

## Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- Sunday, February 8: **Rev. Lynn Trapp preaching**  
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 9:  
10 a.m. Staff Meeting  
11 a.m. Prayer Group  
3:30 p.m. Cello Lessons  
6 p.m. Finance Ministry Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Administration Meeting
- Tuesday, February 10:  
10 a.m. -12 p.m. Interplay  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store  
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish  
8 p.m. AA/ALANON
- Wednesday, February 11:  
10:45 a.m. Wisdom Weavers outing to Civil & Human Rights Museum  
4 p.m. Spring Into Spanish  
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, February 12:  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store  
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish
- Saturday, February 14:  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- 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
- 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**.

## First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)



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### **Numbers 24: 15-19**

**15** So he uttered his oracle, saying: "The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is clear, **16** the oracle of one who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, who falls down, but with his eyes uncovered: **17** I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near— a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the borderlands of Moab, and the territory of all the Shethites. **18** Edom will become a possession, Seir a possession of its enemies, while Israel does valiantly. **19** One out of Jacob shall rule, and destroy the survivors of Ir."

### **John 14: 12-21**

**12** Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. **15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. **16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. **17** This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. **18** "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. **19** In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

## 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.*

- **Samuel Bryant Stephenson**, 18 months old, has been diagnosed with leukemia. His family are at Shiloh Christian Church.
- **Dotti Laycock** asked for prayer for old friend **Jeanne Tafts** who has cancer and is having a tough time.
- **Minnie Haynes** asks for traveling mercies for her daughter, **Linda Bradley** who is visiting from Ocean Isle Beach, NC and will return home on Thursday.
- **Susan Watts** said, "Thank you Pastor for everything you do, as well as the members."
- **Mark Ranney** has a joy: Two of his college friends (**the Reese's**) are celebrating and dedicating their newly adopted daughter this morning at Lilburn Alliance Church.
- **Larry Todd** asks for prayer for his brother-in-law **Terry Tolbert** who is awaiting surgery for a kidney stone removal.
- **Tumara Jackson** asks for traveling mercies for her mother **Sylvia Gibbs** who will be driving back to Atlanta from Indiana on Tuesday and she will be bringing her mother with her to continue recovery.
- **Linda Haynes Bradley** asks for prayer for **Shelby LeDuc** who is going through cancer treatments in Spotsylvania, VA.
- **Wiley and Danl** say, "Praise God for his help in replacing our car after our brakes went out last week. Thank God for giving my mom the strength to get better every day."
- **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.
- **Becky Kidd** says she has a joy! Her team Five Smooth Stones raised \$6,000 for the Emory ALS Team at a fundraiser hosted Friday night.
- **Ashley Buchanan** is having a Junior Recital on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. at Agnes Scott College. The event is free and all are welcome.
- Please keep **Cathy Keeler** in your prayers. She has a bad case of the flu and she just started a new job.
- We are grateful that **Hank Ferry** had successful surgery on Wednesday, January 28. Please keep **Hank** and **Beatrice** in your prayers.
- **Bridgette Boker** asks for prayer for her friend **Nancy Reynolds**.
- **Randy Finley** asks for prayer for his mother **Sue Finley**, who has heart failure and cancer.
- Please keep **Yolanda** and **Blair Lewellyn** and their dog **River** in your prayers. **River** has cancer and is very ill.
- **Saundra Brundage** would appreciate continued prayer for her friend; that he returns safely from Africa.
- **Liz Stillwell** and **Brooke Babbitt** said, "Prayers for **Nancy Williamson**, who was diagnosed with esophageal cancer."
- **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."
- **Tom Rosenberger** requests prayer for returned health of his friend **Michael's mom**, who is now in the hospital.
- **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**, **Mary Beth Powell**, **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.