

OUTLOOK

MARCH 2024

Michelangelo in Florence: Redeeming Lost Causes

Pastor David Jordan

Decatur Avondale Children's Choir Sings in Service

March 17 at 11:15 am

Decatur Easter Egg Hunt

March 30, 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Spring Break Camp

Register Now! April 1-5

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



MICHELANGELO IN FLORENCE: REDEEMING LOST CAUSES

Happy March Everyone,

This month begins one of my favorite times of the year. With these sometimes windy and often widely varying March temperatures, we witness the world coming back to life. With this resurrection theme physically unfolding around us, we also are called to recognize this same reality in our spiritual journeys. Therefore, it's a good time to be reminded of Psalm 118:21-24, and this story of Michelangelo that I share in my second book, *Approaching the Presence: A Year for Living Faithfully*:

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

(Psalm 118:21-24)

Michelangelo was a genius consumed by creative passion. He also struggled mightily in his personal life. Yet, over the ages, his sculpture, painting, architecture, and even his poetry continue to lift us beyond ourselves. His ability to see a loveliness of the “not yet” inspires awe. He envisioned grand possibilities from humble things—stone, pigment, plaster, paper, bricks ... In his art, he consistently called forth magnificence.

In Florence, Italy in 1502, an immense block of marble stood in Santa Maria del Fiore church.

It had been a stone ready to become art but, sadly, some undiscerning craftsman bore a large hole through the very place where a figure's legs should have gone.

Piero Soderini, the mayor of Florence, sought several artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, to save the piece. Sadly, all agreed the lovely marble had been mutilated beyond redemption. One particular artist, however, had yet to be consulted.

Michelangelo, hearing of this piece, traveled to Florence. After examining the marble, he determined it could be salvaged. He simply needed to reconfigure the posture by adapting the pose of the figure around the hole.

From this seemingly unusable and soon-to-be-discarded marble, he created a young *David*, sling in hand, leaning slightly, and strikingly beautiful. Thus, the stone that was rejected by others was transformed into loveliness by the hands of a master.

This is the theme of Jesus, the theme the gospel writers want us to remember: Jesus was despised and rejected, discarded for the ash heap of history. And yet, God transforms rejection into a redemption so shocking, it did and does reshape the course of history. Therefore, the apparent tragedy of the cross becomes the beaconing cornerstone of faith.

Continued on the next page...



This same theme replays itself in lives just like yours and mine. The redemption of lost causes continues. So this month, as we move day by day in the direction of Easter, remember: if you find yourself feeling as though all is lost and hope is gone (this is not uncommon nowadays!), remember the rejected marble of Florence that became a masterpiece. And further, listen carefully again to the good news of Jesus: redemption, rejuvenation, renewal, *resurrection*. We can live this together regardless of how we feel in the meantime.

Bless you all.

PRAYER FOR THIS MONTH:

Lord, remind me again of your redeeming, transforming power. You are making something beautiful of my life. Allow me the patience to wait, the wisdom to know, and the confidence to live with courage in the meantime. May the spring that begins to surround me awaken anew the joy of your salvation and the reality of resurrection.

Love,

David

A colorful graphic with a white central box containing text for 'Youth Nights'. The background features abstract shapes in blue, yellow, red, and green. The text inside the box reads: 'JOIN US FOR Youth Nights THIS MONTH: Sunday, March 10 (6:00-8:00 pm) Sunday, March 24 (6-8 pm)'. Below the box, a white banner contains the text: 'Details: Zach Mason (zmason@fbdecatur.com)'.

