

## Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- The family of **Mr. Lyman Delk**, beloved church member and servant leader, who passed away on July 25. Please keep **Lily** and their children and extended family in your prayers.
- We are offering prayers of healing for **the people of Colorado** as the people of the state cope with so many recent tragedies, including wildfires, destroyed homes and communities, and the shooting in Aurora. We pray for peace and wholeness in the world and for healing in the hearts of those who would do violence to others.
- **Carl and Ursula Sax** are in our prayers after she fell and is recovering at home.
- Prayers for **Wiley Harris** and **Dan'l Giles** upon the passing of **Wiley's** grandmother. **Wiley** is driving today (Wednesday, July 25) to Dyersburg, TN for the funeral tomorrow. He will return on Friday. **Dan'l** is unable to go because they are house sitting in Buckhead.
- **Brandy Alsobrook's** sister **Bonnie** married **Chris** and they returned from their celebration in Cancun with much rejoicing. Congratulations!
- We give thanks for all our members, friends, and neighbors who helped maintain the church park and spread mulch last Saturday morning.
- **The Blakes** are thankful that the **Brewer-Calvert** family is safely home. "They are a true gift to our community," writes **Diana**.
- **Evelyn Greer, Terry Capes, Mary** and **Brian Jobson** are in our thoughts and prayers.
- **Carolynn** and **Brad Miller** request healing prayers for **Mary Smith** and **Dale Miller**.
- **Amanda Kern** requests prayers for her mother **Sandy** as she recovers from surgery.
- **Lynn Aniskiewicz** asks for God's mercy and grace for her grandmother **Anne Aniskiewicz**.
- **Mark Ranney** asks for prayers for his neighbor's mother **Beatty Wessling** who entered hospice. He is grateful for the church's support and prayers this month and always.
- **Chuck Joiner**, a former church member, is currently living in Hawaii and coping with cancer.
- **Jackie Jenkins'** son is in recovery and we pray for his continued healing.
- Please continue to keep **Elaine** and **Glen Alsobrook, Sr.**, in your prayers.
- **Jose** and **Marie Lingongo** request continued prayer for their family.
- **Wiley** and **Dan'l** thank God for **Heide** and are praying her. They also lift up in prayer the hurt and broken hearted people in the world.
- **Jackie Tate** requests prayers for her family, and especially her niece **Anna Wynn**.
- **Millie Linville** requests prayer for **Max Linville, John Linville, Hideko Abe, Brad Wallace, Alan Wallace, and Diane Robb**: may God show his grace in their lives!
- **Larry Todd** requests prayers for his father, **Cecil**, who is in Unihealth Nursing Home in Fairburn.
- **JD** and **Julie Fleming** lift up the family of **Matthew Smith-Farrell** and his wife **Joanne** and their **daughters**, and for her father **Dr. Richard Farrell**. Prayer for healing and mercy.
- **The Rev. Adei Grenpastures** is in our prayers for healing. She requests prayers for **Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis**, and prayers of thanksgiving for **Andy Farmer**.

- We lift up prayers for **Betty Perry, Jay Love, Hopkins Kidd, Lee Stanley, Kim Stanley, Jeni Flock, Glen Alsobrook, Sr., Julie Bryant, Elizabeth Cunningham**, and our homebound members and friends.

## Church Calendar

Sunday, July 29:	<b>Lunch at Green Ginger 12:30 or 1:30 p.m.</b>
8:30 a.m.	Awakenings Service in Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:50 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
3-6 p.m.	Pastor Sharon Boykins in Sanctuary
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Monday, July 30:	
9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
5-8 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
Tuesday, July 31:	
7 a.m. – 7 p.m.	General Primary Special Election in Social Hall
2:15 p.m.	Christian Ed meeting
3 p.m.	Cello Lessons
8:00 p.m.	Alcoholics Anonymous/ALANON
Wednesday, August 1:	
3 p.m.	Cello Lessons
7 p.m.	Administration Meeting in Social Hall
Thursday, August 2:	
7 p.m.	Atlanta Area Disciples Youth Planning Meeting
Friday, August 3:	
6 p.m.	Christian Youth Fellowship Lock In
Saturday, August 4:	
Till 10 a.m.	Christian Youth Fellowship Lock In
2 p.m.	Lyman Delk Memorial Service in Sanctuary
Sunday, August 5:	
8:30 a.m.	Awakenings Service in Chapel
9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:50 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12:15 p.m.	Disciples Women Executive Board Meeting in Social Hall
5 p.m.	Regional Planning Team in Pathfinders
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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### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

**14** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. **16** I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, **17** and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. **18** I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **20** Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

