

Church Calendar of Missions and Ministry Opportunities

Sunday, Apr. 10:	Rev. Lynn Trapp preaching
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, Apr. 11:	
10 a.m.	Staff Meeting
11 a.m.	Prayer Group
1-7 p.m.	Cello Lessons in Carmack Room
7 p.m.	Stewardship Meeting
7-8 p.m.	AA Men's Big Book Study Group
Tuesday, Apr. 12:	
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
8 p.m.	AA/ALANON
Wednesday, Apr. 13:	
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, Apr. 14:	
10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	AJC Bookfest
4-6 p.m.	Spring Into Spanish
6:30-8 p.m.	Transforming Loss and Grief Support Group
Friday, Apr. 15:	
11 a.m.	Ranney-Broomfield Rehearsal
Saturday, Apr. 16:	
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.	Chalice Thrift Store
11 a.m.	Ranney-Broomfield Wedding
Sunday, Apr. 17:	
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

Church Board Meeting and Luncheon Sunday, April 24 at 12 noon

Bike Solar

April 24th come on a bike ride and see Decatur's solar installations.

Two rides: long ride about 17 miles begins at 1:00

Short ride about 5 miles begins at 3:00 Cost: 5:00 a person

Begin at Holy Trinity Parish, 515 East Ponce de Leon

We will end with and an Earth Blessing and refreshments.

Come and ride with us.



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Mark 6:30-44

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” ³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And all ate and were filled; ⁴³and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

Joys and Concerns of the Church and Community

- **Lily Delk** says, "A warm and sincere thanks for all the concern shown to me during the last seven months. It is so good to be back in Church to worship."
- **Jackie Tate's** dad fell and broke his hip. He will need surgery but he is high risk due to COPD and congenital heart failure. Prayers are needed.
- **Jeff Carroll** says, "I came home from the hospital on April 4th after 13 days and two operations. I am now cancer-free and in recovery for about a month. Continued prayers are welcomed and needed"
- Happy Birthday to **Karen McBride** and **Robbin Brown!**
- **Danl** requests continued prayer for himself and **Wiley**, who has been unwell. He is in alot of pain and is too dizzy to even walk.
- **Minnie Haynes** praises God for **Lily Delk's** progress!
- **Jasmine Heath** says that she has an interview for a graduate school job this week.
- **Sandra Brundage** requests prayers for her son **Napoleon Allen** who is in the hospital with kidney stones in upstate New York.
- **Deb** and **Furat** continues to request prayer for their daughter **Annie's** visa and the reuniting of their family.
- **Sherry Davis**, our Church Administrator, for healing mercies.
- Pray for **Joanne Smith-Farrell** and her daughters on the death of Matthew on Sunday, April 3.
- **Matthew Smith** is back in ICU with pneumonia.
- 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.