

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

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| Sunday, Mar. 13: | Fifth Sunday in Lent -- The Way is Love |
| 9 a.m. | Continental Breakfast |
| 9:15 a.m. | Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes |
| 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary Service |
| 8 p.m. | Narcotics Anonymous |
| Monday, Mar. 14: | |
| 9 a.m.-6 p.m. | Cynthia Millhorn in Jesus Junction Room |
| 10 a.m. | Staff Meeting |
| 11 a.m. | Prayer Group |
| 1-7 p.m. | Cello Lessons in Carmack Room |
| 7-8 p.m. | AA Men's Big Book Study Group |
| Tuesday, Mar. 15: | |
| 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | Chalice Thrift Store - 50% Winter Sale! |
| 4-6 p.m. | Spring Into Spanish |
| 8 p.m. | AA/ALANON |
| Wednesday, Mar. 16: | |
| 4-6 p.m. | Spring Into Spanish |
| 6 - 7:15 p.m. | Spiritual Writing with free meal in Social Hall |
| 7:15 p.m. | Bell Choir Rehearsal |
| 8 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, Mar. 17: | |
| 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Chalice Thrift Store |
| 2 p.m. | Retired Teachers |
| 4-6 p.m. | Spring Into Spanish |
| 6:30-8 p.m. | Transforming Loss and Grief Support Group |
| 7 p.m. | Book Club |
| 7 p.m. | Yolanda Lewellyn Prayer Group |
| Friday, Mar. 18: | |
| 9:30 a.m. | Wisdom Weavers Booth Western Museum |
| Saturday, Mar. 19: | |
| 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. | Chalice Thrift Store |
| 4-6 p.m. | Gloria Jacobson |
| Sunday, Mar. 20: | Palm Sunday |
| 9 a.m. | Continental Breakfast |
| 9:15 a.m. | Spiritual Formation/Bible Study Classes |
| 10:30 a.m. | Sanctuary Service |
| 12 noon | Youth and Volunteers Stuff Eggs |
| 8 p.m. | Narcotics Anonymous |



First Christian Church of Decatur (Disciples of Christ)

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John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

Philippians 3: 4b-14

⁴even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Joys and Concerns of Church and Community

- Pray for **Joanne** and **Matthew Smith-Farrell** and their daughters. **Julie Fleming** shares that **Matthew** is apparently very close to death in hospice in New Jersey.
- **Barbara Powell** requests prayers for the family of **Kathy** and **Richard Albert** (niece and nephew) on the passing Sunday of Richard's brother, **Greg**.
- **Quinn Stevenson** requests prayers of thanksgiving for the welcoming and loving community of First Christian Church.
- **Lillie Sapp** requests prayer that she regains her strength and heals from the surgery and effects of the anesthesia.
- **Wiley** and **Danl** request prayers for their friend **Jay**. They ask that God will open doors to a new job.
- **Pat Marriott** requests traveling mercies for **Ariadne Shirley** and classmates who are on a school trip to Spain and France and will return on the 13th.
- **The Brewer-Calvert Family** asks for traveling mercies for college students on spring break.
- **Sandra Brundage** says, "Thank you for your prayers. My body is healing nicely."
- **Stan Saunders** is recovering from a heart attack.
- **Jonna** and **Lynn Trapp** ask for prayers for **Kati** in Budapest.
- **Tait Brooks** requests prayer for safe travels next week to New York where he will be interviewing for a great job.
- **Johnnie Barber** says thanks for prayers, cards, and calls. She has two stent implants.
- 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**, **Smith - Farrell Family**, **Kim**

Stanley, Lee Stanley, 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.