

OUTLOOK

APRIL 2024

Fully Known; Fully Loved

Pastor David Jordan

Youth Nights

April 7 and 21, 6 pm to 8 pm

Phase Two of FBCD Strategic Planning Process

David Jordan, Wilson Holland,
Phil Wise

Ovations Concert Series

April 7 at 3 pm

Decatur Avondale Children's Choir 15th Annual Spring Concert

April 28 at 4 pm

DFAA Inaugural Concert Series

May 4 and June 2 at 2 pm

Register Now for Summer Camps!

DFAA, DACC, and First Camp
Summer Camps

**A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FROM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DECATUR**

David Jordan
Senior Pastor



FULLY KNOWN; FULLY LOVED

Sharing Easter together: for all of Christian history, this spring reminder of Jesus' resurrection highlights again the ever-present power of God's love and eternal care. And yet, so much still feels out of whack. Pain, sorrow and oppression still run rampant; too many suffer still from rumbling discontent, active warzones, unsolved issues and unresolved conflict; too much remains undone, mysterious, dangling and discordant.

All this is true; and our Christian callings urge us to care, to pray and to faithfully work to heal this hurting world. Simultaneously, we are called to lean in, to wonder, to pause in our confusion and attempt to give thanks for what we do know and can understand.

And ... for the many things in our lives we have trouble understanding, I'm always encouraged by these words from I Corinthians 13:12:

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

In spite of the many unknowns we still face, and despite the struggles, may your life be filled to overflowing with God's love this month, fully known and deeply aware that you are completely, unconditionally loved.

Because of this, we can and will continue to share in God's love together and however we can with brothers and sisters in other places. Thanks to your generosity and continued prayers, we have the following Easter greeting from Pastor Andrei in Ukraine (over the last eighteen months, our church and Christmas on Clairemont offering has contributed over \$75,000 to Andrei's congregation for refugee ministry assistance). Here are his words:

Dear Pastor David and brothers and sisters of First Baptist Church of Decatur,

As we approach this Easter season, our hearts are heavy with the weight of the ongoing war here in Ukraine. The conflict has brought devastation and loss to many innocent civilians in many Ukrainian cities, especially Kyiv, Odessa, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, and many others lately. Despite the chaos and fear that surrounds us, we find comfort in knowing that the Lord has been protecting us here in Vinnytsia from the dangers of rockets and drones. Moreover, due to your prayers and financial support we have been able to help many others who ended up in bad circumstances. Therefore we thank you for all the prayers you lift up for us and for all the people in Ukraine and for your financial support.

Amid all the turmoil and sorrow, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice and victory of our Savior, Jesus Christ. His resurrection brings hope and light into the darkest of times, reminding us that even during the war, God's love and grace shine through.

As we celebrate Easter, we hold onto the promise of new life and redemption that comes through Christ's resurrection. We lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the hope and peace that He brings, even in the midst of uncertainty and fear.

May this Easter be a time of worship, praise, and rejoicing as we remember the incredible gift of salvation that we have received through Jesus Christ. May His love and grace sustain us through every trial and challenge that we face, knowing that He is always with us, guiding and protecting us through it all.

Christ is risen!

*With love and prayers,
Andrei*

Thanks to all of you; and may this month of April offer numerous glad reminders of Jesus' resurrection and God's eternal love intimately woven into every moment of each day.

Love, David

OTHER FBCD NEWS

OUR INCLUSION IN THE ASSOCIATION OF WELCOMING AND AFFIRMING BAPTISTS (AWAB)

We are happy to announce that during the official board meeting of AWAB this past week third week of March, First Baptist Decatur was unanimously and enthusiastically welcomed into the AWAB family. Our name will now appear on their list of cooperating churches and will appear on their website. We are also now providing a link on our opening webpage to the AWAB website. Thank you all for your support of this exciting connection opportunity to expand our reach, connect with new friends, and to enrich our fellowship.

YOUTH NIGHTS

Join us for Youth Nights. Youth Nights meet two Sundays a month. All youth grades 6-12 are invited to gather in the Activities Center for a pizza dinner, snacks, sodas, study, fellowship, and fun! The gym will also be open for basketball. We hope to see you there (and don't forget: invite your friends)! For more information, contact Zach Mason: zmason@fbcdeatur.com

JOIN US FOR

**Youth
Nights**

THIS MONTH:
Sunday, April 7 (6:00-8:00 pm)
Sunday, April 21 (6:00-8:00 pm)

Details: Zach Mason (zmason@fbcdeatur.com)

