

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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THE DECATUR CHRISTIAN

Developing devoted followers of Jesus Christ by growing & serving together!

May 2019 • Volume: 87 • No. 5

- ▶ The Block
- ▶ Serve Together Celebration
- ▶ Marriage Night Simulcast From Right Now Media
- ▶ Car Wash Fundraiser



FCC HOSTS NOT ONE, BUT TWO CONFERENCES!

By Lori Putnam | lputnam@firstdecatour.org

More than 500 people attended the recent Disciple Heritage Fellowship (DHF) National Conference and Intentional Church Conference hosted by First Christian Church. It was an amazing two days of being encouraged, equipped, and challenged as a congregation. The best part was hearing from churches whose leaders met afterward for a humbling conversation and the call to make positive changes in their churches for the sake of the Gospel. That's what it's all about.

The first day featured sermons by Pastor Michael Ten Eyck and Pastor Nathan Loewen. Michael is part of our congregation's advisor team and a chairperson of the DHF board. He also reported on a DHF mission trip to Cuba and challenged congregations to support mission trips financially and to send people out of the country to experience the church beyond the United States. Nathan Loewen is the pastor of a Disciples of Christ church in Neptune Beach, Florida. He stressed the importance of the Gospel and the

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ISRAEL & FCC

By Wayne Kent | wkent@firstdecatour.org

"Next year in Jerusalem," is a phrase used by people of the Jewish faith throughout the world. It's sung at the end of their annual Passover Seder (meal). It's sung as a reminder of the ancient exiles' wish to return to a restored Jerusalem, living as a city of peace.

For many, however, it simply means, "We'll do this again, next year in Jerusalem."

For the people of FCC, it could mean, "I'll spend some time in Jerusalem next year." And Jerusalem in 2020 could be your experience.

Leslie and I will host a trip to Israel October 23 – November 3, 2020. The trip starts and ends in Decatur.

The tour features popular repeats of past trips: A boat ride on the Sea of Galilee; time in Jerusalem with a focused exploration of the Western Wall and Temple Mount. This trip also includes new highlights. For example, a Sabbath evening meal in a Jewish home

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THE NINE
A NEW three-week series
beginning April 27/28

I'm not patient at times, and there are days when kindness is not my first response either. Maybe you feel the same. We can do better.

The bible gives an approach to life to help all of us deal with others more effectively and with more grace. It's called the Fruit of the Spirit. These nine traits for healthy and productive living will make others want to hang around you. Join us and learn how to put them into practice!

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

FCC's got Talent
SERVE TOGETHER CELEBRATION

Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30pm | Details inside!

MARRIAGE NIGHT

SPEAKERS

- ▶ Francis & Lisa Chan
- ▶ Les & Leslie Parrott
- ▶ Comedian Michael Jr.

Friday, May 17 from 6:30-10pm | Details inside!

Conferences

Continued from front page

need to continually keep its message in front of people. Michael spoke with authority and passion about the local church. Ken Moberg with Interim Pastor Ministries spoke about how to help congregations assess their health. First Christian Church Pastors Wayne and Brian presented excellent information to DHF National Conference attendees. The day concluded with participants being assigned into groups to enjoy dinner together around the city in order to connect with one another.

Day two was an explosion of people and activity. Hundreds converged on our campus to hear inspiring messages from Ben Cachiaras and Nancy Beach. Ben is the lead pastor of Mountain Christian Church near Baltimore, Maryland. He challenged attendees to embrace different vehicles to minister to people outside the church. Nancy was on the teaching staff at Willow Creek Community Church for over 20 years and is now a leadership coach with the Slingshot Group and part of the teaching team at Soul City Church in Chicago. She provided an assessment of healthy church culture as well as encouragement to develop men and women as leaders of the church. Dozens of breakout sessions provided more tools, encouragement, and challenges in being healthier as the body of Christ.

Our worship arts team provided amazing times of worship throughout both days. It was a powerful experience to have auditoriums filled with people fully engaged in worship together.

We saw several familiar faces from First Christian Church Decatur participating as volunteers and attendees. Thank you! We trust you were blessed through helping or attending. Your staff might be a bit tired, but we are filled up from serving the greater body of believers who are leaders of other congregations throughout the Midwest and beyond. We are thankful for serving them and God in this way.

SAVE THE DATE:
Intentional Church Conference
April 25, 2020.

Israel

Continued from front page

and a visit to the St George's Monastery, set in the cliffs along the ancient road to Jericho. Some scholars believe this is the area mentioned in Psalm 23 as the valley of the shadow of death. Monastic life has continuously been in play at St George's since the early 400s.

For more information, contact the church office, or visit the tour host website at: <http://ittworld.com/tours/12-day-biblical-tour-of-israel/>

THE BLOCK

By BJ Leonard | bleonard@firstdecat.org

God is working in an area of the GM Square Neighborhood we call "The Block." This ministry is built on growing friendships and sharing faith. Check out our 2019 Ministry Calendar:

