

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

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
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Monday, February 2:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3:30 p.m.	Cello Lessons
Tuesday, February 3:	
9:30- 11:30 a.m.	Mothers Of Pre-Schoolers in Social Hall and Nursery
10 a.m. -12 p.m.	Interplay
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
1 p.m.	Lydia Circle
3:30 p.m.	Music Theory Group in Pathfinders Room
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, February 4:	
3:30 p.m.	Music Theory Group in Pathfinders Room
4 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m.	Emory Chase Condo Association in Chapel
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 5:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4 p.m.	AJC Book Fest in Pathfinders Room
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 -9 p.m.	Community Poverty Simulation Event in Social Hall
Friday, February 6:	Disciples Youth 2-6 thru 2-8 at Epworth
3-7 p.m.	Decatur Clover Kids in Social Hall
Saturday, February 7:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
Sunday, February 8:	
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

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

“Seeking Understanding in Scripture” in Carmack Room

“Covenant and Commandment”, Exodus 19: 1-6; 20:1-17.

“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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Deuteronomy 18: 15-22

15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. **16** This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." **17** Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. **18** I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. **19** Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. **20** But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die." **21** You may say to yourself, "How can we recognize a word that the Lord has not spoken?" **22** If a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord but the thing does not take place or prove true, it is a word that the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; do not be frightened by it.

Mark 1: 21-28

21 They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. **22** They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. **23** Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, **24** and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." **25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" **26** And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. **27** They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." **28** At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

I am open and I am willing

– Lyrics by Holly Near and Chris Williamson

To be hopeless would seem so strange

It dishonors those who go before us

So lift me up to the light of change

There is hurting in my family

There is sorrow in my town

There is panic in the nation

There is wailing the whole world round

May the children see more clearly

May the elders be more wise

May the winds of change caress us

Even though it burns our eyes

Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion

Give me a desert to hold my fears

Give me a sunset to hold my wonder

Give me an ocean to hold my tears

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.

- Please keep **Cathy Keeler** in your prayers. She has a bad case of the flu and she just started a new job.
- **Sylvia Gibbs** just welcomed her 7th grandson **Benjamin Roman** on January 28th parents are **Fred** and **Carissa Gibbs**.
- **Wiley Harris** has requested prayer for his friend **Jeff** and **Jeff's** family. **Jeff** has cancer and is paralyzed.
- God Answers Prayers! We are grateful that **Hank Ferry** had successful surgery on Wednesday, January 28 at Piedmont Hospital (Room 236). He is going home on Friday. Please keep **Hank** and **Beatrice** in your prayers.
- **Barbara Powell** requests prayer for her niece **Mary Beth Powell**. **Mary Beth** came out of the coma, is home and seems to be doing well. Miracles do happen!
- Please keep **Cathy Keeler** in your prayers. She has a bad case of the flu. This is really bad timing for her as she just started a new job. Pray for a quick healing.
- **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.
- From **Mary Jobson**: Please lift up the family and friends of **Gayla Walker**. Please also pray that the police are able to provide more information surrounding her death so that we have a better understanding of what happened, and that her family may have some peace.
- Please keep **Yolanda** and **Blair Lewellyn** and their dog **River** in your prayers. **River** has cancer and is very ill.
- **Lily Delk** thanks everyone for prayers and says that it is good to be back in church.
- **Sandra Brundage** would appreciate continued prayer for her friend; that he returns safely from Africa.
- **Liz** and **Madeline Stillwell** and **Brooke Babbitt** said, “Prayers of thanks for **Brooke's** new job as a case manager for homeless families. Please pray for **Liz's** aunt, **Nancy Williamson**, who was diagnosed with esophageal cancer.”
- **Peggy Norton** requests prayer for her sister **Eleanor**, who is dealing with a recurrence of debilitating headaches. She is hoping to see a specialist in Tampa.
- **Robbin Brown** says, “God is good. I didn't have to pay a fine.”
- **Rose Bianco-Szymanski** says, “Please pray for **Redden Irving**, who is one month old and diagnosed with cancer, a neuroblastoma (tumor). Let's pray the treatment will heal **Redden**, the baby of friends.”
- **Mark Ranney** says, “**Carol Givens Evans McGinnis** requests prayers for a successful cancer surgery Monday. She is in very good spirits.”
- **Tom Rosenberger** requests prayer for returned health of his friend **Michael's mom**, who is now in the hospital.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** said, “After foolishly misplacing one of our cell phones in a big bin of cheap DVD's. A Christian sister traveling home decided to buy a DVD and later returned the phone and we became great friends. Also, I have a praise to God because my mother has been moved to rehab. She is doing so well and will be coming home in 14 days.”
- **Mark Ranney's** father has a very large kidney stone and it is very painful.
- **Pat Marriott** says, “The family of **Juan Chung** lost his mother yesterday. She passed away in Jamaica from complications due to surgery.”
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **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**, **Nicolas Jordan**, **The Kidd Family**, **Patti King**, **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**, **Terry Tolbert**, **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 worshipping 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.