

Wayne Kent | LEAD PASTOR |

Brian Talty | ASSOCIATE PASTOR |

BJ Leonard | MISSIONS PASTOR |

Jonathan Grunden | DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR |

Tim Revis | CARE MINISTRIES PASTOR |

Robert Henderson | CHAPLAIN |

Thomas Hagan | NEXT GENERATION PASTOR |

WEEKENDS

Worship Services – Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 9:15am and 11am

Birth–5th Grade – Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 9:15am and 11am

6th–12th Grade – Sunday from 4:30–6pm

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GETTING STARTED WITH PRAYER

By Tim Revis | trevis@firstdeatur.org

Being a Christian is about having a relationship with God. We generally have regular conversation with those we are in a relationship with, including God. Can you imagine being married to someone and never talking to them? Prayer is simply having conversation with God who desires a relationship with us.

Perhaps conversing with the God who created the universe sounds intimidating, but it doesn't need to be. Famed theologian and pastor Dr. R. C. Sproul says this: "Prayer is discourse with the personal God Himself." That personal God is waiting to hear from you.

I often hear people say they fear praying out loud or praying with others because they're not sure what to say or they're afraid of sounding "stupid." That hesitancy may be connected to the #1 fear reported by people across the country – the fear of public speaking. Or perhaps they've heard others pray eloquently and felt intimidated.

Making comparisons isn't useful and can be a roadblock to your relationship with the Lord. The enemy wants you to believe you're not good enough to talk to God or that you don't have the "right" language. Nothing could be further from the truth. Note that Jesus' disciples did not ask Him how to pray; instead they begged Him to "teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

God wants to have a relationship with you, and God wants you to talk to him — sometimes that means using the voice He gave you, out loud, and sometimes even with other people. In his letter to the church at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul encouraged them, and us, to pray

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TELL ME MORE

By Lori Putnam | lputnam@firstdeatur.org

The weekend of October 6/7 kicks off the four-week community sermon series, Tell Me More. This is the fourth year we have collaborated with churches around Central Illinois to impact our neighbors for Christ.

The focus of Tell Me More is to demonstrate unity among churches in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Along with weekend sermons, small groups will meet to further discuss sermon topics, yard signs will let neighbors know who is participating, and a prayer event will be held in downtown Decatur on Monday, October 1, at 5:30pm at the Transfer House.

We will provide social media content you can share, as well as invitations to give to friends. The series website (www.tellmemore.church) is a great resource, too. You are encouraged to step out and invite someone to join you for church and try out a small group. We'll make certain the content is engaging, relevant, and shares Jesus in a compelling way.

The Tell Me More sermon series is a study about God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Who are they? What is the function of each member of the Trinity? How can each impact someone personally?

Come with questions, and leave with answers that can change your understanding and your life.



Tell me more about God's nature and why I should have an interest in God. After all, aren't I free to choose to believe or not believe? If I choose to believe in God, what are the implications, if any? If there is a God, then shouldn't God be busy running the universe instead of worrying about me? Is God really interested in my life?

- Oct 6/7: What does the Bible say about me and God? Who am I?
- Oct 13/14: Who is our Father? Is "Father" a good way to describe God? What if I don't know what a "good father" looks like?
- Oct 20/21: Who is Jesus? Why did He come to die?
- Oct 27/28: Who is the Holy Spirit? Why is the Holy Spirit important in my daily life?

Missed a weekend? No problem! Catch the sermons on the web at firstdeatur.org/sermons. You can also subscribe to our podcasts on iTunes or download the First Christian Church app for Apple or Android devices.



Prayer

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“on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” (Eph 6:18) Paul didn’t preface that admonition with, “but only if you can do so using fancy language.” Take all things to God, big and small. But also, in your prayer life, don’t forget to offer praise, thanks, and adoration.

God wants to hear what is on your heart and your mind. When you talk to God be honest, be real, be authentic, be yourself. Don’t worry about copying someone else’s prayer language or style. If you’re unsure what to pray, the Lord’s Prayer is a good place to start, taking note of its pattern.

