

CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

During the Festival of Lights, known as Hanukkah, we find Jesus in Jerusalem after He had healed a man born blind. His teaching that followed the miracle seems mysterious, intriguing, and inviting. *Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.* John 10:1 The teaching appears to be answering the question, “Who is to lead God’s flock?” The religious leaders had just expelled the man who received his sight from the synagogue. John 9:34-35 The discourse seems to be directed toward the Pharisees from 9:40 who had asked Him, “*We are not blind too, are we?*”

Likening the Pharisees to thieves and robbers, Jesus reveals the intention of their hearts, *The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy.* John 10:10 A few months earlier, during the festival of Booths in Jerusalem Jesus accused them, *You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father...* John 8:44a

Later in the conversation Jesus will liken the religious leaders to hired hands that do not care for the welfare of the sheep. John 10:12-13 Earlier in His ministry, Jesus was moved with compassion because, *they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.* Matt 9:36 Of course they, the Pharisees, *did not understand what those things were which He had been saying to them.* John 10:6

Conversely, in reference to false shepherds, Jesus will reveal His mission to the *lost sheep of Israel* Matt 15:24 He will reveal Himself in two different ways; the door and the good shepherd.

I am the door; if anyone enters through Me he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture. John 10:9 Compared to the robbers and thieves, *I came that they (sheep) might have life, and might have it abundantly.* John 10:10b He reveals Himself as “the” door. Not a door! This is a vital detail! Jesus tells His disciples in John 14:6 *I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.* Either Jesus was a liar, or He was telling the truth, there is no middle of the road on this one!

Secondly, He declares Himself the *Good Shepherd* John 10:11,14 Prophetically, Jesus is once again predicting His suffering and crucifixion as He declares, *the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.* John 10:11 Jesus reveals a very important relationship detail concerning Himself and His sheep; *he calls his sheep by name, vs 3, his sheep follow him because they know his voice, vs 4, I know My own, and My own know Me, vs 14* Its not just for Israel that Jesus serves in this capacity, but for us as well. *And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.* John 10:16 That is, *...those who believe in Me through their (disciples) words.* John 17:20 Everyone through the ages down to and including us fall within Jesus words.

There arose a division again among the Jews because of these words. John 10:19 Reaction to His teaching, very much like the teaching itself, has traversed throughout time. Some will get it and some won’t, that is just the way it is going to be.

(Just for you “Chosen” fans reading). They accused Him of having a demon and being insane while other recognized the miracles He was doing and adamantly stood with Him.

So, will you stand with the religious leaders and attempt to discredit and even stone Him, or will you, like the man born blind declare, “*who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?*” John 9:36 Either Jesus of Nazareth is who He claimed to be, the Son of God the Savior of the world, or He is not. There is no in-between. As this age comes to a close, mankind is being forced into a position of choosing. Will you follow in the footsteps of Judas and betray Jesus, or like Simon Peter and declare, “*Thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” Matt 16:16

The time has also come where our words must be backed up by our actions. Does Jesus know you by name? Do you recognize His voice? Do you follow Him as He leads you to still waters and green pastures? Do you know how to follow Him? Have you surrendered your heart and life to Him? *If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.* Rom 10:9

Pastor Steve



Prayer Concerns

Week Ending January 25, 2025

Lorelai Bostic, Wendy Johnson,
Scooter Smith, Believers of
Ukraine

Week Ending January 18, 2025,

Bobby Mitchell, Michael Reed,
Loved ones in Israel & Palestine,
Rev. Bill Pollack, Baby Porter,
Steve & Sylvia Spooner and Wis-
dom for our government

Week Ending January 11, 2025

Sam & Margaret Conner, Bryan
Green, Diane Grych's cousin,
James Hopkins, Joan Hunter,
John O'Dell, Stephen Shrewsber-
ry, the Family of Leroy Turner,
George Sink, Linda Underwood,
Jerry & Sandra Wimmer

In the Military:

Mike Kennedy, Devin Lusk, T. J.
Morris, Robert Worrell

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Betty Doyle, Mike Elmore, Lola
Fanning, Evelyn Jenkins

**Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement
Facilities:**

Glenwood Healthcare Center:
Cleo Halsey

Glenwood healthcare Center:
Gary Reed

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Church Council

Tuesday, February 11,, 2025

Elders Meeting — 6:00 p.m.

Ministry Teams —6:30 p.m.

Social Media Broadcast

Follow us on Facebook at First Christian
Princeton WV.

