

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, July 26: **Rev. Melissa Fain preaching**
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, July 27:
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
11 a.m. Prayer Group

Tuesday, July 28:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
8 p.m. AA/ALANON

Thursday, July 30:
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store

Saturday, Aug. 1:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store

Sunday, Aug. 2: **Rev. Dr. Barbara Sims-King preaching**
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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2 Kings 2: 23-24

23 He went up from there to Bethel; and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, “Go away, baldhead! Go away, baldhead!” **24** When he turned around and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two she-bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys.



Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- Please pray for the Dekalb County Police Officer shot in the line of duty in Stone Mountain.
- **Mary Beth Powell - Barbara Powell's** niece has continued medical problems and ask for prayer.
- **Polly Brock** - need prayers for her and family.
- **Charlotte** and **Jim Ivy** - keep them in our prayers.
- **Saundra Brundage** requests prayer for her cousin, **Paulette Young** who is having another surgery in August.
- **Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert** requests traveling mercies to those going to General Assembly in Columbus, OH. July 18-23. **Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert** will be attending from our congregation. We ask for a blessing on the worship, workshops, and fellowships.
- **Minnie Haynes** says, "She will be attending her 52nd family reunion next weekend. Her Breast Cancer surgery will be scheduled in early August. Continue to include me in prayer."
- **Janice** and **Helen Huyler** praise God that her sister **Janice Huyler** is here in worship after three days of emergency care at Emory Hospital.
- **Danl** and **Wiley** praise God for a new beginning of their business. We ask for support in prayer and love. And asked for continued prayer for **Randell** and **Tyler**.
- **Jeanette Duncan** says her son **Wendall** has bronchitis, but is doing better.
- Dear Church Family, Thank you so much for your far-too-generous Love Offering. What an unexpected blessing! Our medical bills are also unexpected, and this gift is a boon in a time of need. Thanks to one and all. God is so good and we are so grateful. Personally, I am doing very well. The surgery was successful and the chemotherapy treatments are for "let's make sure" reasons. Two treatments down: 10 to go. My oncologist, who shared this week that my latest blood count is excellent, said, "Give credit to Him!" Please keep your prayers coming, and know that you and your family are in mine as well. Shalom, **Pastor James**
- **Roland Haynes, Jr.** says, "Thank you for your continued prayers and support for my mother, **Minnie Haynes**."
- Please lift up in prayer the **Rev. Dr. Barbara Sims-King** who assumes the mantle of Acting Pastor while **Senior Pastor James Brewer-Calvert** is on sabbatical from July 1 to August 31, 2015.
- **Julie Fleming** asks for prayer for **Matthew Smith Farrell** for an apparent reoccurrence of a brain tumor. Also pray for his wife **Joanne** and three daughters **Alana, Caleigh** and **Ava**.
- **Larry Todd** asks for prayer for **Terry Tolbert**, his brother-in-law who is having kidney surgery August 4th in Macon.
- Continued prayers are requested for **Lillie Sapp** who is recovering from surgery to straighten out ankle and repair tendon.
- Please keep **Peggy** and **Jay** in your prayers.
- **Marion Meador** is home at Cobblestone, Room 208. She welcomes visits, calls, and cards.
- **Deb Almauhy** says, "Thank you so much for your love and prayers. Please continue to keep my husband and daughter in Iran safe and that all paperwork will be completed to bring them home safely."
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy, Johnnie Barber, Polly Brock, Betty Carroll, Jeffery Carroll, Julia Glenn Carter, Elizabeth Cunningham, the Delk Family, Jeanette Duncan, Willie Mae Durr, Hank Ferry, Shannen Ferry, J.D. Fleming, Mary Ellen Fountain, Alida Gines, Adei Grenpastures, Robert Hamilton, Clara Holley, Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis, Nicolas Jordan,**

The Kidd Family, Jay Love, Monte and Sarah Mathis, Judy McMahan, Carol Givens (Evans) McGinnis, Rev. Carolynn Miller, Lynn Nabers, the Norton Family, Kim Stanley, Lee Stanley, Tate Family, Terry Tolbert, Carlene Trapp, 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.