Another suggestion is to follow the A.C.T.S. pattern — Adoration (praising God for who He is), Confession (telling God about your sin), Thanksgiving (thanking God for his blessings) and Supplication (praying for needs of others and yourself). If you’re still unsure what or how to pray, tell God that, too. You don’t have to tell God things, because He already knows. But He wants you to do so. The same is true when praying out loud with/for others – just be yourself and lift up your and/or their needs, concerns, and praises to God. He’s listening. He’s waiting for you to be you. Talk to Him... then listen.

Prayer Opportunities:

- **TELL ME MORE COMMUNITY PRAYER**
Monday, October 1, at 5:30pm
Let’s pray together for Central Illinois! People from the churches participating in Tell Me More will meet by the Transfer House in Central Park to pray for our community and our churches.
- **PRAYER FOR STAFF**
Tuesday, October 2 or
Wednesday, October 3 from 5-6pm
October is Pastor Appreciation Month. The Elders of First Christian Church invite the congregation to attend one of two identical prayer events in support of the staff and pastors of FCC. We will meet in the East Auditorium to pray specifically for pastors/staff families, Disciple Heritage Fellowship, and FCC Lovington. We look forward to praying together.

EQUIP

The mission of First Christian Church is to develop devoted followers of Jesus Christ by growing and serving together. Wednesday night classes are a great way to learn more about God’s Word as well as connect with others. Take the next step in your faith journey by registering for a class today!

New six-week classes for all ages will begin **Wednesday, October 3 from 6:30-8pm.**

Register by October 1 at firstdecatatur.org/equip. Questions? Contact Jonathan at jgrundens@firstdecatatur.org or 217.875.3350.

Starting Point

Starting Point is for people who are curious about God, have a new relationship with Jesus Christ, or are returning to church after being away for a while. All are welcome. We are excited to walk this journey with you.

Led by Alex and Hannah Beery and Bob Bolin
Required Resource: *Starting Point Conversation Guide* by Andy Stanley

Biblical Feasts

The goal of Discipleship is to become more like Christ. It is only possible to do this if we consistently dig deeper and deeper into God’s Word, and allow its truth to transform us. To help us do that, this class will study the Feasts of the Old Testament, how they impact the New Testament and point to Messiah, and what that means for us today.

Led by Dave Campbell

Raising Girls

Based on the book by the same title, this Informative and practical class will help you encourage your daughter, challenge her, love her, and help her discover who God is creating her to be.

Led by Heather Kaloupek, MSW, LCSW & Jonathan Grundens
Required Resource: *Raising Girls* by Melissa Trevathan and Sissy Goff

A Man & His Design [men]

Discover God’s design for men with a clear definition and inspiring vision for Authentic Manhood. We will tackle the following topics: Manhood Realities, Create and Cultivate, Manhood Definition, King/Warrior, Lover/Friend, and Seasons.

Led by Brad Bjerke
Required Resources: *33 The Series Volume 1 Training Guide*

Always True: God’s Promises When Life Is Hard [women]

God’s promises are always true, both in good times and difficult trials. James MacDonald, the author of this study, discovered that during an extended period of hardship. In this Bible Study, individuals will learn that they can trust God throughout every circumstance of their lives.

Led by Debbie Sullivan
Required Resource: *Always True: God’s Promises When Life Is Hard Member Book*
*** Also offered Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30am**

Leadership Study of Nehemiah [Lovington]

Some regard leadership with eagerness and ambition, others with fear and trepidation. You may not recognize it, but you are a leader in some form – whether leading an organization, a team, a ministry, your family, or even leading yourself! God instructed Nehemiah to lead the rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls upon return from exile. This class, through Nehemiah, will show us what it takes to be a wise and godly leader. Childcare available.

Led by Brian Talty
*** Location: FCC Lovington (301 S County St, Lovington)**

**Register for
Wednesday classes at
firstdecatatur.org/equip
or visit
Connection Point
in the church lobby.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

WSOY COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE
Friday, October 5 & Saturday, October 6
We are excited to participate again with the WSOY Community Food Drive. There are many ways you and your family can get involved:

PHONE OPERATOR: You can help take phone donations at the church on Friday, October 5. We have shifts from 6am-9am, 9am-noon, noon-3pm, and 3pm-6pm. Sign up at firstdecatatur.org/fooddrive

SORT FOOD: Help sort food donations at Catholic Charities on Saturday, October 6 from 9-11am. Great volunteer opportunity to involve kids! Sign up at firstdecatatur.org/fooddrive

MEN’S COOKOUT
Saturday, October 6 from 6:30-8:30pm
Guys, join us for the annual Men’s Cookout. Invite a friend for an evening of food, fun, and encouragement in being a Godly man. Bring a lawn chair. Cost is \$5. Register at firstdecatatur.org/men or visit Connection Point in the lobby.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS
If you’re 18-27(-ish), join us for these fun events where you can meet others just like you and eat FREE FOOD!

