

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, Sep.27:	
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, Sep.28:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3-7 p.m.	Cello Lessons in Carmack Room
7 p.m.	DEF in Pathfinders Room
7 p.m.	Administration Meeting in Parlor
Tuesday, Sep. 29:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, Sep.30:	
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Oct. 1:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
Saturday, Oct. 3:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
10:30 a.m. - 12noon	Blessings of the Pets in the Church Park
Sunday, Oct. 4:	World Communion Sunday
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12 noon	Personnel Committee Meeting
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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Mark 9: 38-50

38 John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” **39** But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. **40** Whoever is not against us is for us. **41** For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42 “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. **43** If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. **45** And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. **47** And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, **48** where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

49 “For everyone will be salted with fire. **50** Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

James 5:13-20

13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. **14** Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. **16** Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. **17** Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18** Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, **20** you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- Please pray for **Lily Delk**, who has gone home after a two week stay at DeKalb Medical Center, and is in recovery.
- **Barbara Sims-King** has a new granddaughter and her name is **Mychela Delise Jennings** born 9/15/2015, 5 lbs 6 oz to **David** and **Miosha Jennings** in Columbus, GA. She also asks for prayer for **Mark** and **Tammie**, a homeless couple who need shelter here in the Atlanta area.
- **Debbie Almauhy** (who is currently in the Middle East with her husband **Furat**) requests prayers from our congregation that their adopted daughter's visa will be granted. Additional documentation was needed from Iraq. Her brother-in-law risked his life to go to Baghdad to get the extra paperwork. Please pray on our behalf that their adopted daughter **Annie's** visa will be granted from the state department and the family can come home to the U.S. of A.
- **Rose Bianco Szymanski** asks for prayer for her daughter **Phoebe** who has endured so many illnesses and infections for the past 2 years and is being tested to determine underlying causes or disease who are causing these issues.
- **Sandra Brundage** asks for prayer for her cousin **Paulette Young**, who is getting better.
- **Lynne Jackson** prays for blessings and healing for **Jeff Carroll**. **Rich Spillane** says, "Thanks to First Christian Church of Decatur for your support."
- **Jay** and **Peggy Norton** ask for prayers for their brother-in-law **David Perkins** who will have a heart cauterization on Sept. 24 with heart valve replacement to follow at a later date.
- **James Brewer-Calvert** writes, "I am grateful for our church's daily prayers for healing and hope. Personally speaking, your prayers carry me and sustain my family. You are in our daily prayers as well. God is so good!"
- **Robbin Brown** asks for prayers for a friend who is having surgery for cancer.
- **Nancy Oliver** asks for prayer for the **Weigle family**. **Tony** passed away on Sunday evening.
- Please offer a prayer for **Liz Stillwell** to find a new career path as soon as God sees fit! She's on the job hunt again.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **Johnnie Barber**, **Jeffery Carroll**, **Elizabeth Cunningham**, **the Delk Family**, **Willie Mae Durr**, **Sylvia Ennis**, **Hank Ferry**, **Shannen Ferry**, **J.D. Fleming**, **Mary Ellen Fountain**, **Sylvia** and **Fred Gibbs**, **Alida Gines**, **Alida Gines**, **Julia Glenn Carter**, **Adei Grenpastures**, **Robert Hamilton**, **Clara Holley**, **Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis**, **Jackson Family**, **Nicolas Jordan**, **The Kidd Family**, **Jay Love**, **Judy McMahan**, **Alan Merritt**, **Don Middour**, **Rev.Carolynn Miller**, **Lynn Nabers**, **the Norton Family**, **William Pabst**, **Mary Beth Powell**, **Lillie Sapp**, **Matthew Smith Farrell family**, **Kim Stanley**, **Lee Stanley**, **Austin**

Swartz, Carlene Trapp, Mildred Trott, Hal Watkins, 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.