APRIL SERMON TITLES

April 7

A Peace that Passes All Understanding or Retaining Ponds of Nastiness

Psalm 133

John 20:19-23

Preacher: David Jordan

**Benevolence Offering
Communion Sunday**

Fresh Start

Living As Easter People

John 20:19-31

Preacher: Mark Green

April 14

Youth Sunday

Preacher: Kristen Wallace

Fresh Start

Preacher: Kristen Wallace

April 21

The Good Shepherd

Psalm 23

John 10:11-18

Preacher: David Jordan

Baptism for Virginia Hackney

Fresh Start

Preacher: Paul Wallace

April 28

God is Love

Acts 8:26-40

I John 4:7-21

Preacher: David Jordan

Fresh Start

Preacher: Sana Rohail

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS

Wednesday, April 3rd

Country Fried Steak

White Rice

Lima Beans

Toss Salad

Biscuits

Dessert of the Week

Wednesday, April 10th

Teriyaki Chicken

Yellow Saffron Rice

Green Beans

Salad Bar

Yeast Roll

Dessert of the Week

Wednesday, April 17th

Meat Loaf

Macaroni and Cheese

Field Peas

Toss Salad

Yeast Roll

Dessert of the Week

Wednesday, April 24th

Poppy Seed Chicken

White Rice

Green Beans

Toss Salad

Yeast Rolls

Dessert of the Week

Church Family Conference: April 24 (5:00 dinner, 6:00 conference)

FBCD

Important Dates

April 14 **Youth Sunday**

8:45 am (Fresh Start)
11:15 am (Sanctuary)

April 21 **Baptism Sunday**

11:15 am (Sanctuary)

April 24 **Church Family
Conference**

5:00 pm dinner
6:00 pm conference

May 12 **Mother's Day**

8:45 am (Fresh Start)
11:15 am (Sanctuary)

May 19 **Pentecost Sunday &
Graduate Recognition**

8:45 am (Fresh Start)
11:45 am (Sanctuary)

Learn more at
fbcdeatur.com/news-and-events



PHASE TWO OF FBCD STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Phase One of our FBCD strategic planning process was completed with the report and findings of Group Solutions, which was shared with our congregation over three meetings and at a January Deacon’s Council gathering.

Phase Two has begun with the approval of the Deacon’s Council to form eight working groups to develop separate plans to address areas of need identified during Phase One.

Phase Three, the final phase, will blend the work of the eight working groups into a unified strategic plan* to be presented to the congregation for review and consideration in July.

Over the next two months, April and May, the focus will be on the working group activities. These working groups members will include Deacon Council members, church staff, and congregation volunteers. Each working group should have 8-10 members.

We envision three meetings of each working group on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm of April

17, May 1, and May 22. Dinner will be provided and a room set aside for each group. In order to accommodate these meetings, Bible Study will not meet on these dates.

Your involvement is much needed. Please know that your participation is welcomed.

**The final strategic plan will be for the period of July 2024-December 2026.*

Strategic Plan Working Groups:

- ***Strategic Plan working group.** This group will provide coordination of the working groups and will use input from these working groups to draft a 2.5-year strategic plan for our church.
- **Children’s working groups.** A need was unanimously identified for an emphasis on and rebuilding of our Children’s program. This group would draft a 2.5-year plan to accomplish this. (Created at Church Conference on January 31).

Continued on next page...

- **Youth working group.** A need was also unanimously identified for an emphasis on and rebuilding of our Youth program. The Youth working group would also draft a 2.5-year plan to accomplish these goals. (Created at the Church Conference on January 31.)

- **Marketing working group.** Our church needs to be better known and understood in our Decatur Community. An overall marketing plan that combines the use of various communication vehicles, especially social media, is a high priority. Funds will need to be invested in paid media. (created at Church Conference on January 31).

- ***Missions and Ministries working group.** Our church needs to make some difficult decisions and prioritize our outreach activities. We are overextended given our current size and financial base. This will be a challenging assignment.

- ***Organizational & Governance working group.** The church decision-making and implementation authority needs to be more efficient. Given a small staff, a more efficient and effective process of decisions on administrative and management issues is needed. A better understanding and communication of authorities would be welcome.

- ***Buildings & Grounds working group.** Given the age of our buildings and estimates of future capital/-

maintenance investments this area cannot be ignored. A practical 2.5-year plan for addressing many mechanical and maintenance issues is critical.

- ***First School/First Camp working group.** On a consolidated basis these two church ministries provide over 50% of the church revenue and provide educational services to over 175 children. It is important that we continue to provide a high level of educational opportunities thru these ministries. A 2.5-year plan with goals and objectives to enhance the schools should be prepared by this working group.

**Authorized at the February 27, 2024 Deacon Council Meeting.*

To sign up, call the Welcome Center (404.373.1653).

