

# CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



So often we feel we know or understand the heart of God when the truth be told there is so much more to who He is than we can understand. What does God like, dislike, or prefer, how can we please Him or grieve His Holy Spirit? These questions have answers at can be found in Scriptures, however it requires more than a casual reading.

*For God is not a God of confusion but of peace...* 1Cor 14:33a In a world full of turmoil and disorder, we belong to a Creator whose character is contrary to the world we are experiencing. A deeper glance into the cosmos reveals a very detailed organized interlocking system where life and matter not only coexist but are interdependent as well. To much science and mathematics for us ordinary joes, yeah I agree, but a much deeper understanding of a simple truth revealed to the church. As a piece of God's creation, He made us in the same fashion to be beings of peace and order. The turmoil we so often find ourselves in is not the intent or working of our heavenly Father. As a matter of fact, *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Phil 4:6-7 If I desire a deeper understanding of God's character, to take the disorder and turmoil in my life and turn it over to God and allow Him to work, He will make peace and order out of it.

The entire Bible, Old and New Testaments, are full of teachings concerning who God really is, and what He is truly like. *Thus says the LORD, "Let not a*

*wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.* Jer 9:23-24 So much is buried within these two verses; God is searchable! It is achievable to understand and know God! As a matter of the truth, this is something we are to pursue in such a manner where worldly wisdom, strength, and riches, do not even compare. To understand and know God should become the core purpose of our being; body, soul, and spirit. Later on in the book of Jeremiah, God will go on to say through His prophet; *And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.* Jer 29:13

Secondly, we find that God isn't just a talker, but a doer as well. Jeremiah 9:24 declares that *the LORD who exercises, to do or to make, accomplish, bring forth, and many other applications for that Hebrew word.* To the agnostic, one who believes in a God but denies His engagement in creation, we find an engaged, active, working Creator who; *...causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* Rom 8:28b

Thirdly, lovingkindness, justice, and mercy are three relational qualities that God is not only engaged in but; *delights in!* When people and situations are handled with these qualities, we find that it brings "delight" to God our heavenly Father. We can understand this as parents,

when our children treat each other in this manner how much joy does it bring to our hearts? How much more is God "delighted" when we treat each other this way? These are responses that God Himself engages in and He expects us to be gracious as well. Lovingkindness to protect and provide for, justice to respond in truth and obedience to His Law, righteousness to simply do the right thing according to His word and not our own beliefs or preferences, books can and have been written on each of these individually.

Everywhere we look in the Bible, every author we read, will reveal such hidden and not so hidden truths about the character of God. Our heavenly Father desires to be known by His children. His heart is that we not only find Him but mimic Him in His character following the steps of Jesus Christ, His Son our Lord, as He lived out for us a perfect example. The very word Christian means to be Christlike. The church at Antioch were called this by those unbelievers who recognized this in them. Acts 11:26

How well does His church know Him? How well does His church follow Him? How well does His church disciple new believers in the characteristics of God? It is so very vital that followers of Christ dig deeply into our Bibles and find such passages and allow the Holy Spirit to open our understanding of our Creator and then empower us to be His hands and feet in this chaotic and broken world. May His church be His church.

*Pastor Steve*

**Prayer Concerns**

**Week Ending Dec. 21 2024**

*Sam & Margaret Conner, Bryan Green, James Hopkins, Joan Hunter, Stephen Shrewsberry, George Sink, Linda Underwood, Jerry & Sandra Wimmer*

**Week Ending Dec. 14, 2024,**

*Wendy Johnson, Baby Porter, Connie Scott, Scooter Smith, Donna Stevens, Believers of Ukraine*

**Week Ending Dec. 7, 2024**

*Myrna Bunch, Cleo Halsey, Loved ones in Israel & Palestine, Rev. Bill Pollack, James Rose, and Wisdom for our government*

**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, January 7, 2024**

*Church Council*

**Tuesday, January 14, 2024**

*Elders Meeting — 6:00 p.m.  
Ministry Teams —6:30 p.m.  
Board Meeting—7:00 p.m.*

