

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

The **DECATUR CHRISTIAN** (USPS 0036-70) is published monthly by First Christian Church, 3350 N MacArthur Rd, Decatur, IL 62526-1449. Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL. Postmaster: Send address changes to Decatur Christian, 3350 N MacArthur Rd, Decatur, IL 62526-1449.



April 2019 • Volume: 87 • No. 4

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INTENTIONAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 9am-3:30pm at First Christian Church in Decatur, IL

"Great worship, excellent speakers, and diverse breakout sessions that everyone can apply to their ministry area as well as excellent opportunities to network." - Joey

On Saturday, April 6, our church will host the 12th annual Intentional Church Conference where pastors, church leaders, and volunteers from throughout the Midwest will be inspired through worship, preaching, teaching, and networking.

The main speakers for 2019 are Ben Cachiaras and Nancy Beach. Also, we will offer a number of breakout session topics including: assimilation, church growth, conflict, communications, and much more.

Ben Cachiaras is the Senior Pastor at Mountain Christian Church, a multi-site church near Baltimore, Maryland. He was the 2010 president of the North American Christian Convention. Ben has a passion for preaching, leadership, and his family.

Nancy Beach is a passionate champion for artists and leaders in the local church. She served at Willow Creek for more than 20 years and is currently a leadership coach with the Slingshot Group and part of the Teaching Team at Soul City Church in Chicago, Illinois.

Register today for Intentional Church Conference for FREE! Use promo code **FCCDECATUR** when you register at **intentionalchurchconference.com**. Lunch is included.

We look forward to serving other churches and their leaders as we learn together how to better serve the church.

ARTS ACADEMY

By Andrea Grunden | agrunden@firstdeatur.org

As another Arts Academy year draws to a close, we stop to pause and reflect on the events of the year and how they demonstrate God's faithfulness to us. The Arts Academy had more than 156 students during Thursday classes, 60 students in piano lessons, and 60 voices in the youth choir. This year, we added a new class, Homeschool Culinary Arts, and introduced Orchestra weekend so adults and students can participate in leading worship.

ArtShare
Thursday, April 25
5:30-7pm

Students not only learned skills in cooking, drawing, painting, dancing, and many other areas of art, but they also learned they can use those God-given gifts to serve others. Culinary Arts students made treats that were delivered to God's Shelter of Love. Sewing students created stockings and tissue holders for residents at Hickory Point Christian Village. Fiber Arts students created hats that were gifted to New Life Pregnancy Center.

Continued on next page ▶



JESUS IS

Lenten series leading up to Easter

For centuries, followers of Jesus have given special attention to their relationship with the Lord in the season leading up to Easter. We'll examine the various names attributed to Jesus throughout Scripture. Together, we'll discover the full expression of who Jesus is in our lives. Join us Saturdays at 5pm or Sundays at 9:15am or 11am.

WATCH SERMONS LIVE!

We are now live streaming all of our worship services at **firstdeatur.org/churchonline**. Also, you can watch messages at **firstdeatur.org/sermons** or download the First Christian Church app for Apple or Android devices.

HOPE

Good Friday
FRIDAY, APRIL 19
3pm, 4pm,
5pm, & 6pm

Easter
Worship Services
*(All Easter worship
services are identical)*

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
3:30pm & 5pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 21
8:30am, 9:45am,
& 11am

Easter Baptisms!

We're excited to celebrate baptisms during each of our Easter worship services!

If you have been contemplating baptism or are ready to make that step, register at **firstdeatur.org/easterbaptism**

Plan to attend a baptism informational meeting: **April 7 at 11am, April 13 at 5pm, or April 14 at 11am**

Questions? Contact Pastor Tim Revis at **trevis@firstdeatur.org** or 217.875.3350.

Arts Academy

Continued from front page

It is a joy to see how God is not only preparing students to be leaders of the church in future generations, but how He is using them now to serve and lead others. Join us for ArtShare, a program showcasing our students, on April 25, 5:30pm-7pm and celebrate what God is doing in and through the Arts Academy.

CELEBRATE 185 UPDATE

Thank you for your gracious gifts to Celebrate 185, the fund set up to recognize 185 years of FCC's ministry. To date, you've given \$66,713.57 toward the refurbishment of our lobby and auditorium spaces, along with a plan for maintenance of our 1915 stained glass window. A team is working on details for the project which should begin within a few months. The window project is more long-term and will be scheduled for warmer weather. Thank you for your generosity for these projects.

EASTER BAPTISMS

By Tim Revis | trevis@firstdecat.org

It's just water - H2O; Three-fourths of the planet is made up of it. So why is baptism so important? Fair question. As usual, the answer to this, and other questions about baptism, can be found in the Bible. Ultimately, what it comes down to (what we see in Scripture), is that we should be baptized because Jesus calls us to do so.

Through baptism we are making a public profession of our faith in Christ and our commitment to live the way Christ calls us to live in response to God's mercy and grace. During baptism by full immersion (how we see it done in the Bible), in going under the water, we symbolically share in Christ's death, and in coming up out of the water, we share in His resurrection and signify our commitment to a new life.

Baptism is an important next step following your acceptance of Christ. You should be baptized soon after you accept Christ, but that does not mean it is ever too late to do so, even if it is years later. We have baptized people at FCC who were in their 90s who accepted Christ long ago, but for whatever reason, hadn't been baptized.



If you have accepted Jesus as the Lord and leader of your life and have not been baptized (or were baptized as an infant), we have a special opportunity for you during our upcoming Easter worship services the weekend of April 20-21. First, register to attend a class on baptism on Sunday, April 7 at 11am, Saturday, April 13 at 5pm, OR Sunday, April 14 at 11am. Details and registration at firstdecat.org/easterbaptism. If you have any questions, contact me (Pastor Tim Revis) at trevis@firstdecat.org or 217.875.3350.

