

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, July 5:
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 6:
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, July 7:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
8 p.m. AA/ALANON

Thursday, July 9:
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store

Saturday, July 11:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store

Sunday, July 12:
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
12 noon - 2 p.m. Licensed Therapist Peg Griffith works with Eldership in the Pathfinders Classroom
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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Mark 6: 1-13

1 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. **2** On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! **3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary^[a] and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense^[b] at him. **4** Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." **5** And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

6 And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. **7** He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. **8** He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; **9** but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. **10** He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. **11** If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." **12** So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. **13** They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

2 I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. **3** And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— **4** was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. **5** On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. **6** But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, **7** even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep^[a] me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.^[b] **8** Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, **9** but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power^[c] is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. **10** Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- **Minnie Haynes** advises that she has breast cancer and asks for prayers.
- **Danl** and **Wiley** ask for prayers for two friends that are rebuilding their lives and need physical and emotion help.
- **Mark Ranney** and **Russ Broomfield** expressed, "What a wonderful Music Workshop last weekend! Also we are thankful for the loan of a fan after our AC was broken earlier this week and friends who put us up until it was repaired."
- **Vivianne Aponte** writes: "Our two years in New Orleans are over. We were hoping to move back to ATL but job availability for **Cristian** is so limited that we have to move where the jobs are. We will be moving to Long Island in August. **Cristian** will be working for the State University of New York at Farmingdale. It's a permanent job so that is a plus. Please keep us in your prayers as we move and start over AGAIN in a new place and **with a baby** now. Love, **Vivianne**"
- 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.
- **Sandra Brundage** thanks everyone for praying for her cousin **Paulette Young** who is still suffering from the surgery she had. I hope you will keep praying for her recovery. She would like to encourage everyone to pray for **Rev. Dr. James Brewer-Calvert** to recover from his illness.
- **Betty Brewer-Calvert** has a joy: "My sister and family are moving to Buford, Georgia this week! Brother-in-law **Shane** will be flying for Delta."
- **Jolie Hamilton** says, "I am so sorry you got sick **Pastor James** but am glad you're feeling better."
- **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**.
- **Bridgette Boker** asks for prayers for **Romaine** and **Esther**.
- **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.
- **Emily Smith** shares, "**Betty Gates**, former church member, passed away recently. Services will be June 30 at noon at Turner and Sons Funeral Home."
- **Julie Fleming** asks for traveling mercies for **Oldrich Musalek**, who is traveling to the Czech Republic to be with his family.
- **Liz Kellogg** said, "I'm thankful to God for my friend **Katherine's** recovery."
- **Jay Norton** is home. Please keep **Peggy** and **Jay** in your prayers.
- **Marion Meador** is in Cobblestone Health Center, Room 141, recuperating from a fall. She welcomes visits, calls, and cards.
- **Rev.Carolynn Miller** fell on June 4 and broke her left leg. She had surgery and is in recovery. **Brad** and **Carolynn** request our prayers for healing.
- **Mary Ellen Fountain** requests prayer as she has been diagnosed with chronic heart failure.
- **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."
- Our thoughts and prayers are with **Jeffery Carroll** who has been diagnosed with colon rectal cancer. **Jeffery** is preparing for surgery on August 12th.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy, Johnnie Barber, Polly Brock, Betty 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, 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 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.