Website: firstchristianprincetonwv.org

Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV

E-mail: fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com



GAME NIGHT

You are all invited to game night. Come fellowship together and enjoy yourself. There will be board games, word games, and card games and light snacks will be provided. You are welcome to bring your favorite games or snacks. Invite your friends and family. Game night will be on **Sunday, February 9th starting at 6 pm.**

DINNER THEATER

The youth are hosting a "True Love" Dinner Theater, **Friday, February 14 at 6:00 p.m.** The youth will serve and provide the entertainment. Cost is \$5.00 a person at the door. Kids eat free. RSVP by **Wednesday, February 12th, if you plan to attend.** Sign-up sheets will be at both entrances. Mark your calendar and plan for an evening full of fun, food and fellowship as we focus on God's True Love.



FEBRUARY 2025

Elders: Michael Reed, Kenneth Reeves
Deacons: Willie Nelson, Randy Winfrey
Deaconess: Linda Cheverton
Lay Reader: Linda Cheverton

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, February 11 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship, with faith, family and friends.

From the Archives



Rick and Doreen Newton's recent mission trip to help the victims of Hurricane Helene in Asheville, North Carolina, continues a long tradition of mission work by our congregation.

Another hurricane related mission trip occurred during our centennial year. On March 25, 2007, four men from our congregation—Randall Dawson, Al Bell, Pastor Gary Lyons, and David Coburn—left on a mission trip to New Orleans to help repair damage from Hurricane Katrina. The church had been discussing a mission trip for a while and the group originally intended to put their faith to work outside the United States, but in the aftermath of Katrina, they realized they were needed closer to home.

They worked at the site of Westside Christian Church, which was located in the Algiers section of New Orleans, one of the oldest areas of the city. The church's facilities were destroyed in the hurricane and volunteers have worked tirelessly to build a mission's station; a site that would serve a church headquarters, as well as offer volunteers a place to eat, sleep and organize their restoration projects for the next few years. The group spent much of their week working on the parsonage that would accompany the mission's station. The church pastor's and his wife had been living in a travel trailer near the site and making the best of their situation.

Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

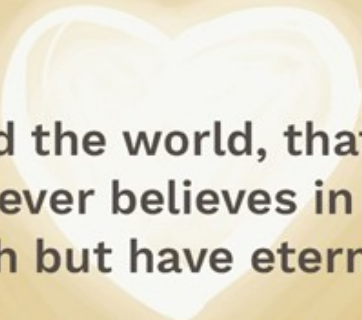
February 2025

First Christian Church



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9 David Kaluk 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:00 PM Game Night	10	11 John Osborne 9:00 AM Senior Breakfast/ Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams	12 Rusty & Cheri Hedrick Bonnie Buckner 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	13	14 6:00 PM "True Love" Dinner Theater	15																																																																																											
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23 Amber Wyrick 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	24	25	26 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program	27 Michael Reed	28																																																																																												

Agape Love



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

(John 3:16, ESV)



Notes of Gratitude

Dearest Church Family, Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Love, *Randy & Drema Wall*

First Christian Church,
Thank you so much for being amazing saints. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.
With love and peace, *Debra*

Women’s Bible Study

Starting **Sunday, February 23rd at 6pm**, we will be having women’s Bible study. It will be a 7 week study called Rest-From Eden to Eternity. We will be tracing the theme of rest through the Bible, learning how to truly find rest in Jesus Christ, and discover how God brings His people everlasting rest. Hope you can join us. Please let Andrea or Teressa know if you are interested and want to sign-up. The books are \$10.00.

FCC Library

First Christian Church has a wonderful library called Noah’s Ark Library located on the top floor just to the left of the stairs. It’s a wonderful resource of books and DVDs for all ages. There is also a display table on the left side of the hallway next to the Chapel as you enter the sanctuary.. There you are able to check out books and movies. FCC is currently looking for someone who would be interested in spending a few hours a week keeping the library organized and the display table up to date. The library is a great resource for the Sunday School teachers. The library does have a small budget in which to purchase books and DVDs. If anyone is interested, please contact Pastor Steve or the church office.



Sanctuary Flowers

If anyone would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in honor of/or in memory of a loved one, there is a flower chart in the Narthex (front of the church by the front door) where you can write your name on the date you would like. Then contact the church office the **Wednesday** before the **Sunday** that you want the flowers to let Debra know who the loved one is. The cost is \$30 for the two vases of flowers which you get to take home after the service. The florist that the church uses is Belinda’s on Oakvale Road. Belinda delivers the flowers to the church.

Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Tonni Bennett*, for the month of **January 2025**. We are looking forward to having *Linda Cheverton* as the Lay Reader for the month of **February 2025**.



First Christian Church
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Princeton, WV 24740
Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister
firstchristianprincetonwv.org
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