

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- Sunday, Dec. 20: Fourth Sunday in Advent**
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
Christmas Pageant in Worship
12 noon **Congregational Potluck Meal & Caroling**
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous
- Monday, Dec.21:
10 a.m. Staff Meeting
11 a.m. Prayer Group
12 p.m. Staff Christmas Party
3-7 p.m. Cello Lessons in Carmack Room
- Tuesday, Dec. 22:
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
8 p.m. AA/ALANON
- Thursday, Dec. 24:
6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
11 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Friday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day -Church Office Closed
4-8 p.m. Simmons Family Party
- Saturday, Dec.26:
Chalice Thrift Store Closed
- Sunday, Dec. 27:
9 a.m. Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m. **Service of Lessons and Carols**
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous

Carols, Candlelight, and Communion Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24th at 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Worship Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 27th at 10:30 a.m.



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

601 West Ponce de Leon Avenue

Decatur, GA 30030

Phone: 404-378-3621

Email:1stcc@bellsouth.net; Website: www.decaturdisciples.org

Isaiah 9: 1-7

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Prayer Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

- **Mary Frances Early** asks for prayers for **Minnie Haynes** as she recovers from her medical process.
- **Steve** and **Nancy Oliver** request prayers for healing from back surgery.
- **Jeff Carroll** wrote, "I am thankful for my loving church family! I have increased health daily with Christ's love."
- **Wiley** and **Danl** requests prayer for two friends and Danl 's surgery is on December 24th at 1:30 p.m. We hope by faith that God will protect him.
- **Deb Almauhy** requests prayer that our Muslim brothers and sisters in God know that the [anti-Islam] political rhetoric is not true and that as Christian we love them. Continued prayers for her husband and their daughter.
- **Betty Brewer-Calvert** requests traveling mercies, patience and grace for all as we travel to and from school, church, work, shopping, and holiday gatherings. Ask a special prayer for **Jasmine** and **Sarah** as they travel home to Virginia and Maryland.
- **Pastor James** asks for prayers for his mother, Elizabeth "Buffy" Calvert, who fell on Monday, was hospitalized for a couple days, and is recovering at home.
- **Lily Delk** asks for prayer for **Cheryl Delk**. Also, gives thanks for all your prayers. She is still not driving so it will be awhile before she is back.
- **Quinn Stevenson** requests continued healing for all of us, the nation, the planet, and the universe. And so it is.
- Please lift up **Harriet Grayson**, who is awaiting a heart transplant. We met her granddaughter **Cara** during the Christmas Tree Sale.
- Prayers for **Helen Chilton's** grandson, **Josiah** who was injured in a motorcycle accident.
- **Deb Almauhy** asks for continued prayer for their daughter's visa and for her husband's health and safety in Iraq.
- **Emily Anderson** asks for prayer for her family and her healing.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy, George Anderson, 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.**

Liturgy for the Lighting of the Love Candle on the Advent Wreath

Liturgists: Amy and Rev. Michael Yandell

One: Today we light the fourth candle in our Advent wreath, the candle reminding us of God's gift of love. Before we do that, let us remember the gifts of God symbolized by the by the other candles in the wreath: the light of hope, the light of peace, the light of joy.

(Hope, Peace and Joy candles are lit.)

The fourth candle helps us to remember that God is Love.

(The Love candle is lit.)

Many: The Bible tells us that it is because God loved the world so much that Jesus came. This fourth candle reminds us how much God loves us. Jesus was born into our world to show us how to love one another.

Prayer: God, thank you for loving us and for sending Jesus to teach us about your love. Help us to remember that your love will never come to an end. Strengthen us to love and serve one another as you have loved us. Amen.

All Sing: "When God Is a Child" (verse 4)

132

*Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

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