rest for **Glen** and **Elaine Alsobrook**.
- **Alan Thomas**, friend of **Nathan Brown**, requests prayers for employment.
- **Dianna Williams** requests prayers for **Leah Gaubert**, a 3rd grade teacher at **Ellen** and **Mei Mei's** school, whose husband died suddenly.
- **Peggy Norton** reports that daughter-in-law **Rachel** is more comfortable and will be waiting until Spring for her hip replacement surgery.
- Families of the fathers of **Joshua Schwartz** and **Michael East**. Both of their fathers passed away on Nov. 4.
- **Ralph Reiley** continues to recover and is impatient to start rehab. **Daphne** requests prayers for concentration and safety in all the extra driving she's doing.
- Healing and wholeness for all of those who are recovering from cancer surgery and enduring the effects of chemotherapy treatments.
- God's comfort and mercy to embrace all of those in harm's way in all the areas of the world living in conflict.

- Healing and strength for **Judy** and **George Barrett**. Prayers of thanksgiving for **Alicia Maxwell's** positive response to treatments. Prayers for **Alicia's** friend **Andy Farmer**.
- Continued prayers for **Laura Thigpen**, friend of **Adei Grenpastures** who continues to undergo chemo treatments.
- Comfort and solace for **Ruby Rathel**, **Elaine Alsobrook's** mother.
- Support, healing, and strength for **Kimberly** and **Katya Kolberg**, and **Lori Keaton**, friends of **Daphne Reiley**.

Church Calendar

Sunday, November 28:	First Sunday of Advent-Hope Sunday Unload Christmas Trees
8:30 a.m.	Awakenings Service in the Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:50 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
8 p.m.	NA
Monday, November 29:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
Tuesday, November 30:	
7 a.m.-& 7 p.m.	Voting
4-6:30 p.m.	Music Teacher
8:00 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, December 1:	Christian Youth Fellowship helps with Xmas tree Sales at Atlanta First
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 2:	
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.	GIPL in Pathfinders classroom
7 p.m.	Emory Chase
Friday, December 3:	
10 a.m.-12noon	GIPL in Pathfinders classroom
Saturday, December 4:	
10 a.m. – 12 noon	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
1-2 p.m.	Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures
Sunday, December 5:	Second Sunday of Advent-Peace Sunday
8:30 a.m.	Awakenings Service in the Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:50 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
5-7 p.m.	Chrismon Service and Tasting Party
8 p.m.	NA

Assisted Living: **Gus Head** Northlake Gardens 1300 Montreal Road, Room 228 Tucker, GA 320084-8141; **Matelyn Heyward** Ivy Hall 5690 State Bridge, Room 130 Alpharetta, GA. 30022-8188; **Velma McKinney** Wesley Wood Towers 208 Towers Circle NE Atlanta, GA. 30329-4095; **Gwen Sapp** Traditions Health & Rehabilitation 2816 Evans Mill Road-Room D10 Lithonia, GA. 30058-7440; **Ellen Young** and **Eunice Kalb** 3675 Kensington Road Decatur, GA. 30032-1735. **At Home:** **Julie Bryant** 2100 Clairmont Lake Montclair Room 213 Decatur, GA. 30033-4052; **Jean Crowe** 165 Marion Place, NE, Apt. 705 Atlanta, GA 30307-2791; **Hank Ferry** 1209 Highland Drive, NE Marietta, GA 30062-2206; **Maurice** and **Edith Jones** 4640 Stonemeade Court Atlanta, GA 30331-7988; **Jane Liles** 127 King's Bridge, NE Atlanta, GA 30329-2548; **Thetis Merritt** 631 Kirk Road Decatur, GA 30030-4524; **Don** and **Carolyn Middour** 1476 Oakridge Circle Decatur, GA 30033-2133; **Robbie Re** 1701 The Oaks Clarkston, GA. 30021-1276; **Sara Ripy** Arbor Terrace 425 Winn Way Rm. 224 Decatur, GA 30030-1733; **Millie Simmons** 221 Mimosa Drive Decatur, GA 30030-3733; **Virginia Smith** 336 Madisons Way Waleska, GA 30183-3182.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Hope Candle

Liturgist: 8:30 a.m. Chris Butler
10:50 a.m. J.D. Fleming and Julie Fleming

One: Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Advent means “coming.” In this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. One of the ways we can celebrate Advent is by making an Advent wreath and lighting its candles to remind us of the gifts Christ brings to the world. It also helps us count the Sundays on our journey to Christmas.

Many: **The Advent wreath includes many symbols. The wreath is in the shape of a circle, without beginning or ending. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no ending to God. God’s love and care for us never ends. The evergreen branches are a sign of ever new life. The candles tell us of the light which came into the world with Jesus Christ. The traditional colors of the Advent candles, three violet and one rose, are penitential colors, reminding us that we need God’s help to be the people we are meant to be. The white candle which we light on Christmas Eve signifies the coming of Christ.**

One: Now we light the first candle, the candle of hope. Like the ancient Hebrew people we cry out to God from a broken and hurting world. We, too, know how it feels to be like leaves blown about in the wind. We acknowledge that our lives are not what God meant them to be. And like the ancient Hebrews we welcome the words of hope from Isaiah. God created us and will recreate us, shaping us in love. Shalom will come as we put our trust in God.

Many: **With the lighting of this candle, we celebrate the hope of Israel, and the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. We continue to hope in God’s promise that Christ will come again to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and peace.**

Unison Prayer: ***O God, help us to be open to your shaping of our lives, that we may be channels of hope, love, peace, and joy in a fragmented world.***

All Sing: *One Candle Is Lit* (verse 1) **128**
Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.



First Christian Church of Decatur
(Disciples of Christ)

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The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was born in the early 1800s as a dynamic movement for God that spread across the American frontier. Seeking to move beyond denominational division and toward being a New Testament Church, our founders envisioned a united community of faith grounded in the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Today we are over 3,700 congregations strong across the United States, Canada, and around the world. The red Chalice with St. Andrew’s Cross symbolizes our focus on the weekly celebration of Holy Communion and the openness of the Lord’s Table, where all are made welcome and invited to partake.

First Christian Church of Decatur was founded on Christmas Day 1921, and has served faithfully ever since with a significant urban ministry, an inclusive theology, and a Kingdom-building vision. We are open and accepting of all of God’s people, and encourage women, men, and young people to follow their call from God to serve, just as Christ first served us.

How to Join:

You may join First Christian Church by transfer of membership, confession of faith, or by renewal of the vows of your baptism. Please fill out a Friends and Visitors Card (found in your worship program) and bring it forward with you during the Hymn of Invitation, where our Pastor will be delighted to welcome you. Disciples of Christ congregations are delighted to recognize all baptisms. We baptize by immersion at an age of understanding. If you have not been baptized we will schedule one with you at a later date. Pastor-led classes on “Baptism and Belonging” are offered on a regular basis.