

## Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

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
Monday, April 20:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3 p.m.	Cello Lessons
7:30 p.m.	Mary Magdalene Circle @ Barbara Powell's home
Tuesday, April 21:	
9:30 a.m.	MOPS in the Social Hall and Nursery
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Interplay
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
7 p.m.	Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert preaches at Briarcliff Oaks
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, April 22:	
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, April 23:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
7 p.m.	Book Club in Pathfinders Room
Saturday, April 25:	
9 a.m.	Workday in the Park
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
Sunday, April 26:	
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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### Nehemiah 1 (The Message)

The memoirs of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah.

It was the month of Kislev in the twentieth year. At the time I was in the palace complex at Susa. Hanani, one of my brothers, had just arrived from Judah with some fellow Jews. I asked them about the conditions among the Jews there who had survived the exile, and about Jerusalem.

They told me, “The exile survivors who are left there in the province are in bad shape. Conditions are appalling. The wall of Jerusalem is still rubble; the city gates are still cinders.”

When I heard this, I sat down and wept. I mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God-of-Heaven.

I said, “GOD, God-of-Heaven, the great and awesome God, loyal to his covenant and faithful to those who love him and obey his commands: Look at me, listen to me. Pay attention to this prayer of your servant that I’m praying day and night in intercession for your servants, the People of Israel, confessing the sins of the People of Israel. And I’m including myself, I and my ancestors, among those who have sinned against you.

“We’ve treated you like dirt: We haven’t done what you told us, haven’t followed your commands, and haven’t respected the decisions you gave to Moses your servant. All the same, remember the warning you posted to your servant Moses: ‘If you betray me, I’ll scatter you to the four winds, but if you come back to me and do what I tell you, I’ll gather up all these scattered peoples from wherever they ended up and put them back in the place I chose to mark with my Name.’

“Well, there they are—your servants, your people whom you so powerfully and impressively redeemed. O Master, listen to me, listen to your servant’s prayer—and yes, to all your servants who delight in honoring you—and make me successful today so that I get what I want from the king.”

I was cupbearer to the king.

## 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)

- **Rosa Kent** is going into Mesun Hospice at 88 Johnson Road in Lawrenceville this afternoon. Please keep **Rosa** and her family in your prayers.
- Remember in your prayers **Robert Hamilton** who was diagnosed with stage 1 liver cancer. He is seeking a second opinion.
- **Rita Jackson-White** prays for good health and a better relationship with God.
- **Bridgette Boker** prays that all the children playing in the park will come to kids church and their parents will worship with us.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** are praising God for new beginnings and renewing faith. "We ask for guidance and strength to follow the right path, and the hands to get work done."
- **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.
- **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."
- **Ruth Lutz'** brother-in-law **Will Harris** is back to work after minor surgery.
- 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!"
- 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.