JOIN US FOR

**Youth
Nights**

THIS MONTH:
Sunday, March 10 (6:00-8:00 pm)
Sunday, March 24 (6-8 pm)

Details: Zach Mason (zmason@fbdecatur.com)

MARCH SERMON TITLES

March 3

The Words of God

Psalm: 19: 7-9, 14

Exodus 20:1-17

Preacher: David Jordan

Fresh Start

Greater than Gold and Sweeter than Honey

Psalm 19

Preacher: Eric McDonnell

March 10 (Daylight Saving Time)

Watch Out for Snakes

Numbers 21: 4-9

John 3:14-21

Preacher: David Jordan

Fresh Start

Watch Out for Snakes

Numbers 21: 4-9

John 3:14-21

Preacher: David Jordan

March 17

Preacher: Shelley Woodruff

Decatur Avondale Children's Choir sings in Worship

Fresh Start

Preacher: Shelley Woodruff

March 24

Palm Sunday

The Jerusalem Agenda

Mark 11:1-11

Preacher: David Jordan

Fresh Start

Palm Sunday

The Jerusalem Agenda

Mark 11:1-11

Preacher: David Jordan

March 29

Good Friday Service

March 31

Easter Sunday

Breakfast

Combined Service; One Worship

Looking for Jesus (Now)

Psalm 118:21-24

Mark 16:1-8

Preacher: David Jordan

WEDNESDAY EVENING MEALS

Wednesday, March 6th

Pasta Bar

Salad Bar

Dessert of the Week

Wednesday, March 13th

Stuffed Baked Chicken

Potato Salad

Green Beans

Salad Bar

Yeast Rolls

Dessert of the Week

Wednesday, March 20th

Taco Bar

Yellow Rice

Black Beans

Salad Bar

Chips and Salsa

Dessert of the Week

Wednesday, March 27th

Beef Tips

Mashed Potatoes

Field Peas

Toss Salad

Yeast Roll

Dessert of the Week



FBCD

Important Dates

Mar. 17 **DACC Sings in Worship**
11:15 am (Sanctuary Service)

Mar. 24 **Palm Sunday**
8:45 am (Fresh Start) &
11:15 am (Sanctuary)

Mar. 29 **Good Friday**
Church Office Closed
Service at 7:30 pm

Mar. 30 **Easter Egg Hunt**
10:00 am

Mar. 31 **Easter Sunday**
One Worship
9:00 am breakfast, 10:00 am
small groups, 11:15 am service

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

DECATUR AVONDALE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

A Community Choir
of Excellence,
Artistry and
Musicianship

Sunday
MAR.17
11:15 AM



**SINGS IN OUR
TRADITIONAL SANCTUARY**

Worship Service 11:15 am

www.decatravondalechildrenschoir.com

Make plans
now to hear this
amazing choir of over
100 children and youth
voices as they present
beautiful sacred song
selections in our
Sanctuary Worship
Service.



Decatur
**Easter
Egg Hunt**

Special Appearance
by the Easter Bunny

POPUP MARKET
of Booths &
Vendors

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Saturday, March 30
First Baptist Church
of Decatur

3 AGE GROUPS
Preschool
K-2nd grade
3rd grade & up

308 Clairemont Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030

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

FBCD First Camp

SPRING BREAK CAMP

April 1-5
8:30 am-5:30 pm

Join First Camp for spring break! Each day has a special theme. Activities include arts and crafts, group games, an optional movie, and plenty of movement!

Students should bring a bottle of water and lunch (no tree nuts or peanuts). We'll provide morning and afternoon snacks.

