

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, April 12:	
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, April 13:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3 p.m.	Cello Lessons
6 p.m.	Finance Ministry Meeting
7 p.m.	Administration Ministry Meeting
Tuesday, April 14:	
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Interplay
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, April 15:	
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 16:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
2 p.m.	Retired Teachers
Friday, April 17:	
	Georgia Disciples Men's Retreat at Christmount April 17-18
Saturday, April 18:	
9 a.m.	Workday in the Park
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
2 p.m.	Gentle Spirit Christian Church in Sanctuary
Sunday, April 19:	
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



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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John 20: 19-31

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." **26** A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." **28** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. **31** But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Acts 4:32-37

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. **33** With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. **35** They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. **36** There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). **37** He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

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 the Easter morning baptisms and faith professions of **Seth Alsobrook, Tori Jackson, and William Kidd!** Praise God for sending to First Christian Church of Decatur over 140 people to worship the Risen Christ and give thanks. We guesstimate that fifty children participated in the Easter Egg hunt, petted real lambs, and made arts and crafts; the majority of the young people brought their parents inside for worship and communion. We are so happy with the offerings of our Chancel and Hand Bell Choirs. As one prayer card said, "God rocks!"
- **Rita Jackson-White** prays for good health and a better relationship with God.
- **Dede Alsobrook** asks for prayers for **Glen** and **Elaine Alsobrook** and **Ramona Rathel**.
- We join with **Irene Waturi** in lifting up prayers for Kenya and healing of the land.
- **Carrie Sims** says, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors."
- **Liz, Madelyn, and Brook** ask for prayer for their **Aunt Nancy Williamson** who is fighting stage four throat cancer.
- **Wiley Harris** and **Danl Giles** share: "Please pray for God's guidance and the healing of our broken hearts. Pray that we will be wise and trust God in our time of grief."
- **Lotosha** and **Carter Ross** and **Laila Eroid** shared that they "really enjoyed the Palm Sunday service. Thank you!"
- **Sandra Brundage** asks for prayer for her cousin **Paulette Young**; she is in a lot of pain from surgery.
- **Randy Finley** says, "My mother's pneumonia, breathing and heart are improving. She is back home now. Thanks...for all the prayers."
- **Carol Givens McGinness'** sister **Joan Givens** died on Tuesday, March 31. Keep the Givens family in your prayers please.
- **Ruth Lutz'** brother-in-law **Will Harris** is back to work after minor surgery.
- 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 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.