SUPERSTART PRETEEN CONFERENCE

By Janie Kane | jkane@firstdecat.org

We all have a story to share - our own individual story that fits inside the greater story of God's love of all people. Thirty excited preteens and twelve awesome adults from First Christian Church learned how to overcome obstacles to allow them to share their story of what God has done in their lives. More than 3,000 4th - 6th graders from all over traveled to Bloomington, IL to SuperStart. This ministry event speaks directly to the heart and culture of preteen students. It consists of high-energy worship, interactive drama, and engaging teaching written specifically for preteens.



Over the weekend, preteens studied Psalm 105:1 which helped them understand that sharing their story is as simple as "letting the whole world know what He has done." But, there are gargantuan obstacles preteens face that keep them from sharing their stories. Throughout the weekend, the teaching focused on helping preteens conquer three of the most common obstacles:

- Feeling like they don't have a story to share
- Feelings of fear in sharing their story with others
- Not understanding why they should share their stories

Everyone had a blast worshipping, hearing the Gospel, and making great memories together at SuperStart! "Conquering Gargantor"! Thank you for your prayers and support as everyone grew deeper in their faith in Jesus.

*"Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness.
Let the whole world know what He has done."
Psalm 105:1*

Baptism Informational Meetings

Sunday, April 7 at 11am
Saturday, April 13 at 5pm
Sunday, April 14 at 11am

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEN'S SERVE DAY

Saturday, April 13 from 8am-noon(ish)

Start the day with a light breakfast at the church before heading out to serve people in our community who need a little extra assistance with a minor household project. Register at firstdecat.org/men. Questions? Contact Tim at trevis@firstdecat.org.

FIRST STEPS

Saturday, April 13 at 6:15pm or
Sunday, April 14 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. Childcare available. Questions? Contact Morgan at marseneau@firstdecat.org.

SPRING BLOCK EVENTS

The following will be held at 1520 N Union St.

- **Prayer Walk**, April 20 from 10-11am
- **Work Day**, April 27 from 10am-noon (lunch served for volunteers). Work projects will include planting flowers, orchard work, trash cleanup, installation of a basketball hoop and landscaping.

CINCINNATI FUNDRAISER DINNER

Saturday, April 27 from 6-8pm

Please support our students who will be serving on the Cincinnati mission trip this summer. We will host a lasagna dinner with a dessert auction. The cost is \$10/adults; \$5/kids (3-12). This is a great opportunity to invest in the lives of our students and be part of reaching those in Cincinnati.

SPRING SENIOR'S LUNCHEON

Tuesday, April 30 from 11am-2pm

Anyone who is 60 or better is invited to join us for a delicious lunch, fellowship, and a piano concert by the very talented Julie McClary. \$5 suggested donation. RSVP by Sunday, April 28 at firstdecat.org/events or call 217.875.3350.

SAVE THE DATE:

- **SERVE TOGETHER CELEBRATION** - Wednesday, May 8 from 6-9pm
- **MARRIAGE SIMULCAST** - Friday, May 17 from 6:30-10pm
- **BABY DEDICATION PARENT MEETING** - Sunday, May 19 from 10:30-10:55am

BAPTISMS

Ethan Ferguson
Josh Ferguson

SEMI - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The bylaws of First Christian Church call for two congregational meetings per year, one in the early fall and one in the early spring. The next Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 28 at 3pm. Agenda items include a presentation by the church's Administrative Team, as well as a report from Wayne Kent, Lead Pastor. An affirmation of the 2019-2020 Elders Team and Trustees Team members as presented by the Nominating Team is also on the agenda.

Per the bylaw changes of last October, the Elders Team is transitioning from a one-year non-restricted repeated terms system, to a restricted three-year term approach. In the future, an elder can only serve two terms for a total of six years then must rotate off the team.

The present team has some members who will serve three years, some who will serve two years, and some who will only serve one year.

Members of the congregation are invited to prayerfully examine that list when it is published in weekly worship bulletins in the weeks ahead. Any questions or concerns regarding any proposed Elder Team or Trustee Team members should be addressed to either Wayne Kent, Pastor, or to the present Elder Team Chair, Dave Tewell. Both men can be reached through the church office at 217.875.3350.

The congregation affirms the Elder and Trustee team members rather than voting for them.

PRAYER

We strive to be a praying church. In fact, we have a team committed to pray for our leadership, pastors, staff, church, congregation, and community. We believe that prayer changes everything, and we consider it an honor to pray for you. You can submit a prayer need at firstdecat.org/prayer, and we will share your request with our prayer team and Elders. Your request will be kept confidential unless you indicate otherwise.

MONTHLY REPORT

How you have blessed First Christian Church

GIVING GRAND TOTAL

Feb 9/10 - \$30,302
Feb 16/17 - \$37,508
Feb 23/24 - \$41,552
Mar 2/3 - \$61,173

THRIVE GIVING

Feb 9/10 - \$15,015
Feb 16/17 - \$3,647
Feb 23/24 - \$4,477
Mar 2/3 - \$5,419

CELEBRATE 185

Feb 9/10 - \$160
Feb 16/17 - \$430
Feb 23/24 - \$1,010
Mar 2/3 - \$65

ATTENDANCE

Feb 9/10 - 1,058
Feb 16/17 - 921
Feb 23/24 - 1,226
Mar 2/3 - 1,061

GIFTS 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, we also offer:

- On-line giving for one-time or recurring contributions at firstdecat.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!