

# WHATEVER IT TAKES

## FINISH LINE & BEYOND

DEC 2025

We are called to do **WHATEVER IT TAKES** to further the Gospel through the church, in our community, and around the world!

### WHATEVER IT TAKES... THE FINISH LINE & BEYOND

Two years ago, we launched **WHATEVER IT TAKES** with a prayer that God would do something new both in us and through us. Together, we've seen Him stretch our trust, deepen our generosity, and multiply ministry impact through our church, in our city, and around the world.

Because of your faithfulness, we have seen updated facilities open the door for greater ministry, a new ministry residency program develop future leaders, increased support for global and local missions, and new mission trip experiences take shape. We've also seen church communities begin in assisted living communities across Macon County. We've also expanded our mental health support through our Care Ministry and I'll Start podcast. And through it all, lives have been transformed — countless stories of spiritual growth through Rooted, young people called into ministry, and people baptized into new life in Christ.

As we approach the finish line of this two-year journey, we are deeply grateful for a church that continues to live like the believers in Acts 2:42–47 — “devoted, generous, united, and filled with awe at all God is doing.” Let's finish strong, grateful for what He's done and eager for what's next!

The best stories of **WHATEVER IT TAKES** aren't behind us... they're just beginning!



“I am more on fire for God than I have been in a long time.”

ALEX  
Fall 2025 ROOTED participant

### GROWING IN FAITH THROUGH ROOTED

As the first churchwide session of Rooted came to a close, groups gathered to celebrate what God had done through worship, testimonies and baptisms. This fall, 272 adults took part in Rooted groups, with an additional 83 children participating in Rooted Crew (birth-5th grade) and 85 students in Student Life.

**Joining Rooted was a big step for Alex and her husband.** “We didn't know many people from the church,” Alex shares. “I was worried who we would get matched up with in the group. If we didn't get along or ‘click’ with other couples, it could be awkward or hinder the experience.”

Those fears quickly faded. “Right from the beginning, most people got surprisingly honest,” Alex said. “I knew if it was starting that way, when we didn't even know each other's names, it was going to be a good experience.”

CONTINUED ON BACK ►





CONTINUED FROM FRONT ►

Over the next several weeks, Alex entered into a time of profound personal growth and spiritual rhythms. “I have made a new commitment to spend time with God every day,” she noted. “My husband and I started doing the quiet time together every night, discussing the readings and questions. We’ve talked about things for the first time in our 11 years of marriage. It’s not only bringing me closer to God, but closer to my husband as well.”

Alex’s story is just one of many from Rooted. We’re excited to see how God continues to work in the days and years ahead.

**The next session of Rooted starts Sunday, January 18.** Find out more and register at [firstdecatur.org/rooted](https://firstdecatur.org/rooted)



**ROOTED**

*Pictured above is one of our ROOTED groups that served at New Life Pregnancy Center Thrift Store during SERVE WEEK in October 2025*

## Financial Update

As we come to the end of **WHATEVER IT TAKES**, there are two ways to cross a finish line — stumbling or sprinting. And together, we’re choosing to sprint across the line!



**16%**

of the budget is dedicated to missions



**72**

baptisms in 2025 (& counting!)



**420**

people engaged in ROOTED



**96**

individuals attending assisted living churches weekly



**250+**

guests gifts have been given out



**46**

participated in international missions trips  
*(in the last 12 months)*

We’re so close to reaching our **WHATEVER IT TAKES** goal, and every gift between now and December 31, 2025 will help us cross that finish line well. Thankful for your generosity as we finish the race strong and step boldly into all God has next.

*Pastor Brian*



Received as of 10/31/25  
**\$8.7M**



Pledged to Date  
**\$9.45M**



**TWO-YEAR GOAL:**

**\$10.8 MILLION**



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