

Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- **Anita Renahan-White** is being ordained to the Christian ministry here at the church at 2 p.m., Saturday, May 19th. She writes, “Thank you to God and to our church family for your support along this journey. The fun is just beginning!”
- Well done, Class of 2012! Congratulations to all our graduates!
- Two neighboring congregations lost their pastors to sudden deaths last Saturday. The pastor of Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain died in a car crash. **The Rev. Dale Andrews**, pastor of Sandersville Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Georgia, died of a heart attack. Please keep close to you their families and churches.
- Blessings for their new life together are requested for **Karen St. Marie’s** niece **Jaimie** and her new husband **Clint**, who got married last weekend.
- **Sally Ann Darby-Jobson’s** husband **Wayne** is undergoing cataract surgery over the next two weeks. Thank you for lifting him and their family up in your prayers.
- **Yolanda Lewellyn’s** daughter **Kisha**, her husband **Rob**, and their son **Wil Schlegel** are moving to Walla Walla, Washington. **Rob** has accepted the position as Visiting Professor of Poetry at Whitman College.
- We give God praise for **Jolie Rose’s** successful ear tube re-insertion surgery.
- **Millie Linville** thanks God for God’s grace and mercy. Amen!
- **Tracy Johnson** requests prayers for a testicular cyst, other health concerns, finding housing, and finishing school.
- **Wiley Harris** and **Danl Giles** invite us to join with them in praising God for new clients, and praying for **Ms. Noble** and for healing of mind and body.
- **Jay Leslie’s** mother **Jean Leslie** is having surgery on May 14th after breaking her hip last week, and his sister **Susan** is in our prayers for healing in body, mind and soul.
- Please keep the **Middour** and **Shealy** family in your prayers. Also **Mark Ranney** and his family upon the passing of his **Uncle Bill Bess**, age 102. Also to the family of **Chris Neumann**. His mother **Edie** died on Monday after a long battle with cancer. **Chris** is **Brandy’s** sister **Bonnie’s** fiancé.
- **Daphne Reiley** gives thanks for her brother, who turned 54 last Sunday, and lifts up prayers of comfort for the **Reileys** and **Sidweeks** families as they grieve the latter’s move to Colorado.
- **Elaine Alsobrook** requests prayers for her sister **Myra Davis**.
- **Elizabeth Cunningham** is in our prayers for healing.
- **Nathan Brown** is having a surgical procedure this Saturday.
- **Julie** and **JD Fleming** ask for travelling mercies and for a good home study as she prepares to be a Foster Mother, and they ask for prayers for the **Likens** family for their son **Mason’s** health.
- **Jeanette** and **Jack Duncan’s** friend **Helen Tabachek** is in the hospital.
- **Minnie Haynes** requests prayers for her daughter-in-law **Mattie** to continue to heal well from left hip surgery. **Lonnie Sapp** is recovering at home.
- Keep praying for **Lyman** and **Lily Delk** and their family. **Lyman** is in rehab at R.G. Rhodes at Wesley Woods, recovering from a recent fall and partial paralysis.
- Please pray for **Jackie Jenkins** son **Daniel Gardner**. He is in an alcohol treatment center in KY for 3 months, but will need to begin thinking about longer term residential programs when he leaves there in June.
- **Christy New** is having major surgery on May 18 at Trinity Hospital in Augusta for Ovarian cancer and will undergo a full hysterectomy and she covets our prayers.

- Lift up prayers for healing for **Linda Neumann**, the step-mother of **Jacqueline Tate**.
- **Wendy Wyche** lifts up prayers for **Marco** – for safety, confidence, peace, and a job. **Lillie Sapp’s** son-in-law **Nicholas Jordan** is recovering at home after surgery. We lift up her daughter **Emelda** as she shoulders enormous challenges and also **Lillie** who is having problems with her back. **Lonnie Sapp** is back at Piedmont Hospital - in room 629.
- **Rev. Jose Lingongo’s** father **Samuel** is sick in the DR Congo.
- **Linda Chesnut** lifts up **Jane Owens** and **Peter Dickens** for healing mercies.
- **Johnny Lee’s** father, **Johnny**, is recovering at home; he is no longer able to travel.
- **Evelyn Greer** and **Mary** and **Brian Jobson** are in our thoughts and prayers.
- **The Rev. Adei Grenpastures** is in our prayers for healing. She requests prayers for **Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis**, and prayers of thanksgiving for **Alicia Maxwell** and **Andy Farmer**.
- **Larry Todd** requests prayers for his father, **Cecil**, who is in Unihealth Nursing Home in Fairburn.
- **Betty Perry** is recovering at home and a friend is staying with her to help for a month. Prayers for continued healing still needed. Please continue to pray for **Jay Love**.
- We lift up prayers for **Hopkins Kidd**, **Lee Stanley**, **Kim Stanley**, **Hank Ferry**, **Shannon Ferry**, **Russell Broomfield**, **Jeni Flock** and other members and friends.

Church Calendar

Sunday, May 20:	Graduation Sunday
8:30 a.m.	Awakenings Service in Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:50 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12:30 p.m.	Graduation Sunday Luncheon
1:30 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer Group
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Monday, May 21:	
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
6 - 7:30 p.m.	Lisa Cottrell Course in Carmack Room
7:30 p.m.	Mary Magdalene Circle at Yolanda’s home
Tuesday, May 22:	
3:30 p.m.	Cello Lessons
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous/ALANON
Wednesday, May 23:	
3:30 p.m.	Violin Lessons
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 24:	
3:30 p.m.	Cello Lessons
6 p.m.	Rehearsal and Rehearsal Dinner for Miller/Cobb wedding
Saturday, May 26:	Youth Lock In
4:30 p.m.	Miller/Cobb Wedding
Sunday, May 27:	Youth Lock In
8:30 a.m.	Awakenings Service in Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:50 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
1:30 p.m.	Contemplative Prayer Group
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous

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.



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

List of Graduates

Kaitlyn Asher - BA in Liberal Arts from St. John's College.

Ian Parvin-Asher - Riverside Military Academy

Kasey Bezio - Decatur High School

Victoria Dodd - PhD from Mercer University

Sarah Griffith - Masters in Social Work from University of Georgia
(**Elizabeth Hamm's** granddaughter)

Justin Christopher Haynes – Tucker High School

Kisha Lewellyn-Schlegel - MFA in Creative Non-Fiction from University of Iowa
(**Yolanda Lewellyn's** daughter)

Suzette Perrillioux - Decatur High School

Amelia Reiley - Brockett Elementary

Thomas Reiley - Tucker Middle School

Anita Renahan-White - Masters of Divinity Degree from Chandler School of
Theology at Emory University

Steven Westbrook - Masters of Education from Piedmont College

Luke 24:44-51

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things. **49** And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." **50** Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. **51** While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

Philippians 4: 4-14

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. **5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **8** Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **9** Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. **10** I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. **11** Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. **12** I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. **13** I can do all things through him who strengthens me. **14** In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.