



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

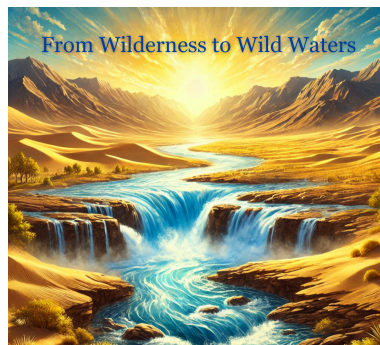
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*Resolve to Love ☉ Agree to Differ ☉ Unite to Serve ☉ Break Bread
Together*

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Worship Theme:

Come along with me as a sojourner of faith.
Bring along a sense of expectancy
a vision of high hopes
a glimpse of future possibility
a vivid imagination.
For God's creation is not done.
We are called to pioneer a future yet unnamed.
As we venture forward, we leave behind our desires for
a no-risk life,
worldly accumulations,
certainty.
Let us travel light in the spirit of faith and expectation,
toward the God of our hopes and dreams.
May we be witnesses to God's future breaking in.
Come along with me as sojourners in faith
secure in the knowledge that we never travel alone.



We Gather to Connect with God and One Another

Theme

Prelude

Adam Cole

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Daniel Brower

† Opening Hymn *“We Call Ourselves Disciples”* **357**

† Call to Worship (*by Thom Shuman*) Rev. Dr. Barbara Sims-King

One: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called.

Many: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God’s people.

One: Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

Many: We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.

One: Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

Many: We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

One: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

Many: We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.

† Unison Prayer of Invocation Rev. Dr. Barbara Sims-King
(via the World Council of Churches)

God of ages, take us from where we are, to where you want us to be; make us not merely guardians of a heritage, but living signs of your coming Kingdom; fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people; fill us with that faith, hope and love which embody the Gospel; and through the power of the Holy Spirit make us one. Amen.

† Song of Praise *“Doxology”* **47**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen!*

We Receive and Respond to The Word

Holy Scriptures

Luke 4:14-21

Pat Oliffe

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

One: This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Many: Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Daniel Brower

Anthem

Allison Woolridge

Sermon

“God’s Calling, It’s for You”

Rev. Scott Woolridge

Communion Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

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Invitation to Faithful Stewardship & Holy Communion

Rev. Daniel Brower

Prayers for the Bread and Cup

Stan Saunders

(Christ invites you to partake of Holy Communion. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us. After the Words of Institution are proclaimed, you are invited to partake of the Bread and the Cup.)

Words of Institution

Stan Saunders

One: For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said,

Many: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

One: In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

Many: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

One: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you remember the Lord until He comes.

Unison Prayer of Commission

Rev. Daniel Brower

God our help: We thank you for this supper, shared in the spirit with your son Jesus, who makes us new and strong, who brings us life eternal. We praise you for giving us all good gifts in Him and pledge ourselves to serve you, even as in Christ you have served us. Amen.

We Are Led Out By the Spirit

† Closing Hymn

"Be Thou Our Vision"

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Postlude

Adam Cole

Benediction

Rev. Scott Woolridge

† *You are invited to stand.*

Scott Woolridge

Minister, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Biographical Sketch



Scott, a life-long member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), was born in Shelbyville, Illinois, grew up in Edinburg, Illinois, and graduated from Eureka College (class of 1977).

He earned his master's degree from Illinois State University (1979) and served as a psychology professor at Eureka College for ten years (1979-1989). Scott did doctoral work in psychology at Indiana University.

After teaching at Eureka, he served as a parish minister, church fund raiser and computer consultant before he moved to full-time Regional church ministry in early 1992.

After nearly 30 plus years as Associate Regional Minister, Scott "retired" to serve as the full time interim senior minister at First Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois. He retired from full time parish ministry in January of 2023.

He has served as a helper, pastor, and resource person to congregations throughout Illinois. He worked with many congregations on visioning and planning. He led Transformation Ministries, Leadership Development, and Disciples Men's Ministry.

