

## Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- **Mrs. Carolyn Middour** passed away on Tuesday, May 1. Her funeral service is Friday, May 4 at 2:30 p.m. at A.S. Turner and Sons Funeral Home in Decatur. Visitation is Thursday from 6-8 p.m. at Turners. Please keep the entire **Middour** family in your prayers.
- Prayers for **Lyman** and **Lily Delk** and family. **Lyman** is now in R.G. Rhodes at Wesley Woods, recovering from a recent fall and partial paralysis.
- Please prayer 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. She has been struggling with the chemo, hormone shots and all the medical bills. She misses her Church family in Decatur.
- Answered prayers abound. **Wanda Carrigan** won her case in Traffic Court last week.
- We celebrate a fantastic Children Worship and Wonder training this past weekend. We welcomed Disciples minister **Kaye Edwards** to the pulpit as well, and the Word was delivered with grace and hope.
- **Anita Renahan-White** passed her Ordination Council on April 30, so the pathway to her being ordained to the Christian ministry is clear and wide open. Service is 2 p.m., Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Elder Chris Butler** and his partner are in our prayers, as is the Beacon/Keystone Class. **Chris** said, *“Christ did not rescue me to abandon me. Our dynamics are changing, but FCC Decatur will always be my church. Healing gifts and grace are found here!”*
- Prayers for a healing for recovery for **Linda Neumann** and **Jacqueline Tate**.
- **Millie Linville’s friend Trisha** with Type-1 Diabetes is recovering from a c-section delivery of her son. All parties are in our prayers.
- **Daphne Reiley** writes: *“Prayers of thanksgiving and gratitude for the wisdom offered in the Invitation to Communion. My heart and soul responded with a resounding Yes!”*
- **Brandy** and **Glen** rejoice that he is recovering nicely at home after foot surgery. They ask for travelling mercies while away on vacation.
- **Wendy Wyche** lifts up prayers for **Marco** – for safety, confidence, peace, and a job.
- **Rosa Kent** is grateful for time shared with her family in Cleveland, GA.
- **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.
- **Betty Brewer-Calvert** requests prayers for friends and family of **Connie Cannon**. A memorial service will be held on May 12 at 11 a.m. at Sandy Springs CC.
- **Peggy** and **Jay Norton** request prayers for **Walt McCollum** and his wife, **Betty**, as **Walt** recovers from successful Heart By-Pass surgery he had this week.
- We remember all of our students, teachers and school support staff as finals approach.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** are praying for **Heide** as she travels to Florida to conduct a yard sale, and that she may return lighter.
- **Maggie Meador’s** father recently had a stroke and is not expected to recover. Please keep the **Meador family** in your hearts.
- **Rev. Jose Lingongo’s father** 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**.
- **Hopkins Kidd, J.D. Fleming** and **Julie Fleming, Lee Stanley** and **Kim Stanley, Hank Ferry** and **Shannon Ferry, Jay Leslie’s** sister **Susan, Russell Broomfield**.

## Church Calendar

Sunday, May 6:	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
Monday, May 7:	10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	11 a.m.	Prayer Group
	6 - 7:30 p.m.	Lisa Cottrell Course in Carmack Room
Tuesday, May 8:	3-5 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
	3:30 p.m.	Music Theory Group
	3:30 p.m.	Cello Lessons
	7-9:30 p.m.	Caregiver Support Group
	8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous/ALANON
Wednesday, May 9:	9:30 a.m.	Spring Into Spanish
	3-5 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
	3:30 p.m.	Music Theory Group
	6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, May 10:	9:30 a.m.	Spring Into Spanish
	2 p.m.	Retired Teachers Board Meeting
	3:30 p.m.	Cello Lessons
	6:30 p.m.	Suzuki Violin in Sanctuary
	7:30 p.m.	Lydia Circle
Friday, May 11:	7-9:30 p.m.	Atlanta Stereographic Association
Saturday, May 12:	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Leukemia/Lymphoma Society in Toy Park
	1-2 p.m.	Spiritual Growth with Rev. Grenpastures
Sunday, May 13:	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
	4:30 p.m.	Northlake Vespers at Northlake Gardens
	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)**

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Website: [www.decaturdisciples.org](http://www.decaturdisciples.org)

### **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Affirmation of Faith**

As members and friends of the Christian Church,

We confess that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God,  
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.

In Christ's name and by his grace  
we accept our mission of witness  
and service to all people.

We rejoice in God,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and in the covenant of love  
which binds us to God and one another.

Through baptism into Christ  
we enter into newness of life  
and are made one with the whole people of God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit  
we are joined together in discipleship  
and in obedience to Christ.

At the table of the Lord  
we celebrate with thanksgiving  
the saving acts and presence of Christ.

Within the universal church  
we receive the gift of ministry  
and the light of scripture.

In the bonds of Christian faith  
we yield ourselves to God  
that we may serve the One  
whose kingdom has no end.

Blessing, glory and honor be to God forever. Amen.