

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, March 22:	GA Marathon
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 23:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3:00 p.m.	Cello Lessons
Tuesday, March 24:	
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Interplay
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
4-8 p.m.	L'Arche in Carmack Room
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, March 25:	
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.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 26:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
7 p.m.	Book Club in Pathfinders Room
Friday, March 27:	
6 p.m.	Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday, March 28:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4 p.m.	Wedding and Reception
Sunday, March 29:	
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
After Worship	Palm Sunday reception in the Jerusalem Room
12-2 p.m.	Christian Youth Fellowship stuffing Easter Eggs in Fellowship Hall
12-2 p.m.	Baptism Class in Jesus Junction Room
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

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

"Exploring the Bible" in Carmack Room

"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.

First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)



601 West Ponce de Leon Avenue

Decatur, GA 30030

Phone: 404-378-3621

Email: 1stcc@bellsouth.net

Website: www.decaturdisciples.org

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. **32** It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. **34** No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12: 20-26

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. **21** They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." **22** Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. **23** Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. **25** Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

26 Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

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)

- We celebrate that **Kasey Bezio** gave birth to a beautiful son named **Ayden Rae Forrest**. Ayden is 7 pounds 9 ounces and 20 inches long. He was born on Friday, March 13 in Vermont. All parties are doing fine. Welcome to the world, Ayden!
- **Mark Ranney** says, "My **Aunt Karen**, who had a double mastectomy last year, had her first reconstruction procedure today. She is home and doing well, but in a good bit of pain. I would appreciate prayers for her speedy healing and that the discomfort and pain passes quickly."
- **Linda Chesnut** says, "**Judy McMahan** got up to go to the bathroom and dislocated her hip. She doesn't need surgery but she was fitted with a brace and will have to wear it for eight weeks. She will have physical therapy on Thursday and will come home Thursday afternoon. Pray for patience and a quick recovery."
- **Wiley Harris'** mother **Beverly Harris** passed away today, Tuesday, March 17. We pray for God's comfort and mercy for the family, and for traveling mercies for Wiley's brother as he prepares to settle down here ASAP; they ask for God's will for healing in any way the Lord deems best.
- **Rev. Dr. Barbara Sims-King** asks for prayers for **Rev. Ralph McCoy** of Columbus, Georgia as he goes through the second leg amputation and the challenge to continue his call to ministry in view of physical limitations.
- **Barbara Powell** asks for prayers for **Roy Lee**, member of Shiloh Christian Church, who has been placed on dialysis.
- **Nancy** and **Steve Oliver** share, "Prayer's are needed for **Steve's** sister, **Kathy Williams**, who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease."
- **Tumara Jackson** offers, "**Baby Benji**, my newest nephew, (6 weeks old) underwent a successful surgery to repair one of his kidneys. He is recovering well. Continue to pray for her brother, **Fred**, and his wife, **Carissa**, as they care for him at home."
- **Geraldine Davis** asks for prayer for the **Day** and **Davis Families**.
- **James Brewer-Calvert's** aunt **Charlee Bergstrom** (his mother **Buffy's** eldest sister) is in the hospital in the Boston area. Charlee had a procedure to get her heart rhythm regular.
- **Sandra Brundage** said, "I would like to thank you for your prayers for my friend **Maxwell James** who is in the Army stationed in Africa. He is still there. Please keep praying for his safe return."
- **Mary Frances Early** asks for prayers for her friend **James Camp** and his family.
- **Randy Finley** asks for prayers for his mother **Sue Finley** who is hospitalized with pneumonia.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **Glen Alsobrook, Sr.**, **Johnnie Barber**, **Polly Brock**, **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.