

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- Sunday, January 25: **All Church Luncheon**
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
After worship Congregational Meeting
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
- Monday, January 26:
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
11 a.m. Prayer Group
6 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting
7:30 p.m. Administration Meeting in Parlor
- Tuesday, January 27:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons
3:30 p.m. Personnel Ministry
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish
8 p.m. AA/ALANON
- Wednesday, January 28:
10-11:30 a.m. Pastor Brewer-Calvert meeting with Denise Bell at Atlanta 1st
4 p.m. Spring Into Spanish
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, January 29:
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish
- Saturday, January 31:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- Sunday, February 1: Church Board Meeting
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
After worship Church Board Meeting
After lunch Personnel Meeting
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

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

“Seeking Understanding in Scripture” in Carmack Room

“*God Supplies Manna*”, Exodus 16:1-18:21

“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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Jonah 3:1-5

1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, **2** "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." **3** So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. **4** Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" **5** And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Mark 1: 14-20

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, **15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. **17** And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." **18** And immediately they left their nets and followed him. **19** As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. **20** Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Church Board to Gather Sunday, February 1, immediately after 10:30 AM Worship Everyone is invited and welcome at the Church Board Meeting for a presentation of our 2015 plans & mission opportunities. Lunch will be provided; all Bd. Officers, Deacons, Elders expected to attend.

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.

- **Vivianne Aponte** and **Cristian Sepulveda** announce the birth of their daughter, **Amalia Isabelle Sepulveda**. Congratulations!
- **Meredith** and **Stephen Westbrook** announce the birth of their daughter, **Martha Sarah**. Congratulations!
- **Mark Ranney's** father has a very large kidney stone and it is very painful. **Mark** and **Russ** give God thanksgiving for safety on their 1,650 mile road trip and a good visit with family.
- **Rev. Barbara Sims-King** asks for prayers for **Latonya Turner**, her niece, who is hospitalized with complications after childbirth. **Latonya** is in Southern Regional Hospital.
- **Pat Marriott** says, "The family of **Juan Chung** lost his mother yesterday. She passed away in Jamaica from complications due to surgery."
- **Becky Kidd** says, "Pastor James knows the status of my progression. Please pray for my strength physically and spiritually."
- **Bridgette Boker** asks for prayer for her friend **Nancy Reynolds**, with hopes that her doctor may be able to save her leg.
- **Randy Finley** asks for prayer for his mother **Sue Finley**, who has heart failure and cancer.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** share, "Please keep us in your prayers. We are planning on major changes in our lives and we need your support and guidance. Please keep our mother in your prayers. She is still in the ICU and hoping for rehabilitation."
- **Susan Watts** says, "Thanks be to God everyone is back together this good Sunday. Thanks be to God. I missed you all."
- **Sandra Brundage** writes, "I have a friend in the Army who is fighting in Africa. He is to come home soon. Please help me pray for his safe return."
- **Larry Todd** requests prayer for his brother-in-law **Terry Tolbert** who is having pre-op for kidney cancer on Wednesday at Macon hospital.
- **Barbara Powell** requests prayer for her niece **Mary Beth Powell**. She is in a coma and things don't look good.
- **Hank Ferry's** surgery has been set for Wednesday, January 28 at Piedmont Hospital. Please keep him and Beatrice in your prayers.
- Please pray for **Lily Delk** and all those who are ill at this time.
- **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."
- **Lillie Sapp** says her son-in-law, **Nicolas Jordan** is very ill. Prayers are needed for healing and the right physician.
- **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, Willie Mae Durr, 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.