

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, May 10:	Happy Mother's Day
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, May 11:	
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 Meeting
Tuesday, May 12:	
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, May 13:	
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 14:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
4 p.m.	Decatur Book Festival Meeting in Pathfinders Room
Saturday, May 16:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
10:30 a.m.	Jennifer Urreggo Birthday Party in the Park
Sunday, May 17:	
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12-2 p.m.	Board Meeting
5-7 p.m.	Tonya Rodriguez Recital in Sanctuary
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

Church Board to Gather Sunday, May 17 immediately after 10:30 a.m. worship Everyone is invited and welcome at the Church Board Meeting for a presentation of our summer and fall 2015 plans & mission opportunities. Lunch will be provided; all Board Officers, Deacons, Elders and Pastoral Staff are expected to attend.



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John 15: 9-17

9 As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. **16** You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. **17** I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Colossians 3: 12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. **13** Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord ^a has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ ^b dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ^c **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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.

- Prayers for wisdom, clarity of thought, and new horizons for **all students, teachers, and administrators** as school semesters draw to a close and summer beckons.
- **Rosa Kent** passed away on Friday, April 17. We love and miss Rosa, and celebrate her life and love. Please keep her family in your prayers.
- **Rev. James Collins** went home to be with the Lord Sunday morning May 3. Services to celebrate his life and to give thanks for his gifts to the church will be Sunday, May 10 at 2 p.m. at Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta. Please pray for **Sandra Collins** and their **family**.
- Prayer for the **people in Nepal** and the recovery and emergency crews there. Over 7,700 people are known to have died as a result of the earthquakes.
- **Bridgette Boker** says, “Pray for new parents **Joey** and **Debbie Rickman** and their son **Matthew**. I’m a proud grandaunt.” Congratulations on your new nephew!
- Pray for baby **Mason** who was born Friday. He is having trouble breathing. **Mason** is **Marie** and **Steve Teague’s** grandson. Congratulations on the newest child of God! Get well soon.
- Our thoughts and prayers are with **Jeffery Carroll** who has been diagnosed with colon rectal cancer. Jeffery is preparing for surgery soon and thanks God that he has the best surgeon in Cobb County.
- Please keep **Jay and Peggy Norton** in your prayers. Jay went into the hospital yesterday with some breathing issues, apparently due to his medication. They are hoping he will get to go home on Friday. Good news - the tumors are shrinking.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** said, “We praise God for our Sunday School class, and the joy and excitement that is growing in everyone.”
- **Lynn Trapp** asks for prayers for his sister-in-law **Carlene Trapp** who has just finished chemo therapy for breast cancer. She still has surgery and radiation therapy to follow.
- Former church member **Betty Gates** is ill. Please keep her and the **Gates family** in your prayers.
- **Hank Ferry** is delighted to have lost so much weight and is feeling a lot better. He will be a worship leader on Sunday, May 10.
- **Queata Cassell** and **Steve Jackson** are now engaged! Congratulations to the happy couple!
- **Ana Guardialo**, Georgia regional elder, is in ICU in a hospital in Tucson after complications from a fall a few weeks ago.
- **Daphne Reiley** has been approved as a presenter at the Georgia Gerontology Society’s Annual Conference in August! She will be presenting “Keep Your Cup Full: Sacred Rituals for Caregivers.”
- **Randy Finley** asks for prayer for work colleague, **Dana** who is facing injustice at work.
- **Brooke Babbitt** asks for prayers for the women in Project Welcome Home that she counsels at work. Project Welcome Home is a permanent, supportive living program for homeless women and children. **Liz**, **Brooke**, and **Madelyn** ask for prayer for their cousin **Sue Cambre**, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. Also, continued prayers are needed for **Nancy Williamson**. The doctors are letting her travel to Myrtle Beach if she continues to do well.
- **Lillie Sapp** says, “My sister-in-law **Elouise Sapp** is in critical care at Sanford Hospital in Florida with fluid in her lungs and around her heart.”
- Remember in your prayers **Robert Hamilton** who was diagnosed with stage 1 liver cancer. He is seeking a second opinion.
- **Ruth Lutz’** brother-in-law **Will Harris** is back to work after minor surgery.

- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **Glen** and **Elaine 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.