

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, Jan. 3:	
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
9:30 a.m.	Transforming Series: "New Beginnings" in Parlor
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Monday, Jan. 4:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3-7 p.m.	Cello Lessons in Carmack Room
7-8 p.m.	AA Men's Big Book Study Group in Pathfinders Room
Tuesday, Jan. 5:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
1 p.m.	Lydia Circle in Parlor
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, Jan. 6:	
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Jan. 7:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
6:30-8:30 p.m.	Suzuki Violin in the Chapel
Saturday, Jan. 9:	
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
Sunday, Jan. 10:	
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
9:30 a.m.	Transforming Series: "New Beginnings" in Parlor
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12 noon	Disciples Women Executive Board Meeting
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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Holy Scriptures:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own,* and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart; who has made him known.

Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- **Lillie Sapp** asks for traveling mercies as she journeys to Florida for the funeral of her sister-in-law **Eloise Sapp** who died on Wednesday. Prayers for the family are appreciated.
- **Ida Anne Clarke** requests prayer and traveling mercies because **Bob Clarke's** younger brother, **Charlie** passed away. They will be traveling to Arlington, VA. **Murphy's Funeral Home** 703-920-4800 is handling arrangements.
- **Gareth Fenley**, a visitor from South Carolina, says, "Thank you for being a place for Gentle Spirit Church."
- **Barbara Powell** requests prayer for **Wiley** and **Danl** after the fire and total destruction of their trailer. Also, pray for a new place to live and thanks be to God for the lessening of **Danl's** pain after his surgery.
- **Susan Watts** says, Thanks to all for your prayers for my grandchildren; they have found a place to live. Keep me and my family in your prayers. Love to you all and Happy New Year!!
- **Lee Stanley** is in Piedmont Hospital in Fayetteville, GA in Room 5116.
- **Steve** and **Nancy Oliver** request prayers for healing after his back surgery. **Steve Oliver** is at Budd Terrace in room 207.
- **Betty Brewer-Calvert** says, "Looking forward to having both our adult "children" home for Christmas! Prayers for **James'** mom **Buffy Calvert**, who fell and hit her head and injured her hand. She is recuperating at home."
- **Cathy Keeler** requests traveling mercies for my son as he arrives from Austin for Christmas. Peace and mercy for my friend, **Julia Glenn Carter** who is in home hospice.
- **Jack Duncan** requests prayers for the **Tabacek** family as **Michael Tabacek** deals with ALS.
- **Jeff Carroll** wrote, "I am thankful for my loving church family! I have increased health daily with Christ's love."
- **Lily Delk** asks for prayer for **Cheryl Delk**.
- Prayers for **Helen Chilton's** grandson, **Josiah** who was injured in a motorcycle accident.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **Johnnie Barber**, **Jeffery Carroll**, **Kevin Castelow**, **Elizabeth Cunningham**, **the Delk Family**, **Sylvia Ennis**, **Hank Ferry**, **Shannen Ferry**, **J.D. Fleming**, **Mary Ellen Fountain**, **Sylvia and Fred Gibbs**, **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**, **Lynn Nabers**, **the Norton Family**, **the Smith Farrell family**, **Kim Stanley**, **Lee Stanley**, **Austin Swartz**, **Mildred Trott**, **Carol Wheeler**, **Nancy Williamson**, **Betty Young** 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.