

WHATEVER IT TAKES

QUARTERLY
UPDATE
FALL 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... TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

This year, God has been moving in remarkable ways through our church family. 43 people publicly declared their faith in Jesus through lake baptisms this August, bringing us to 70 baptisms and counting so far this year. We've also seen record attendance with weekend worship gatherings up 23% over last year.

We believe this growth has more to do with what God is doing in our country and our community than anything we could manufacture on our own. Our heart is to join him in the work he is already doing — and to do whatever it takes to make the most of every opportunity he gives us. As Paul writes in Colossians 4:5, “Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.”

That also means being careful not to stand in the way. In Acts 15:19, the church leaders agreed, “We should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.” That's why we're intentional about creating space, removing barriers, and making it easy for guests to connect with Christ and His church.

Here's how you can help remove barriers and make room for more people to meet Jesus:

- ☛ Scooch toward the middle of your row to open aisle seats for guests and help fill every seat in the West Auditorium.
- ☛ Consider worshiping in the East Auditorium to free up space in the West Auditorium where most guests tend to attend first.
- ☛ Park toward the back of the parking lot to leave closer spots for guests and those with mobility needs.
- ☛ Invite someone to sit with you if you notice them looking for a seat alone.
- ☛ Help parents with kids. Point them toward the FirstKids Check-In or offer a friendly hand if they look unsure where to go.
- ☛ Engage and welcome guests. A simple “hello” or warm greeting can help someone feel seen and valued before they even step into the service.

Every open seat, every open spot, every act of hospitality matters. This is what **WHATEVER IT TAKES looks like!**



EXPANDING OUR REACH IN ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITIES

One of the goals of **WHATEVER IT TAKES** has been to ensure that every assisted living community in our area has a consistent, caring church presence — a place where residents can worship, pray, and experience the love of Christ right where they are. We're excited to now have eight assisted living communities, with Primrose of Decatur as our newest addition (*pictured at top right*).

We are caring for men and women in a later chapter of life who still need connection, encouragement, and spiritual care. By showing up, we're reminding them that they are not forgotten, and that God's love is for every generation.

Because of you, residents across our community are hearing the gospel, worshipping together, and being reminded of the hope they have in Christ. And we're not stopping here — we'll keep going until every assisted living community in our area has a church family walking alongside them.



Financial Update

In ministry, the work that matters most is often the least visible — faithful, behind-the-scenes decisions that quietly create momentum for everything else we do. Check out these two recent events:



Parking Lot Refresh: It may not be glamorous, but it matters. A safe, accessible, and welcoming campus starts before anyone even walks through the doors. (*pictured above*)



Voluntary Financial Audit: This year, we've chosen — on our own initiative — to engage Capin Crouse, a firm that specializes in auditing churches and ministries. Their independent, full-scale review will help ensure that what we say about financial integrity is exactly what we practice. We see this as an investment in building the kind of trust and accountability that honors God and our church family.

Faithfulness in the small things builds trust in big things. Whether it's a newly paved parking lot or a thorough audit, we want you to know your generosity is handled with care, and we're committed to doing **WHATEVER IT TAKES** to honor God and the trust you've placed in us.

Pastor Brian



GIVE ONLINE

Set up a consistent weekly or monthly giving schedule online at:

firstdecat.org/give

FIRST
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH



firstdecat.org

3350 N MacArthur Rd | Decatur, IL 62526
call or text (217) 875-3350

- Received as of 8/31/25
\$7.9M
- Pledged to Date
\$9.45M



TWO-YEAR GOAL:

\$10.8 MILLION