

## Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

- 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
- Monday, Jan. 11:  
10 a.m. Staff Meeting  
11 a.m. Prayer Group  
2-6 p.m. Cello Lessons in Carmack Room  
7 p.m. Decatur Education Foundation in Pathfinders Room
- Tuesday, Jan. 12:  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store  
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish  
8 p.m. AA/ALANON
- Wednesday, Jan.13:  
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish  
5:30- 7:30 p.m. L'Arche in the Pathfinders Room  
6-10 p.m. Rosewalk HOA Meeting in Social Hall  
6:30 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, Jan. 14:  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store  
4-6 p.m. Spring Into Spanish  
6:30-8:00 p.m. Transforming Loss and Grief Support Group
- Saturday, Jan. 16:  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Congregational MLK workday  
(contact Pastor James for more info)  
10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Chalice Thrift Store
- Sunday, Jan. 17:  
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 p.m. Nominating Ministry  
8 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous



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

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### Holy Scriptures

#### **Isaiah 43: 1-7**

But now thus says the LORD, the who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup>For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup>Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup>everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

#### **Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22**

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

## Joy and Concerns of Church and Community

- **Nancy Oliver** requests prayers for healing and sleep for **Steve Oliver** following his spine surgery and fall 10 days after surgery. He is in Budd Terrace Room 207. He is going home on Sunday, Jan. 10.
- **Helen Huyler** requests prayer for her sister **Gloria Cooper's family** and for the Huyler's who are grieving the loss of **Willie Cooper**, beloved husband, father and brother-in-law.
- **Minnie Dozier Haynes** wrote, "Let's give thanks for the **Huyler Family** and their generous love for each other and all God's people."
- **Sandra Brundage** requests prayers for her son **Napoleon Allen** who is returning to upstate New York today. Thank you.
- **Deb** and, **Furat Almauhy** and baby **Annie Zanab** request prayers for their daughter's visa. They should find out this week if it is granted. Thanks so much.
- **Cathy Keeler** has a joy: her basement is repaired fully and quickly after the flood.
- **Mark Ranney** and **Russell Broomfield** request prayer as they will be making their annual trip to visit family. Prayers for traveling mercies and good weather.
- **Quinn Stevenson** requests prayer that she (and all others in need); find employment in the coming year sooner rather than later!
- **Rev. Betty Brewer-Calvert** requests (1.) prayer for the **Guardiola Family**, members of Community Christian Church in Fayetteville. **Ana** passed away on Friday, Jan. 8. We pray for peace in this life and the next. (2.) Pray for the **Sapp Family** in the loss of **Elouise Sapp**, Lillie's last sister-in-law. Lillie has gone to Florida and the service will be Friday. (3.) Pray for the Reimer family in the loss of **Mary Reimer**, former director of DEAM. Visitation will be this Friday eve. and Sat. with the service at 3 p.m. Sat. at A.S. Turners and Sons.
- **Rich Spillane** requests traveling mercies for myself, and roomie **Willie** and **Ma** travel to Kansas for mom's 90th B-Day.
- Pray 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.
- **Lee Stanley** came home from the hospital on Christmas Day and is doing well after a kidney problem. He will begin radiation for the cancer in his esophagus on Tuesday, January 12th. He is also on a chemo medication each day. The radiation will be for 5 and 1/2 weeks. Lee appreciates our prayers and cards.
- Prayer for **Helen Chilton's** family.
- 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 worshipping 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.*