

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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**STATE OF THE CHURCH**

**Weekend of February 2/3, 2019**

Ministry takes much planning and execution, involving hundreds of volunteers and staff members, as well as significant financial resources. And then, when you add prayer and hope, is it any wonder there are cool results? Pastor Wayne Kent will present an annual review of the church's health and future. Come hear about the results of 2018 and discover possibilities of 2019.

**WATCH SERMONS LIVE!**

We are now live streaming all of our worship services at [firstdecat.org/livestream](http://firstdecat.org/livestream). Also, you can watch messages at [firstdecat.org/sermons](http://firstdecat.org/sermons) or download the First Christian Church app for Apple or Android devices.

**ANXIOUS FOR NOTHING**

**New 3-week series beginning February 9/10, 2019**

In the Bible, we find directives such as "Do not worry..." (Matthew 6:25) and "Do not be anxious about anything..." (Philippians 4:6)

Sounds great! But does the Bible say anything more than essentially "Don't be anxious or worry?!" Thankfully, God's word does! We'll explore that together in the sermon and small group series, "Anxious for Nothing."



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WEDNESDAY EQUIP CLASSES

The mission of First Christian Church is to develop devoted followers of Jesus

Wednesday Equip classes begin February 6 Register at [firstdecat.org/registrations](http://firstdecat.org/registrations)

Christ by growing and serving together. Wednesday Equip classes are a great way to learn more about God's Word and to connect with others. New classes for all ages – birth through adult – will begin Wednesday, February 6, from 6:30-8pm. (Note that the women's bible study is also offered from 9:30-11:30am, and the chaplaincy class is offered from 3-4:30pm only.) Register at [firstdecat.org/registrations](http://firstdecat.org/registrations).

**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 to ask questions and explore faith.

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

**The Holy Spirit**

In this masters-level course, we will study the character and purpose of the Holy Spirit, as well as the Holy Spirit's importance in living our lives as followers of Christ.

Led by Jeremy Bacon  
Required Resource: *Bring a bible*

**Financial Peace University**

Financial Peace University (FPU) will help you take control of your finances, plan for your future, and transform your life. Learn practical tools to master budgeting, save for emergencies, and pay off debt.

\*\*\* This class lasts nine weeks (ends April 3) \*\*\*  
Led by Dan Steffeny & Brandon Barney  
Required Resource: *FPU workbook/kit for \$109* (Note: The first class session is free. You are welcome to try it out before purchasing the kit for the remaining sessions.)

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PASSION CONFERENCE

By Thomas Hagan | [thagan@firstdecat.org](mailto:thagan@firstdecat.org)

Thirty-nine young adults attended Passion Conference in Atlanta, Georgia from January 2-4 to worship Jesus with 40,000 other students across four arenas. They were challenged in their faith by godly speakers; learned more about their identity in Christ; raised funds to have the Bible translated into 400 different sign languages for deaf communities around the world; were informed on how to join the fight to end modern day slavery/human trafficking; and worshiped alongside hundreds of campus ministries from across the country. Thanks to the generosity of FCC, scholarships were given to each student, which made the trip more affordable.

The worship time was particularly powerful. In our specific arena, 20,000 young people raised their voices in worship to Jesus! Hearing that many voices worship God in unison felt like a foretaste of our experience in eternity. The conference was truly amazing. Thank you so much for being part of a church committed to raising the next generation to follow Christ!

## Equip Classes

Continued from front page

### Basic Training for a Few Good Men (men)

This study by Dr. Tim Kimmel gives men a well organized plan for leading, loving, and serving courageously at home, work, in the community, and church.

Led by Brad Bjerke

Required Resource: Participant's Guide provided in class

### The Bait of Satan (women)

The Bait of Satan exposes one of the most deceptive snares Satan uses to get believers out of the will of God – offense. This trap restrains countless Christians, severs relationships, and widens the gulf between us. In Luke 17:1 Jesus said, "It is impossible that no offenses should come." Although you will encounter offense, you can choose how you will react. This class includes large group teaching and small group discussion.

