

Joys and Concerns of the Church and Community

- **Cathy Keeler** wishes everyone a peaceful, magical, happy Christmas season!
- **Will Skuban** offers a prayer for his papa.
- **Dan** and **Nancy Suttles** are grateful for her mother, **Millie**, and everyone who supports her.
- Prayers for healing and relief from pain for **Marion Meador**.
- The Georgia Region of the Christian Church is in our hearts and minds.
- **Sally Ann Darby-Jobson's** friend **Deborah Mason** is having surgery.
- **Betty Brewer-Calvert** asks for prayers for students, teachers, and bus drivers as we head into exam time and the excitement of the season, including our seminarians **Melvin Bussey, Jr.**, **Sarah McClelland**, and **Anita Renahan-White**, and for travelling mercies for those returning home for the holidays.
- **Wiley Harris** and **Danl Giles** request prayers for their niece and for **Danl's** sister **Katie**, and are grateful their friend **Dr. Julie Comer** worshiped God with us on Sunday.
- **Dee Cordell** requests prayers for her mother, **Carol Westman**.
- **Jeanette Duncan** requests prayers for her daughter-in-law, **Stephanie Duncan**.
- **Mark Ranney** requests prayers for his friend **Jay**, aged 25, who is battling cancer and is not responding to rehabilitation.
- **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.
- The ministries and mission of Decatur First, and the prayerful discernment of faithful stewardship and mission.
- **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.
- 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**.
- Prayers for steadfast faithfulness, protection, endurance, and safety for people of faith in Iraq and Afghanistan.

- Prayers for resolution to the violence in the world.
- Prayers for the safety and endurance of emergency response personnel over this holiday season.
- Prayers for openness to God's guidance of our government leaders.

Church Calendar

Sunday, December 12:	Third Day of Advent-Joy Sunday Congregational Meeting after 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 services
8:30 a.m.	Awakenings Service in the Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:50 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
3-4 p.m.	Piano Recital
8 p.m.	NA
Monday, December 13:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
7:30 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
Tuesday, December 14:	
1:30 p.m.	Ruth Circle (at church)
4-6:30 p.m.	Music Teacher
7 p.m.	The Court at Decatur
8:00 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, December 15:	
11:30 p.m.	Bank of America Retirees
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 16:	
12 p.m.	Retired Teachers
Saturday, December 18:	
10 a.m. – 12 noon	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
1-2 p.m.	Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures
Sunday, December 19:	Fourth Day of Advent-Love Sunday No 8:30 a.m. service; Christmas Pageant at 10:50 a.m.
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:50 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12:30 p.m.	Christian Youth Fellowship have a White Elephant Xmas Party at Decatur
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 Joy Candle

Liturgist: 8:30 a.m. The Bryan Kidd Family
10:50 a.m. Wiley Harris and Dan'l Giles

One: We have lit again the two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, the pink one, representing joy. (*The Hope and Peace candles are lit.*) The book of Isaiah describes the joy that will come with the dawning of Shalom. The broken hearted will be healed, the captives released, grief will turn to gladness, and justice will come to all the people.

Many: **Jesus came to bring good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and release to the captives. We light this candle in joy and thanksgiving for the gift of Jesus who sets us free.**

(The Joy candle is lit.)

Prayer: **O God, help us to remember that true joy comes when the lowly are lifted up, when the hungry are filled with good things, and relationships are restored. May your love flow through us, out into the world, giving birth to great joy.**

All Sing: **One Candle Is Lit (verse 3) 128**
Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,
Join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful
praise. One candle is lit for the joy of these days.



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(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.