

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, January 11:

- 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
- 12 noon Disciples Women Executive Committee Meeting
- 8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Monday, January 12:

- 10 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 11 a.m. Prayer Group
- 3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons
- 6:30 p.m. Finance Ministry Meeting
- 7 p.m. Administrative Meeting

Tuesday, January 13:

- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- 8 p.m. AA/ALANON

Wednesday, January 14:

- 6-10 p.m. Rosewalk Home Owners Assoc. Annual Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 15:

- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- 2 p.m. Retired Teachers

Saturday, January 17:

- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store

Sunday, January 18: **Church Officers, Elders, and Deacons Installation**

- 9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
- 12 noon Christian Youth Fellowship gather
- 8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Spiritual Formation Each Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

“Seeking Understanding in Scripture” in Carmack Room

This Week: Review and Reflection, Sessions 16-23

“Pathfinders Class” in the Pathfinders Room

This Week: “Lord, Give Me Patience! And give it to me right now!” by James

Moore and Bob J. Moore

“The Nature of True Community” Bible Class Begins Sunday, Jan. 18

Texts includes Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s **Life Together**



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Genesis 1: 1-5

1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Mark 1: 4-11

4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." **9** In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

The joys and concerns of our congregation and community follow. Please remember that some requests are marked confidential and are lifted up within the Monday Morning Prayer Circle yet not reflected here. Sometimes, simply a person's name will be listed with no explanation. Trust in the wisdom and confidentiality of the Prayer Group, and lift up that person's whole being to God's holy, healing Light.

- Congratulations to **John Smoltz**, who was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame on the first ballot!
- **Hank Ferry's** scheduled surgery has been postponed.
- **Rev. Jose Lingongo** called from North Carolina to wish everyone a Happy New Year. "God Bless you, church family!"
- Please lift up prayers for our **Church Leadership Team** that is on retreat this weekend and prayerfully preparing to coordinate a fabulous, faithful 2015.
- Please pray for **Sandra Brundage, Lynn & Joonna Trapp, Lily Delk**, and all those who are ill at this time.
- **Pamela Head** has a praise. Her dad finished radiation treatments! She prays that the cancer is irradiated. She also asks for prayers for her adopted sister, **Sandy**. She has just come back into our lives after 35 years.
- **Wiley and Danl** praise God for healing and doctors that will listen. **Wiley's** mother is getting better and starting to breathe on her own. She is in DeKalb ICU.
- **Betty Brewer-Calvert** asks for traveling mercies for **Katie Brewer-Calvert** as she drives north to Lexington, KY for the new semester. (Katie arrived safely.)
- **Mark Ranney** and **Russell Broomfield** ask for traveling mercies as they will be driving to Pennsylvania on Thursday and return through North Carolina on Wednesday.
- **Doug Schuette** has a joy. Best friend **Shawn** and his wife **Tara's** first born was delivered on Sunday morning! All are doing well!
- **Jackie Jenkins** says, "My sister-in-law, **Patti King** will have a very complicated surgery on January 7th. She had been diagnosed with Stage 4 stomach and esophageal cancer but several miracles have occurred and they hope for a complete recovery."
- **Linda Chesnut** shares that **Judy McMahan** has had several tests in the past few days. She now has been cleared for knee surgery which will take place on Tuesday morning. She needs to do this first so then she can tolerate the hip surgery in 6-8 weeks. She is weary and tired but is trying to have a good attitude and appreciates all your prayers. Update: Judy is doing well and will move from the hospital to in hospital rehab center for a week.
- **Lillie Sapp** says her son-in-law, **Nicolas Jordan** is very ill. Prayers are needed for healing and the right physician.
- **Jeanette Duncan** says, "**Jim Hughes**, a close friend, is at Emory Johns Creek with congestive heart failure."
- **Larry Todd** asks for prayer for his brother-in-law, **Terry Tolbert**, who is scheduled for kidney surgery in January for cancer.
- **Anne Barr** says she gives thanks that her friend, **Carol** is recovering well from a car accident.
- **Rose Bianco-Szymanski** prays that God keeps her daughter safe and well.
- **Nancy Shealy** asks for prayer for **Don Middour, Sr.**, who is now home from the hospital.
- **Glen** and **Brandy Alsobrook** ask for prayer for **Romona Rathel**.
- **Sylvia Gibbs** asks for prayers for her mother, **Willie Mae Durr**, grandma and great grandma to the **Jackson family**. She is at home recovering from a stroke.
- **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy** request prayer for their daughter's I-130 USCIS petition to be expedited so they can bring her to the U.S. from Iraq and out of danger.

- We continue to lift up **Glen Alsobrook, Sr., Johnnie Barber, Betty Carroll, Julia Glenn Carter, Elizabeth Cunningham, The Delk Family, Jeanette Duncan, Sylvia Ennis, Hank Ferry, Shannen Ferry, J.D. Fleming, Mary Ellen Fountain, Dottie Gill, Adei Grenpastures, Barbara Hennig, Clara Holley, Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis, The Kidd Family, Blair Lewellyn, Jay Love, Monte** and **Sarah Mathis, Judy McMahan, Carol Givens (Evans) McGinnis, Lynn Nabers, The Norton Family, Ramona Rathel, Kim Stanley, Lee Stanley, Tate Family, Mildred Trott, Carol Wheeler**, and **Ellen Young**.

Dear Friends:

On behalf of First Christian Church of Decatur, I write to thank you for your participation and prayers while worshiping Jesus Christ here amongst the whole people of God. Shalom, Pastor James Brewer-Calvert

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.

Here is a brief theology and history lesson about this Body of Christ. First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Decatur, Georgia has a covenantal relationship with sister churches across the city and around the world. While each congregation is independent – no one has the ecclesial authority to direct us what to do, say, believe, or call to serve as pastor– we are connected by a covenant of love. Beginning in the early 1800's, Christian Churches and Disciples of Christ congregations flourished across the USA and around the world. In 1968, the separate bodies yoked to become the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with three manifestations: local congregations, regional churches, and a general church to facilitate national and international missions. Ever since we have covenanted to support and encourage fellow Disciples and to practice Christian ministry locally, regionally and globally.

Having said that, there are some theological practices we share in common. We are non-creedal; everyone is invited to love and serve God through Jesus Christ, but how and why you move in that direction is between each soul and God. We practice baptism by immersion at an age of understanding, yet we recognize all forms of baptism and therefore do not require anyone to be re-baptized. The Lord's Table is open because Christ is the host and the purpose. We celebrate the birth, ministry, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and in the context of worship we offer Holy Communion every Sunday. Everyone has a vocation, and we affirm Christ's call to children, youth, women and men to serve. We turn to the Holy Scriptures for guidance and direction in our daily living, yet also recognize that the Holy Spirit, in God's infinite wisdom, continues to lovingly communicate through additional voices and acts of grace. At the intersection of faith and reason we meet the Risen Christ and one another. The call of the Gospel for social justice and the building of community is intricately woven into the very fabric of the worship, study, and prayer life of the church.

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.