



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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Decatur, GA 30030

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Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- Sunday, Dec. 27: **First Sunday of Christmas**
 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
- Monday, Dec.28:
 11 a.m. Prayer Group
 3-7 p.m. Cello Lessons in Carmack Room
- Tuesday, Dec. 29:
 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
 8 p.m. AA/ALANON
- Thursday, Dec. 31: Chalice Thrift Closed
- Friday, Jan. 1: Happy New Year's Day!
 Church Office Closed
- Saturday, Jan. 2:
 Chalice Thrift Store Closed
- Sunday, Jan. 3: **Second Sunday of Christmas**
 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

Dear Friends:

Pastor James Brewer-Calvert is on vacation from Friday, December 25 through Saturday, January 2. Rev. Dr. Barbara Sims-King is "on call" this week. May the blessings and peace of Christ be with you and yours!

Prayer Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

- **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.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** requests prayer for **Danl** 's surgery on December 24th at 1:30 p.m. at Decatur General Hospital.
- **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.
- **Sandra Brundage** says, "Thank you for prayers for my cousin **Paulette Young**. She is doing so much better, and my son **Napoleon** is doing better."
- **Barbara** and **Bob Powell** says, "Joy! Santa goes back to the North Pole on Wednesday evening." (Barbara is one of Santa's local elves at a mall.)
- **Jackie Tate** requests traveling mercies for her mom, **Judith Tanner** who will be coming here on Tuesday.
- Prayers for **Minnie Haynes** as she recovers from her medical process.
- **Jeff Carroll** wrote, "I am thankful for my loving church family! I have increased health daily with Christ's love."
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.