- **DINNER:** Saturday, October 13 after the 5pm worship service in the East Auditorium
- **GAME NIGHT:** Friday, October 19 from 6-9pm at Tony and Tina Arseneau’s home (207 W Franklin St, Cerro Gordo, IL). Come relax, unwind, and play fun various types of board games.
- **HOUSE PARTY:** Friday, October 26 from 7:30-10:30pm (contact Thomas at thagan@firstdecatatur.org for the location)

SENIORS LUNCHEON
Wednesday, October 17 from 11:30am-1:15pm
All who are 60 years old or better are invited for a great time of fun, fellowship, and entertainment. Vocalist Erica Newton and pianist Larry Mazzotti will encourage everyone to sing along as they lead a fun round of old-time favorites and classic hymns. Cost is \$5. RSVP by October 15 at firstdecatatur.org/rsvp or call 217.875.3350.

FALL BLOCK EVENT
Saturday October 20th from noon-2pm
Let’s celebrate a great year of ministry in The Block with a hot dog roast and pumpkin carving. Families are invited to join the fun. Bring a lawn chair, roasting stick, or favorite yard game. Questions? Contact BJ at bleonard@firstdecatatur.org.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, October 28 at 3pm
The main item on the agenda will be a presentation of the planned budget for 2019. All members are encouraged to attend.

BABY DEDICATION
Saturday, November 3 from 10am-noon
Parent Orientation: Sunday, October 21 from 10:30-11am
Baby Dedication Celebration is a wonderful event for families with children birth to age two. Around family tables with friends and loved ones, parents dedicate themselves to raising their child to know and follow Jesus. Details and registration can be found at firstdecatatur.org/babydedication. Questions? Contact Brandy at bray@firstdecatatur.org.

FIRST STEPS
Saturday, November 10 at 6:15pm or
Sunday, November 11 at 10:30am
Whether brand new to First Christian Church or just wanting to get plugged in, First Steps is the perfect place to make connections. Discover our mission and the “why” and “how” we grow and serve together. This 20-minute gathering takes place in Room 100. Questions? Contact Morgan at marseneau@firstdecatatur.org.

BAPTISM
Jeremy Thompson

MEMBERSHIP
Willie & Lillian Taylor

PRAYER

If you would like to add your name to the newsletter’s prayer list, please contact the church office. Other prayer requests will be provided to our intercessory prayer team.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING...
Curtis Evermann
Curtis & Juanta Wilson
Bill & Jane Cazier
Crossing Healthcare staff
Decatur Police Officers & Staff

MONTHLY REPORT

How you have blessed First Christian Church

GIVING GRAND TOTAL
Aug 11/12 – \$56,275
Aug 18/19 – \$35,467
Aug 25/26 – \$40,724
Sept 1/2 – \$73,449
Sept 8/9 – \$43,690.00

THRIVE GIVING
Aug 11/12 – \$14,508
Aug 18/19 – \$3,867
Aug 25/26 – \$4,042
Sept 1/2 – \$7,902
Sept 8/9 – \$4,440.00

ATTENDANCE
Aug 11/12 – 1,112
Aug 18/19 – 1,089
Aug 25/26 – 1,187
Sept 1/2 – 1,020
Sept 8/9 – 1,227

DONATIONS TO FCC
Whether part of our weekend services or throughout the week, contributing your tithes and offerings is an act of worship.

In addition to the weekend in-worship offering, you may give through:

- On-line giving for one-time or recurring contributions at firstdecatatur.org/give
- Text FIRSTDECATUR to 73256. You’ll receive a link to securely make your gift.
- Mail your gift to 3350 N MacArthur Rd, Decatur, IL 62526

Thank you for supporting the ministries of First!