

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, Aug. 9: **Rev. Paul Turner preaching**
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
2 -4 p.m. Pastor Paul Turner does Wedding in Chapel
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Monday, Aug.10:
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
11 a.m. Prayer Group
3-7 p.m. Cello Lessons

Tuesday, Aug. 11:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
8 p.m. AA/ALANON

Wednesday, Aug. 12:
6-8 p.m. Decatur Education Foundation in Social Hall
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Aug. 13:
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
1:30 - 5:30 p.m. L' Arche in Carmack Room

Saturday, Aug. 15:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store

Sunday, Aug. 16: **Rev. Wendy Wyche preaching**
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. Church Potluck/Board Meeting/Town Hall Outreach Discussion
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Christian Education Ministry Kick Off

First Christian Church of Decatur's Christian Education Ministry Kick Off Event is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th at 9:15 a.m.

Handbell and Chancel Choir resume August 12th

Remember that Handbell and Chancel Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

John 6: 35, 41-51

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

41 Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” **42** They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” **43** Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. **44** No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. **45** It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. **46** Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. **47** Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. **48** I am the bread of life. **49** Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **50** This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. **51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

Ephesians 4: 25-5:2

25 So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. **26** Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27** and do not make room for the devil. **28** Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. **29** Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. **31** Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, **32** and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, **2** and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- **Pastor Paul Turner's** partner, **William Pabst**, had a heart attack and is in the ICU at DeKalb Medical Center. No visitor's.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** are asking for relief and comfort from uncontrollable pain and they are asking for God's guidance in this to understand and to gain strength to work through these hard times.
- **Mary Ellen Fountain** asks for prayers for **James Brewer-Calvert** and **family**, **Minnie Haynes**, **Lily Delk**, **Herschel** and **Imogene Maxey**, **Mary Frances Early**, **Elaine Alsobrook**.
- **Jeffrey Carroll** asks for prayer for grace, mercy and strength. He is having a port placement on August 18th and colorectal surgery August 28th.
- **Hank Ferry** had all his teeth extracted and is experiencing vertigo. He had a fall and is suffering from pinched nerves in his arm. He cannot drive more than one mile. Hank asks for our prayers.
- **Mary Beth Powell** - **Barbara Powell's** niece has continued medical problems and asks for prayer.
- **Charlotte** and **Jim Ivy** - keep them in our prayers.
- **Minnie Haynes** says, "Her breast cancer surgery has been scheduled for August 19th at DeKalb Medical, the day after her 82nd birthday."
- **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.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **Johnnie Barber**, **Betty Carroll**, **Jeffery Carroll**, **Elizabeth Cunningham**, **the Delk Family**, **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**, **Judy McMahan**, **Marion Meador**, **Rev.Carolynn Miller**, **Lynn Nabers**, **the Norton Family**, **Matthew Smith Farrell 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.