Scott has specialized training and serves in these areas of ministry –
Healthy Congregations Ministry – family systems theory & church life
Christian Coaching Ministry – faith-based life coaching
Interim Ministry – helping congregations in transitional times

Scott currently serves as the Director of Disciples Interims at Disciples Home Missions, our denominational group that works with churches and leaders in transitions. They offer training, support and connections for ministers, congregations, and Regions.

Scott lives in Decatur, Illinois, is married to Vicky Logan Woolridge and has two daughters, Allison and Shalon. Scott and Vicky are the proud grandparents of Harrison and Millie. Scott enjoys baking, reading, building furniture, working on his old house and helping others with their home improvements.



Week of Compassion



The Week of Compassion special offering this year is February 16-23. As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. First Christian Church of Decatur has always been proud

to support the work of this important organization. Please give as you are able and led."

Bring Friends and Enthusiasm!

Sundays – Rev. Stan Saunders Sunday School, Pathfinders, 9:15 AM

Wed, Feb 12 & 26 – Handbell Choir Spring Season, Music Room, 7:00 PM

Sun, Feb 16 – Visioning Retreat with Rev. Scott Woolridge, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Mon, Feb 17 – Health Fair, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM, Decatur First UMC

Wed, Feb 19 – Blood Drive, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, Make an appointment here

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=30030>

Wed, Feb 19 – Chancel Choir Spring Season, Music Room, 7:00 PM

Thu, Feb 20 – Transition Team Meeting

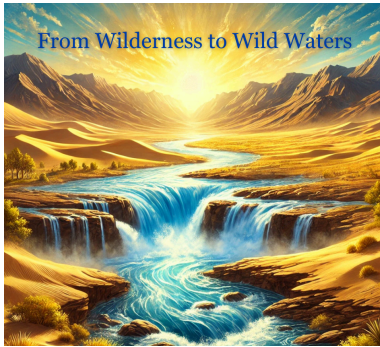
Sun, Feb 23 – Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hasler, guest speaker

Fri, Feb 21 - Sun, Feb 23 – 2025 Disciples Women's Retreat, Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge, Helena, GA,

<https://www.gadisciples.org/gadisciples-women-retreat-2025>

Sun, Mar 2 – Board Meeting following morning worship

Sun, Mar 9 – Hunger Walk 2025, The Home Depot Backyard, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM, <https://www.acfb.org/events/hunger-walk-run/>



Welcome Statement

First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ) is an open and affirming congregation. We welcome everyone into full participation in the life and membership of the church.

Inspired and informed by God's love, mercy, and justice, we are purposefully involved in the healing and helping of our community and our world. We covenant with God and the greater community to nurture a spirit of love and service to neighbors, honor one another's differences, and fellowship in the breaking of the bread.

Actively striving to honor each other's race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or mental ability, family configuration, political affiliation, economic circumstance, or theological perspective, we truly welcome all.

Online Giving



First Christian Church of Decatur is a spiritual community that transcends physical distance. In this unprecedented time, online giving is a positive way that this growing faith community can be supported.

As we often say in worship at the Invitation to Faithful Stewardship, "Those in need, please take; those with abundance, please give." If and when you find yourself in need, please let us know so we might be of assistance. You matter to your Church, which is the Body of Christ. The missions of our church are imperative to nurture a hurt and hurting world.

For those who would like to give out of gratitude for all the Lord is doing in our lives, please click the following link:

<https://www.osvhub.com/decaturdisciples/giving/funds>

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Ministers: All the People

Your Church Staff:

Rev. Daniel C. Brower, *Interim Minister*
Russell Broomfield-Ranney, *Church Bookkeeper*

Adam Cole, *Organist*

Tanya DePree, *Church Administrator*

William E. Garner, *Director of Music*

Kedric Kelly, *Facility Manager*

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 3 pm