- WORK DAY**
Saturday, April 27 from 10am-noon (lunch served for volunteers) at the Lot at 1520 N Union St
 Projects will include planting flowers, orchard work, trash cleanup, installation of a basketball hoop, and landscaping.
- ARTS EXPERIENCE**
Saturday, May 1 from 3:30-5pm at the Block House at 1541 N Church St
 Kids and adults will work together on spring art projects.
- ARTS & BBQ**
Saturday, May 29 from 3:30-6pm at the Block House at 1541 N Church St
 Families will create fun art projects together before enjoying supper off the grill.
- BLOCK PARTY**
Saturday, June 14 from 5:30-7pm at the Lot at 1520 N Union St
 Fun for the whole family includes games, inflatables, art activities, food, and connecting conversations. This is a great service opportunity for students or families.
- FAMILY MISSION TRIP**
Saturday, July 13 from 9:30-3pm at the Lot at 1520 N Union St
 This is our FirstKids family mission trip! Look for more information to come.
- JUMPSTART BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLINIC**
Saturday, July 27 at First Christian Church and Crossing Healthcare
 Free physicals and vaccinations for youngsters getting ready to go back to school. Contact Amanda Elven (aelven@firstdecat.org) for more information.
- PICNIC & PLAY DAY**
Saturday, August 3 from noon-2pm at the Lot at 1520 N Union St
 Come ready to eat, play, and splash!
- ARTS EVENT & PICNIC**
Saturday, August 17 from 10am-noon at the Block House at 1541 N Church St
 Kids and adults will work together on art projects and enjoy a picnic.
- WORK DAY**
Saturday, October 26 from 10am-1pm (Lunch provided for volunteers) at the Lot at 1520 N Union St
 Projects will include raking leaves, cutting wood, and brush clean-up, followed by a hotdog roast.



SAY "CHEESE!"

Occasionally, photographers will capture moments from First Christian Church services and special events. If you would like to request that you or your child's photo not be used in print materials or online, contact Crystal at ckirkman@firstdecat.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S TRIVIA NIGHT Friday, May 3 from 6:30-9pm

Ladies, join us for a fun night of games and laughter! The theme is "Decades," and we'll have eight rounds of eight questions. Snacks and desserts will be served. Register by April 30 at firstdecat.org/women. Questions? Contact Morgan at marseneau@firstdecat.org.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, May 4 from 8-9:30am

Guys age 16 and up, start the day out with an awesome breakfast including bacon and cinnamon rolls. Yum! This is also a great time to connect with other guys, have some fun, and be encouraged. Register at firstdecat.org/men. Questions? Contact Jonathan at jgrundens@firstdecat.org.

SERVE TOGETHER CELEBRATION Wednesday, May 8 from 6:30-9pm

To show our gratitude, we invite ALL volunteers to attend our 4th annual Serve Together Celebration. We'll begin with appetizers at 6:30pm, followed by "America's Got Talent" themed live entertainment at 7pm. Next, stay for the after-party featuring desserts and entertainment from 8-9pm. RSVP by May 6 at firstdecat.org/serve or call 217.875.3350. (Sorry — childcare is not available so all of our volunteers can celebrate together.) Questions? Contact Jonathan at jgrundens@firstdecat.org.

MEN'S SERVE DAY Saturday, May 11 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 minor household projects. Register at firstdecat.org/men. Questions? Contact Tim at trevis@firstdecat.org.

ARTS ACADEMY RECITALS Saturday, May 11 at 10am, Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30pm, & Sunday, May 19 at 2pm

Piano students from the Arts Academy will perform the musical pieces they've learned through the year. Everyone is welcome, and a dessert reception will follow. Questions? Contact Anita at agifford@firstdecat.org.

MARRIAGE NIGHT SIMULCAST FROM RIGHT NOW MEDIA Friday, May 17, from 6:30-10pm at FCC

Marriage Night is a way for couples to focus on what God intends for their marriage. It's a one-night event packed with laughter and lessons you can apply immediately. The cost is \$15/person. Register at firstdecat.org/marriage. Questions? Contact Pastor Tim Revis at trevis@firstdecat.org or 217.875.3350.

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER Saturday, May 18 from 9am-noon

Dust, mud, birds, bugs — they all make deposits on your vehicle. Bust the dust at First Christian Church during our carwash fundraiser to benefit this summer's Cincinnati and Cuba mission trips.

FIRST STEPS Following each worship service the weekend of May 18/19

Come to First Steps this weekend following any service to meet others just like you who are new to First Christian Church or are ready to make a connection here. During this brief 20-minute gathering in Room 100, we'll explore the mission of FCC and how and why we grow and serve together. Questions? Contact Morgan at marseneau@firstdecat.org.

BABY DEDICATION CELEBRATION Saturday, June 1 at 10am

***Parent Orientation Meeting: Sunday, May 19 at 10:30am**
Baby Dedication Celebration is a wonderful event for families with children birth to age two. Around tables with friends and loved ones, parents dedicate themselves to raising their child to know and follow Jesus. Registration deadline is May 13. Details can be found at firstdecat.org/babydedication. Questions? Contact Brandy at bray@firstdecat.org.

SAVE THE DATE:

- WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** - Wednesday, June 5 from 9:30-11:30am
- CUBA DINNER** - Saturday, June 8 at 6:15pm
- ARTS ACADEMY WORKSHOPS** - June 24-27
- HYMNOSCOPE** - June 29/30 during worship services

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.

MEMORIALS

Chris Wood - March 21, 2019

MONTHLY REPORT

How you have blessed First Christian Church

GENERAL FUND/DESIGNATED OFFERINGS

Mar 9/10 - \$49,889
Mar 16/17 - \$51,752
Mar 23/24 - \$64,177
Mar 30/31 - \$57,260

THRIVE GIVING	CELEBRATE 185
Mar 9/10 - \$6,156	Mar 9/10 - \$50
Mar 16/17 - \$15,388	Mar 16/17 - \$60
Mar 23/24 - \$3,182	Mar 23/24 - \$20
Mar 30/31 - \$1,971	Mar 30/31 - \$300

ATTENDANCE

Mar 9/10 - 1,091
Mar 16/17 - 1,199
Mar 23/24 - 1,200
Mar 30/31 - 1,240

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!