

## Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, March 1:	
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, March 2:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3:30 p.m.	Cello Lessons
Tuesday, March 3:	
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
1 p.m.	Lydia Circle
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, March 4:	
4- 6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6 p.m.	Dinner and Seminar on “Simple Living: Life as a Work of Art”
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 5:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
Saturday, March 7:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
Sunday, March 8:	<b>Daylight Savings Time begins</b>
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
2:30-4 p.m.	Pam Martin Recital in Sanctuary
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

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

“Seeking Understanding in Scripture” in Carmack Room

“Review and Reflection”

“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. Study texts include Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s **Life Together**.

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



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### **Mark 8: 31-38**

**31** Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **32** He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33** But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

**34** He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35** For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. **36** For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? **37** Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? **38** Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



## 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)
- **Mary Frances Early** asks for prayers for her friend **James Camp** and his family, who passed away Tuesday after life support was turned off in the hospital.
- **Ashley Buchanan’s** Junior Vocal Recital on Sunday, Feb. 22 at Agnes Scott College was a delight to behold. Well done, **Ashley!**
- **Barbara Powell** said, “**Polly Brock** fell Friday night. She was in the hospital but she has been moved to Eastside Heritage Rehab, 2160 Fountain Drive, Room 115, Snellville, GA 30078. Her dementia is worse but the doctor says it’s due to the anesthesia, hopefully it will return to normal in a few weeks. She probably won’t recognize any one, so no visitors please.”
- **Mary Jobson** asks for prayer for the family of **Bob** and **Lauchi Castro**. **Bob’s** mother, **Helen Therese Castro** broke her hip last week is under hospice care due to complications and organ failure.
- **Jasmine Heath** said, “Last night I was informed that I got the camp staff position at Christmount, so I will be returning there this summer.”
- **Wiley Harris** says, “Praise God for healing; mom is doing better. We ask God to guide us through this time of change.”
- **Heather S. Bellville** asks for prayers for her dog **Maggie** whose is now in Heaven.
- A joy for **Robbin Brown**: she has a job in home health care!
- **Mark Ranney** wants prayers for a high school friend, **Liz Bookheimer** who had an allergic reaction during medical procedure and is in ICU. **Mark** started a new job on Saturday as an Optician.
- **Kayla Harriott** asks for prayer for the family of her dear friend **Tae Edwards**, 22 years old, who passed away from a car accident.
- **Marcus Hill, Indra Thomas, Ann Marie McPhail, and Pamela Dillard** will be in recital here on Sunday, March 22 at 4 p.m.at First Christian Church of Decatur.
- **Ann Brewer Berry, Betty Brewer-Calvert’s** aunt, passed away on Friday after a long journey through Lewy Body Dementia. Her memorial service is in Hiawassee, GA on Saturday, March 7.
- **Julie Fleming** asks for prayers for **Ralph Miller** in hospice in Plainview, TX and his wife **Alice**.
- **Clara Holley** had a recurrent infection and had outpatient surgery at Emory.
- **Bridgette Boker** asks for prayers for her son **Andre**.
- **Larry Todd** asks for prayer for his brother-in-law **Terry Tolbert** who is awaiting surgery for a kidney stone removal.
- **Jay and Peggy Norton** ask for prayer for Peggy’s sister **Eleanor** who continues to have severe headaches.
- **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 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.