\*\*\* Also offered Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30am (childcare provided) \*\*\*

Led by Debbie Sullivan

Required Resource: *The Bait of Satan* by John Bever

### Intro to Chaplaincy

Pastor Robert leads a vibrant team of chaplains serving at Decatur Memorial Hospital as well as Crossing Healthcare. Learn how to care for those with a health crisis in a compassionate, Christ-like manner. This introductory class will help prepare you to minister to others as part of the Chaplaincy team.

\*\*\* Meets February 6, 13, 20, & 27 from 3-4:30pm only \*\*\*

Led by Pastor Robert Henderson, DMH Chaplain

## SING TO THE LORD!

By Stephanie Campbell | [scampbell@firstdecalur.org](mailto:scampbell@firstdecalur.org)

## JOIN THE CHOIR!

Begins February 12

Recently, I have been reading more about singing in the assembly of believers. God's commands are pretty important, and they are always for our good. In Psalm 149:1 (and in many other verses), God commands us to sing: "Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly!" We are to sing God's word and sing about who He is. Music helps us remember, and when we sing, the truth of God's word is planted deep in our hearts, arming us for the battles we will inevitably face. This is the opportunity we have in the choir each weekend! Please consider joining our ranks as we proclaim God's truth through music.

Choir will begin rehearsing February 12. Prayer begins at 6:15pm, and we rehearse from 6:30-7:45pm. Childcare is provided.

## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

By Tim Revis | [trevis@firstdecalur.org](mailto:trevis@firstdecalur.org)

FCC's **re|new Marriage Enrichment** equips couples with important relational skills and provides fresh, Biblically-informed perspectives. Whether newly married or married for many years, the wide-ranging Marriage Enrichment program can help strengthen relationships and/or return healing and passion to the marriage.

Each couple pairs with another trained, caring couple for 8-10 weeks in a unique setting where husbands and wives learn new ways to work together on skills such as improving communication and managing conflict. Regardless of how long you've been married, you'll learn more about yourself and your partner.

To learn more about how **re|new Marriage Enrichment** can renew your marriage, contact Pastor Tim Revis at [trevis@firstdecalur.org](mailto:trevis@firstdecalur.org) or 217.875.3350.

## GLOBAL MISSIONS PRAYER EMPHASIS

By BJ Leonard | [bleonard@firstdecalur.org](mailto:bleonard@firstdecalur.org)

As a church, we are deeply committed to God's mission around the world to reach and disciple people into His kingdom. We give of our time, our financial resources, and our abilities to join Him in sharing his promise "with all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call."

**GLOBAL MISSION PRAYER WEEK:  
FEBRUARY 17-23**  
**PRAYER GATHERINGS:  
FEBRUARY 20 AT NOON & 6PM**

Throughout the week of February 17-23, we will dedicate a special season of prayer to this mission, following a seven-day prayer guide provided by FCC.

Join us Wednesday, February 20, for a special prayer gathering at noon or 6pm in the West Auditorium. Children are welcome. These identical programs will provide unique prayer experiences along with opportunities to lift up specific needs and encouragements. Participants are invited (as able) to fast one meal during this special day of prayer.

We believe God is faithful to honor our prayers for His glory.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JOIN A SMALL GROUP!

Small Groups are a great way to grow together by sharing life, pursuing God, and investing in others. The goal of each small group is to help group members become more like Jesus. Groups typically consist of 8-12 adults who meet throughout the week in homes around the community. Register at [firstdecalur.org/registrations](http://firstdecalur.org/registrations). Questions? Contact Jonathan at [jgrundens@firstdecalur.org](mailto:jgrundens@firstdecalur.org).

### YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

If you're 18-27(-ish), join us for these fun events where you can meet others just like you and enjoy FREE FOOD!