\$50/day

Grades
PreK-5

fbcdeatur.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





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

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

OTHER FBBCD NEWS

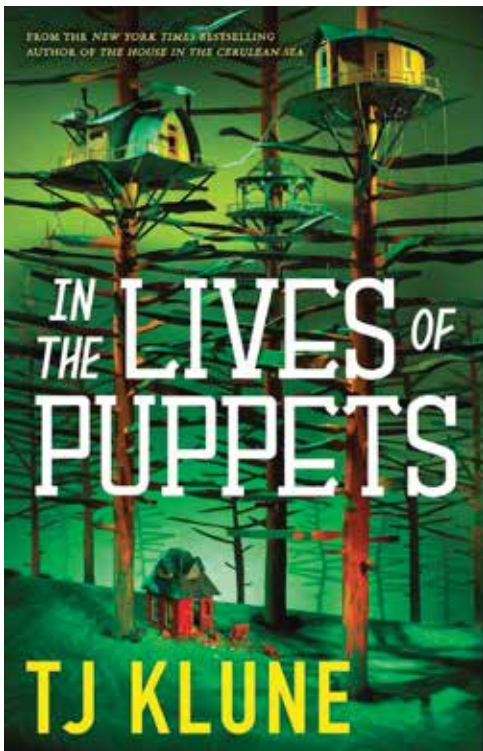
Wings of Hope

OurSong & Atlanta
Philharmonic Orchestra

March 3, 3:00 pm
FBCD Sanctuary



Tickets:
atlantaphilharmonic.org



TJ KLUNE

WITH KIRA APPLE

In the Lives of Puppets

MARCH 13 AT 7:00 PM

FBCDECATUR.COM/CONVERSATIONS



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



**GEORGIA CENTER
FOR THE BOOK**

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/decaturl-fine-arts-academy



**GRADES
6-12**

**\$175/
WEEK**

**MUSICAL
THEATER
SUMMER
INTENSIVE**

Camp activities include voice, movement, and acting instruction; scene work; sessions on musical theater history and literature; and much more!

JUNE 10-14 & JULY 8-12

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

www.fbcdecatur.com/decatur-fine-arts-academy

OTHER FBBCD NEWS

A NOTE FROM YOUR LIBRARIAN

February is behind and Valentine's Day is over for another year. Sweethearts, special candy and cards are wonderful. Children thoroughly enjoy getting all of those cute little valentines at school and also cupcakes with tiny hearts on them.

But why not think of another kind of love that is good for every month? This best love is described in the Bible. God says that we are to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength and also then to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Wow! Analyze this! The dictionary says to analyze is to learn the nature and relationship of the parts by a close and careful examination.

So if we examine how we are to love God, careful exploration seems to establish the fact that our whole being should be centered around praising God and doing His will in our life. That's a tall and impossible order. Then what are we to do???

Through prayer and Bible study, our aim is to work toward fulfilling this command. In sharing love for our neighbor, (whoever that might be) I think we come closest to loving God the way he degrades.

For me, learning to love as God directs has continued to be a growing experience. One has to live and "do life" to better understand God's meaning.

Pray for revelation to see how to embrace others to better love and embrace the Lord our God. Always a work in progress!

Marie Shepley - Librarian

BETH'S BOOKS

PICTURE BOOK

Bear Finds Easter

by Karma Wilson

The author's delightful rhymes and the illustrator's beautifully detailed and charming pictures bring to life the magic of the season and the joy of tracking down hidden eggs. Donated by Paula Echols.

JUVENILE FICTION

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Goff

"A troublesome 12-year-old orphan, staying with an elderly artist who really needs her, remembers the only time she was happy in a foster home, with a family that truly seemed to care about her."

Donated by Carolyn Jones.

ADULT FICTION

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store

by James McBride

A masterful storyteller writes compassionately about a 1972 community in Potsdam, Pennsylvania that houses immigrant Jews and African Americans living side by side, sharing ambitions and sorrows. The *Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* is at the center of the dilapidated neighborhood. This endlessly rich saga highlights the different ways in which people look out for each other. Not to be missed!

ADULT NON-FICTION

Killing the Witches

by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard

The newest book by O'Reilly goes far beyond the fateful witch trials in Salem, Massachusetts. It "tells the dramatic history of how the Puritan tradition and the power of early American ministers shaped the origins of the United States, influencing the Founding Fathers, the American Revolution and even the Constitutional Convention." A compulsively readable book. Donated by Linda and Freddy Bailey.

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 February 18, 2024

Offerings Received MTD.....	\$45,196
Offerings YTD.....	\$131,494
Budget YTD.....	\$129,943
Budget YTD Ahead/(Behind).....	\$1,551
Global Missions Offering.....	\$1,398
Benevolence Offerings.....	\$5,904

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

The church office will be closed
 on Friday, March 29 for Good Friday.

PASTOR ON CALL

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