Sincerely,

David Jordan, Senior Pastor
 Wilson Holland, Chair of Deacons Council
 Phil Wise, Interim Church Administrator



Quations Concert Series

PRESENTS:



An Afternoon of Brazilian Music

Poliana Alves, mezzo-soprano
Thiago de Freitas, piano

APRIL
07

3:00
PM

Sanctuary | First Baptist Church of Decatur

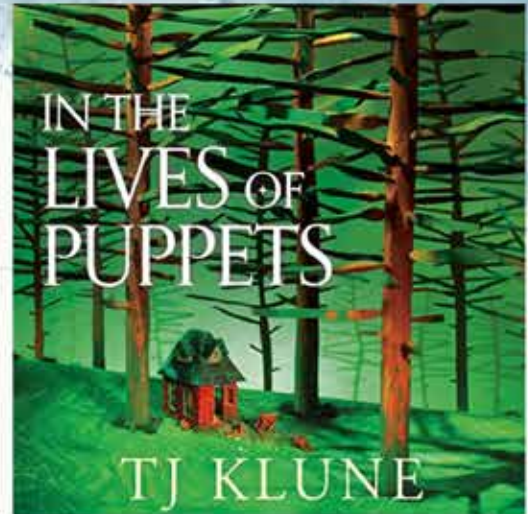
308 Clairemont Ave, Decatur, GA 30030 | www.fbcdecatur.com

UPCOMING
CONVERSATIONS

TJ KLUNE
WITH **KIRA APPLE**

In the Lives of Puppets

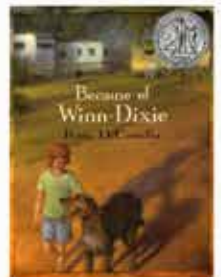
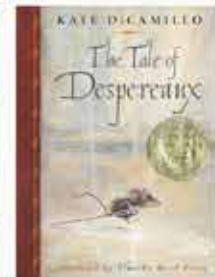
APRIL 11, 7:00 PM



KATE DICAMILLO

*Decatur Children's Book
Festival Keynote Address*

MAY 3, 5:00 PM



Register: fbcdeatur.com/conversations



CONVERSATIONS
AT FIRST BAPTIST DECATUR
Engaging the minds and connecting the spirits of our community



**GEORGIA CENTER
FOR THE BOOK**



OTHER FBBCD NEWS



DACC SINGING IN WORSHIP SERVICE
ON MARCH 17, 2024



ADMISSION
IS **FREE**

SUNDAY
28
APRIL

Decatur Avondale

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Presents Their 15th Annual

Spring Concert

"We Sing of Love,
Joy, and Unity"



4:00
PM



With special
guests - the artists of
Decatur Fine Arts Academy
providing pre-concert
music beginning at 3:35 PM

A Concert Offering will
be received at the doors
upon exit to support our
50 singers performing
at Carnegie Hall this
November.

Doors open at 3:25 pm for General Seating
Concert Reception in Carreker Hall afterwards

FBC Decatur is located at 308 Clairemont
Avenue in the heart of downtown Decatur

THE DECATUR FINE ARTS ACADEMY PRESENTS:

DFAA

2024 INAUGURAL CONCERT SERIES

**CAROLINE OWEN,
PIANO**

Solo recital of piano
preludes and
variations

**17 MARCH
2:00 PM**

**ROBERT CUSHING,
PIANO & COMPOSITION**

Featuring saxophonist Scott
Brown, soprano Casey
Margerum, and violinist
Julie Saxton

**4 MAY
2:00 PM**

**DYNAMIC DUOS
CHAMBER RECITAL**

Featuring DFAA faculty
and special guest cellist
Laura Usiskin

**2 JUNE
2:00 PM**

Sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Decatur
308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur GA 30030

Tickets:



Follow Us:



@decaturfineartsacademy



Decatur Fine Arts Academy



fbcdccatur.com/decatu-fine-arts-academy

**GRADES
6-12**

MUSICAL THEATER SUMMER INTENSIVE

**\$175/
WEEK**

**JUNE 10-14
& JULY 8-12**

**9:00 AM -
12:30 PM**

www.fbcdecaturn.com/decaturn-fine-arts-academy



SUMMER ART CAMP

DRAWING, PAINTING,
FIBER AND METAL ARTS,
AND MORE!

For rising 1st-5th graders



fbcdecaturn.com/decaturn-fine-arts-academy

**\$200/
WEEK**

JUNE 3-7
JUNE 17-21
JUNE 24-28

FBCD First Camp Summer



Join First Camp for
a summer packed with fun!

Weekly Programs

 May 28 - 31 Aqua World	 June 3 - 7 Animal Kingdom	 June 10 - 14 Young Artist	 June 17 - 21 Science Discovery
 June 24 - 28 Sports	 July 8 - 12 Fairy Tales	 July 15 - 19 Young Chef	 July 22 - 26 Magic Tree House

Hours

8:30 am-5:30 pm

Ages

5-12

Cost*

\$300/5 days

\$180/3 days

*some weeks have an extra charge for an additional (optional) field trip

Register Now!



fbcdecatur.com/first-camp

MR. MARK'S

SUMMER



AGES
6-12

JUNE 10-14 & JULY 8-12
9:00 AM - 12:30 PM*



REGISTER NOW!

