

## Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, Feb. 21:	<b>Second Sunday in Lent -- The Way is Love</b>
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
9:30 a.m.	History and Polity of the Christian Church
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
after service	Deacon Training
12 p.m.	All Church Membership Luncheon
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Monday, Feb. 22:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
2-6 p.m.	Cello Lessons in Carmack Room
7-8 p.m.	AA Men's Big Book Study Group
Tuesday, Feb. 23:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 - 9 p.m.	Hampton Court HOA Annual Meeting in Carmack Room
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, Feb.24:	
11:30 a.m.	Wisdom Weavers Luncheon in Social Hall
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Feb. 25:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
7 p.m.	Book Club
6:30 - 8 p.m.	Transforming Loss and Grief Support Group
Saturday, Feb.27:	
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
Sunday, Feb. 28:	<b>Third Sunday in Lent -- The Way is Love</b>
9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
9:15 a.m.	Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes
9:30 a.m.	History and Polity of the Christian Church
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Service
12 p.m.	Youth Group goes to Peachtree Corners Christian Church
8 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous



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

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### **Luke 13: 31-35**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

### **Philippians 3: 17-4:1**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. **4** <sup>1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

## Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- Remember in prayer **Robbin Brown** who is having cataract surgery on February 18th.
- **Larry Crabb** is recovering from surgery in the ICU at DeKalb Medical Center. Please pray for him and his wife **Ruth**.
- **Jasmine Heath** shares, "I got into Lynchburg College's Masters of Science Education Program."
- **Johnnie Barber** is at home after surgery to remove two blockages in her heart. She also had a heart attack. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Cathy Keeler** requests prayers over **Julia Glenn Carter's** passing on 2/11/16. Her blessed life and family as they grieve her loss. Her funeral is Friday, February, February 19 at 2 p.m. at Decatur First Presbyterian Church dying. We request prayers for her family and friends and for Julia's transition to life everlasting.
- **Elaine Alsobrook** says, "**Brandy Alsobrook** is home in **Elaine's** house for at least a month. It will be a long recovery. **Brandy** is thankful and grateful for your prayers."
- *"We got amazing news that Furat's final paperwork was approved!! It has taken us 10 years but it is official that he is a permanent resident and can now apply for naturalization. We are still waiting on Annie's visa to be approved so request continued prayers. The status changed for her today on the state dept website and we do not know what it means so there is continued anxiety awaiting their decision. I am taking Furat back to Iraq so traveling mercies are requested. Thanks for all your prayers and support. Hopefully you will get to meet Miss Annie soon!! Love, Deb"*
- **Amy** and **Michael Yandell** requests prayers for Amy's stepfather **Phil** who is back in the hospital battling pancreatic cancer.
- **Sylvia Gibbs** requests prayer for our Kairos Team. "We will be going into Lee Arrendale Women's Prison for a 3 day Retreat on April 14-17."
- **Saundra Brundage** requests prayer for her friend **Maxwell James** who is in the Army overseas. Pray that he makes it home safe.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** praise God for all of his people. We really need his help next Saturday in the final move.
- **Elaine Alsobrook** says, "A joy for our church this week the Stewardship voted to send our entire pledge/tithe to the General Church to make room to send more this year."
- **Betty Brewer-Calvert** requests prayer for students as they face academic and extra-curricular pressures. Pray for health, discipline, confidence, and peace.
- **Quinn Stevenson** request prayers of thanksgiving for the community at First Christian; Prayers for strength and patience in times of transition.
- **Robert Kirkley** praying that a job comes through ASAP.
- **Ruth Lutz** says, "My brother-in-law **Will Harris** has a vitreous detachment in his right eye. Had laser surgery. 99% success rate!
- **Thomas Smith** requests prayer for his cousin, **Matthew Smith** who had surgery and is recovering.
- **Steve Oliver** says, "Pray for **Eloise** and for **Nancy**."
- **Jeff Carroll** requests prayers for continued improvement in health. He has surgeon consult appt. on March 1st.
- **Barbara Powell** sent an email about **Matthew Smith-Farrell** who is likely on his last days. Prayers are needed for **Matthew** and **his family**.
- **Mark Ranney** says his father is having complications with diabetes.
- Prayers are requested for **Hank Ferry** who will have outpatient cataract surgery on 3-9-16 and 3-22-16.

- **Juanita Carson** requests prayer for friend, **Martha Forney**, who is in hospice.
- We continue to lift up **Furat** and **Deb Almauhy**, **Johnnie Barber**, **Jeffery Carroll**, **Elizabeth Cunningham**, **the Delk Family**, **Sylvia Ennis**, **Hank Ferry**, **Shannen Ferry**, **J.D. Fleming**, **Mary Ellen Fountain**, **Sylvia and Fred Gibbs**, **Alida Gines**, **Adei Grenpastures**, **Robert Hamilton**, **Clara Holley**, **Jackie Hudson** and daughter **Alexis**, **Jackson Family**, **Nicolas Jordan**, **The Kidd Family**, **Jay Love**, **Alan Merritt**, **Don Middour**, **Lynn Nabers**, **the Norton Family**, **Steve Oliver**, **Kim Stanley**, **Lee Stanley**, **Austin Swartz**, **Mildred Trott**, **Carol Wheeler**, **Betty Young** and **Ellen Young**.

Dear Friends:

*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.*