

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, February 15:

- 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

Monday, February 16:

- 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. Administration Meeting
- 7 p.m. Mary Magdalene Circle at Yolanda's home

Tuesday, February 17:

- 9:30 -11:30 a.m. MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) in Social Hall and Nursery
- 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Interplay
- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- 4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish
- 6 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
- 8 p.m. AA/ALANON

Wednesday, February 18:

- 4 p.m. Spring Into Spanish
- 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service in Sanctuary
- afterward Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 19:

- 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- 2 p.m. Retired Teachers in Social Hall
- 4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish

Saturday, February 21:

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

Sunday, February 15:

- Soup and Salad Fundraiser**
- 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

“*Art of the Covenant*”, Exodus 25: 10-16; Exodus 40: 16-21, 33-38

“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**.



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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Mark 9: 2-9

2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. 3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. 4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters--one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) 7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" 8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

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.

- **God answers prayers!** Jesus said, “Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” (Matthew 7: 7)
- **Elizabeth Hamm** was released from DeKalb Medical Center on Monday.
- **Clara Holley** had a recurrent infection and will have outpatient surgery at Emory on February 20th.
- **Sylvia Gibbs** has a joy. Her mom, niece, and her family visited and worshiped God with us on Sunday.
- **Ashley Buchanan** is having a Vocal Recital on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. at Agnes Scott College. The event is free and all are welcome.
- This month the members and friends of **First Christian Church of Decatur** celebrate our 17th anniversary of shared ministry as Pastor and Parish (February 9, 1998 – 2015). Pastor James Brewer-Calvert's ordination to the Christian Ministry was 27 years ago on February 14, 1988; his 55th birthday was on February 10th. A church member shares, “We are so proud and blessed by Pastor James' ministry to Decatur First Christian Church and the Decatur community.”
- **Irene** requests prayers for a paying job with a 40 hour work week.
- **Susan Watts** is praying for world peace.
- **Yolanda** and **Blair** celebrate the life and love of their dog **River** who passed away peacefully on Monday morning.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** praise God for safety, health, and for healing. They ask for prayers for their mother to get the help she needs.
- **Bridgette Boker** asks for prayers for her son **Andre**.
- Please keep **Cathy Keeler** in your prayers. She is having tests to determine the cause of her current condition.
- **Samuel Bryant Stephenson**, 18 months old, has been diagnosed with leukemia. His family is at Shiloh Christian Church.
- **Dotti Laycock** asked for prayer for old friend **Jeanne Tafts** who has cancer and is having a tough time.
- **Larry Todd** asks for prayer for his brother-in-law **Terry Tolbert** who is awaiting surgery for a kidney stone removal.
- **Linda Haynes Bradley** asks for prayer for **Shelby LeDuc** who is going through cancer treatments in Spotsylvania, VA.
- **Jay** and **Peggy Norton** ask for prayer for Peggy's sister **Eleanor** who will be going to the headache pain clinic at the University of South Florida in Tampa. We hope that they find out the cause of her headaches and a treatment.
- **Randy Finley** asks for prayer for his mother **Sue Finley**, who has heart failure and cancer.
- 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, Mary Beth Powell, Ramona Rathel, Kim Stanley, Lee Stanley, Tate Family, Terry Tolbert, Mildred Trott, Carol Wheeler, Nancy Williamson, 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.