\$150 per camper
with a sibling discount of \$25

*Add on afternoon camp until
5:30 PM with First Camp for
\$130/ week!

ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Singing
- ✓ Creative Movement
- ✓ Recorders
- ✓ Recreation time
- ✓ Snacks
- ✓ Percussion
- ✓ Music Games
- ✓ Music Theory
- ✓ Handbells
- ✓ And More!

FOR MORE INFO:

INFO@DECATURAVONDALECC.COM
OR FBCDECATUR.COM/DACC



OTHER FBBCD NEWS

A NOTE FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN

Our church here at 1st Baptist has so much to offer to members, but also to non-members. We have been blessed with space, programs, dedicated staff and members, opportunities, financial resources and so many other possibilities to share the Good News of Jesus. Our responsibility, according to Jesus is to go and tell.

Seems to me that we have the equipment here to carry out this command that Jesus gave, but are we meeting this opportunity? Sure, we have quite a few things that need tweaking—(sprucing up certain areas to make them tidier and more inviting). The children's areas are good examples, but the basics and foundation are here. We have recently seen some wonderful examples of improving the physical areas of the grounds and buildings. The new paint and carpet in the downstairs hall and Carreker Hall look wonderful. And I personally love the new paving in our parking lot!

As was pointed out in the follow-up meetings that were held to present the findings from the surveys we participated in last year, the most basic finding is that we need to “market” what we have to offer others. It does no good to have the goods if we do not deliver them.

Our challenge as a congregation is to use the gifts that our church has been given. A gift that is buried, as in the parable, does no good at all.

The challenge for each of us as individuals is to examine ourselves to see if we are meeting our potential. We are each responsible for what we do and don't do to further the Kingdom. You are not too young or too old.

I am considering what I want to do personally, but also what part I can contribute to make our library more accessible. We have a wonderful resource in Allen Memorial Library, but we need folks to use it.

Think about our church and what needs to be done to reach others for Jesus. What legacy do we want left for the next generation???

Marie Shepley - Librarian

BETH'S BOOKS

PICTURE BOOK

Pirate, Viking & Scientist

by Jared Chapman

A little boy, the scientist in this hilarious story, has two friends, a pirate and a Viking. Can he prove that you really CAN have more than one friend? Read and find out. Donated by the Village School.

JUVENILE FICTION

A Dandelion Wish by Kiki Thorpe

Four Never Girls who crave adventure, love anything beautiful, dream of talking to animals and believe in fairies, go to Pixie Hollow through a broken slat in a backyard fence. But what happens when the fence is fixed and one of the girls is stuck in Never Land? Read and find out! Donated by Paula Echols.

ADULT FICTION

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

Even though this is the author's debut novel, she writes with the skill of a well practiced storyteller about an Indigenous child of berry pickers in Maine who goes missing. This is a not to be missed and powerful tale of “haunting regret, bonds that never will be broken and unrelenting love”.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Occupational Outlook Handbook

by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A wealth of current information for students and jobseekers about hundreds of occupations from pilots to tree surgeons. Each occupation has information on duties required, the work environment, education and training needed, median pay, important qualities for the job, licenses, certifications and registrations needed, job outlook and employment prospects.

GIVING AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DECATUR

GIVE ONLINE

If you call FBCD your faith community, we ask that you pray about giving financially to support, strengthen, and grow our ministries. You can give online by visiting:
fbcdecatur.com/giving
or paypal.me/fbcdecatur



BUDGET OFFERINGS

Through March 17, 2024

Offerings Received MTD.....	\$38,276
Offerings YTD.....	\$212,210
Budget YTD.....	\$203,813
Budget YTD Ahead/(Behind).....	\$8,397
Global Missions Offering.....	\$2,205
Benevolence Offerings.....	\$8,903

Your gift is meaningful to us. If you would like to mail in your tithes and offerings, you can send it in an envelope addressed to:

First Baptist Church of Decatur
308 Clairemont Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030

If you would like to hand-deliver your offerings or need help setting up online giving, please contact Dilshad Premji using the information below to arrange a drop-off time or to request assistance:

Dilshad Premji • 404-373-1653 ex. 2276 • dpremji@fbcdecatur.com

We appreciate your support and dedication to the ministry of First Baptist Church of Decatur. Thank you so much!



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF DECATUR

GENERAL CONTACT

Main Office: 404-373-1653
First School: 404-373-1653 ext. 2232
Website: fbcdecatur.com
Email: fbcd@fbcdecatur.com

308 Clairemont Avenue
Decatur, Georgia 30030

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Regular Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm
Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

PASTOR ON CALL

Weekdays: 404-373-1653
Weekends: 470-202-8622