- HOUSE PARTY: Friday, February 8 from 7:30-10:30pm (email Thomas at [thagan@firstdecalur.org](mailto:thagan@firstdecalur.org) for location)
- GAME NIGHT: Friday, February 15 from 6-9pm at Tony and Tina Arseneau's home (207 West Franklin Street in Cerro Gordo)
- DINNER: Saturday, February 23 after the 5pm worship service in the East Auditorium

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 2 from 8-9:30am

Mmm . . . bacon! Guys, join us for breakfast, fun, and learning. Register at [firstdecalur.org/men](http://firstdecalur.org/men). Questions? Contact Jonathan at [jgrundens@firstdecalur.org](mailto:jgrundens@firstdecalur.org).

### WOMEN'S MENTOR MINISTRY

Launches Thursday, February 7 at 7pm

Ladies age 18+ are encouraged to join our mentor ministry, which focuses on discipleship and spiritual formation through intentional, one-on-one relationships. Register at [firstdecalur.org/registrations](http://firstdecalur.org/registrations) and attend our Mentor Ministry Launch on Thursday, February 7 at 7pm in Mosaic Café. Questions? Contact Morgan at [marseneau@firstdecalur.org](mailto:marseneau@firstdecalur.org).

### NIGHT TO SHINE

Friday, February 8

Night to Shine is a prom event for students and adults with special needs. First Christian Church and GT Church are co-hosting this event at GT Church (500 South 27th St, Decatur). Volunteer to help those with special needs enjoy a prom night they'll always remember. Details and registration at [firstdecalur.org/nighttoshine](http://firstdecalur.org/nighttoshine).

### FIRST STEPS

Saturday, February 9 at 6:15pm or Sunday, February 10 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@firstdecalur.org](mailto:marseneau@firstdecalur.org).

### 2019/2020 ELDER NOMINATIONS

According to the by-laws of First Christian Church, Pete Pistorius, Administrative Team Chair, has appointed a Nominating Committee charged with recommending candidates for the 2019/2020 Elder Team. If there is someone you would like the committee to consider, contact Dan Steffeny at [dsteffeny@firstdecalur.org](mailto:dsteffeny@firstdecalur.org) or call the church office at 217.875.3350 by February 8.

### THANK YOU FROM WAYNE & LESLIE KENT

Thank you for your kind words, notes, cards, and the special gift from the congregation regarding the 25th anniversary of my ministry at First Christian Church. Leslie and I, along with our extended family, count it a privilege to engage in ministry with you and on your behalf. Our lives are better, stronger, and more enjoyable through the graces of your care and love for us through these past 25 years. We expect many more days of life together, discovering God's best plan for you, for our family, and for our church.

### BAPTISMS

Gabriel Bacon  
Zane Bacon

## 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 & Juanita Wilson  
Curtis Evermann  
Vicky Bridgeman  
Ian Tanzyus  
Dick Eggers  
Jim Kalipis  
Broken Family Relationships  
Those battling cancer

## MONTHLY REPORT

How you have blessed First Christian Church

### GIVING GRAND TOTAL

Dec 8/9 - \$41,713  
Dec 15/16 - \$39,622  
Dec 22/23 - \$37,804  
Dec 29/31 - \$139,757

THRIVE GIVING	CELEBRATE 185
Dec 8/9 - \$7,277	Dec 8/9 - \$15
Dec 15/16 - \$4,517	Dec 15/16 - \$2,917
Dec 22/23 - \$2,425	Dec 22/23 - \$12,508
Dec 29/31 - \$13,981	Dec 29/31 - \$30,359

### ATTENDANCE

Dec 8/9 - 1,440  
Dec 15/16 - 1,082  
Dec 22/23 - 2,321  
Dec 29/30 - 1,057

### 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 [firstdecalur.org/give](http://firstdecalur.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!



BJ Leonard with Christian leaders in Kenya