

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

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
Monday, May 18:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
5 p.m.	Christian Education Meeting
7:30 p.m.	Mary Magdalene Circle at Yolanda's home
Tuesday, May 19:	
9:30 a.m.	MOPS in Social Hall and Nursery
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 20:	
12 p.m.	Hosting Disciples Clergy Luncheon
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 21:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
12 p.m.	Retired Teachers
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
Friday, May 22:	Rev. Dr. Barbara Sims-King out of office May 22-28
Saturday, May 23:	
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
Sunday, May 24:	Pentecost Sunday
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

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.



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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Matthew 5: 14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. **15** No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Acts 2: 1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.



Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

- **Glen Alsobrook, Sr.** passed away on May 14th. Please hold off visiting or calling **Elaine**. Please keep **Elaine** and their family in your prayers.
- **Tori Jackson** wants everyone to know that her baby cousins **Jojo** (4) and **Cornell** (3) are coming here for the church summer day camp! She invites us to join her in praying for their safe travels and that they have fun and learn a lot (of course)!
- **Sandra Brundage** asks for prayer for her cousin **Paulette Young**. She is getting better, but needs more surgery.
- **Steve Teague** says, “The baby named **Mason** that we prayed for last Sunday is fine and has gone home!”
- **Jackie Tate** requests “Prayers for **Joshua** as he gets things together and ready for college that it will all work out. Also, please pray for our needs and a great summer.”
- **Tamra Higgs** says, “It’s good to be here visiting. I feel very welcome at First Christian Church.”
- **Wiley** and **Danl** are praising God on this day. With remembering of our mother’s passing and the love they have shared with us. **Danl** is scheduled for surgery on Thursday, May 14 at DeKalb Medical Hospital.
- **Rose Bianco Szymanski** requests prayer for her mother **Alida Gines**, who is in the hospital today. Pray for her to find peace of mind.
- **Liz Stilwell** and **Brooke Babbitt** request prayers for **Nancy Williamson**, her aunt, who has cancer and is trying to be well enough for a beach trip this month. Please pray that she gets well enough for the trip to see her family.
- **Barbara Sims-King** requests prayer for the family of **Paul Ingram**, friend of her family, who passed away last week in Columbus, GA.
- Please keep in your prayers **Rev. Dr. Glenn Etheridge**, Pastor of Oak Grove UMC, and his wife **Cathy and their family**. They have had to take their **youngest son** off life support after his 3-year bout with brain cancer.
- Travelling mercies for **Rev. Dr. Gilberto Collazo** who is coming to Atlanta and will preach here on Sunday, May 17. Dr. Collazo is the Exec. Dir. of Hope Partnership for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
- 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.
- We celebrated **Rosa Kent’s life** on Saturday with friends and family.
- **Rev. James Collins** went home to be with the Lord Sunday and we ask for prayer 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!
- 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. Good news –he’s home from the hospital and the tumors are shrinking.
- **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 was 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 a hospital in Tucson after complications from a fall a few weeks ago. Her condition is improved.
- **Randy Finley** asks for prayer for work colleague, **Dana** who is facing injustice at work.
- Remember in your prayers **Robert Hamilton** who was diagnosed with stage 1 liver cancer.
- 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 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.