

## Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, Dec. 6:	
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Chrismon Service
1-8:30 p.m.	Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Monday, Dec. 7:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
3-7 p.m.	Cello Lessons in Carmack Room
4:30-8:30 p.m.	Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
Tuesday, Dec. 8:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
3:30 - 6:30 p.m.	Music Theory Group
4:30-8:30 p.m.	Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, Dec. 9:	
3:30-6:30 p.m.	Music Theory Group
4:30-8:30 p.m.	Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Dec. 10:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4:30-8:30 p.m.	Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
6:30-8:30 p.m.	Suzuki Violin in Sanctuary
Friday, Dec. 11:	
4:30-8:30 p.m.	Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
Saturday, Dec.12:	
9 a.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-7 p.m.	Gentle Spirit Christian Church in Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec. 13:	
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12 noon	Congregational Meeting after worship
4:30 p.m.	Tanya Rodriguez Music Recital
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous



## First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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### Luke 2: 1-7 -- The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



***On Sunday, Nov. 22, 81 church members and friends unloaded 760 Fraser Fir trees in under 1 hour, 45 minutes. As of Wednesday, Dec. 2, we have been blessed with 121 volunteers who have made wreathes, worked the tree lot, sat at the sale table, and provided hot, homemade meals. Thanks go out to one and all.***

## Joys and Concerns for Church and Community

- **Steve Oliver** is having surgery on Monday, December 7th. Please pray for God's healing and tender mercies.
- **Ariadne Shirley** writes, "Grandma's arm is broken and because it's broken at the shoulder and is hard to fix, she can't have surgery to fix it."
- **Mary Frances Early's** friend, **Betty Young**, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- **Pat Marriott** shares, "**Hyacinth Edwards** whose uncle in Boston passed away on November 20th. Also, **Rae Jackson** whose father, **Jesse Jackson**, passed away in Trenton, NJ on November 21, 2015."
- **Susan Watts** offers, "My mother's last brother was found dead by his grandson on Saturday. Please pray for **Susan's** family, including the member in ICU and pray for her grandson's safe return from camp.
- **Rich Spillane** asks for traveling mercies.
- **Lillie Sapp** has a praise: she is wearing shoes for the first time since June 26th. **Lillie** asks for continued prayer for her son-in-law **Nicholas Jordan** for employment. He is very stressed.
- **Alan Warrick** says, "Thanks for your prayers."
- **Helen** and **Janice Huyler** ask for prayers for their brother-in-law **Willie Cooper** who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness.
- **Danl** and **Wiley** ask for continued prayer for **Danl** as his pain level continues to be unmanageable. They hope for a medicine to come soon that will work.
- **Sandra Brundage** expresses, "Thank you for your prayers for her son **Napoleon Allen** and her cousin **Paulette Young**. They are getting better.
- **Lee Stanley** has been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. Please pray for him.
- **Hank Ferry** is recovering from neck surgery..
- **Wendy Wyche** asks for prayer for her cousin, **Piper**, who just had surgery for a recurrence of breast cancer. Pray for healing.
- **Jay** and **Peggy Norton** say, "Prayer is a powerful thing. The latest scans show no changes in the tumor in **Jay's** lung. We are now on a three month maintenance check."
- **Cathy Keeler** asks for prayers for her sister **Jennifer's** partner, **Polly Cameron** and her family. **Polly's** sister **Emily Cameron**, was killed by a hit and run driver.
- **Deb Almauhy** asks for continued prayer for their daughter's visa and for her husband's health and safety in Iraq.
- **Rich Spillane** asks for continued prayers for **Jeff Carroll** as he needs a morale boost in light of health issues. Please pray for **Rich Spillane's** friend **Sony**.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **Johnnie Barber**, **Jeffery Carroll**, **Kevin Castelow**, **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**, **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**, **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.