**Social Media Broadcast**

*Follow us on Facebook at First Christian Princeton WV.*

*Website: [firstchristianprincetonwv.org](http://firstchristianprincetonwv.org)*

*Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV*

*E-mail: [fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com)*



**Welcome to 2025!!** As most of us do with a new year we look back and remember the positives with smiles and a warm feeling and the negatives with an 'I'll try to do better' attitude. Volunteering is always a good way to serve and feel good about it. FCC has many opportunities for service. The church has a wonderful children's library which needs someone to care for it. The Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) which meets monthly and concentrates on helping the church and community with various projects and visiting with our older members in nursing homes needs more women. We need men who have a desire to start a men's fellowship. Our beloved church is over 100 years old and is constantly in need of repairs. Would you be willing to help out on the property committee to help keep the building running smoothly? Do you have a heart for community outreach? FCC already donates to several wonderful organizations in our community but are there needs in our community that could use helping hands? FCC needs a person who could bring those needs before the church.

The church needs couples to help with the children's church on Sunday mornings. This would be shared with other people. The church needs people who like to cook and be willing to help the Fellowship committee with church dinners. We need singers and hand-bell ringers who would be willing to practice once a week. The Worship committee is looking for people who have ideas about the church service and decorating the sanctuary on special occasions. This is quite a list. If there is something that sparks an interest and you'd like to know more please let Pastor Steve know.

**Happy New Year** everyone!

**JANUARY 2025**

Elders: Larry Wimmer, Kenneth Reeves

Deacons: Mark Murphy, Manny Testa

Deaconess: Deborah Murphy, Jesse Testa

Lay Reader: Tonni Bennett

**Christian Women Fellowship**

Nuts! We still have mixed nuts and pecan pieces available. We know that the major baking season is almost over but, these nuts can be placed in the freezer for all the baking and snacking for next year. We appreciate all the support we have received for this fundraiser. We use the money to support our outreach projects and purchase items needed for the church. A special thank you to Beverly Reed who has graciously places cases of pecans and mixed nuts in her salon (for years) and sold them to her customers.

**Senior Breakfast**

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, January 14 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship, with faith, family and friends.

**From the Archives**



A letter to the congregation dated May 16, 1944, announced a fundraising effort, Lynchburg College Victory Day, for Sunday, May 21, 1944. Lynchburg College was a Disciples' four-year college located in Lynchburg, VA. In past years, some of our young people attended the college.

The goal of the Victory Day offering was to raise \$500 (1944 dollars), which was our share of the \$60,000 (1944 dollars) that Disciples churches in the area were

trying to raise to relieve the indebtedness of the college. The Board had met prior to the letter, approved the goal of \$500, and appointed a committee consisting of Walter L. White (chairman), Mrs. C.T. Snidow, H.K. Martin and Pastor John Dunn to organize the fundraising effort.

In an indirect comment on the size of our congregation then, the letter notes that the goal could be met if each member would contribute just one dollar.

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

# January 2025

First Christian Church

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div>Dec 2024</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					<div>Feb 2025</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		<div>1</div> <div>Scott Barnes; Shirley White</div> <div>New Year's Day Office Closed</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	
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<div>12</div> <div>Jason Anderson; Jeff Coburn</div> <div>10:00 AM Sunday School</div> <div>11:00 AM Morning Service</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Margaret Conner; Judah Vipperman</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Pamela Bell; Alisha Bell</div> <div>9:00 AM Senior Breakfast Cracker Barrel</div> <div>6:00 PM Elders Meeting</div> <div>6:30 PM Ministry Teams</div> <div>7:00 PM Board Meeting</div>	<div>15</div> <div>7:00 PM Adult Bible Study</div> <div>7:00 PM Children's Program</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Rusty Coburn</div> <div>6:00 PM Music Rehearsal</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Jessica Testa</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Donald Swim; Sammy Terry</div>																																																																																				
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Pray for PEACE



Fellowship

The Fellowship Team would like to thank everyone for the wonderful food and fellowship at our Christmas dinner. It was awesome to look out over the Fellowship Hall and see so many people. A special thank you to everyone who helped cleanup, it was greatly appreciated.

Membership



Prince Bhebhe the son of Pastor Ishmael and Memory Bhebhe, graduated from Concord University in **December 2024**. He received his degree in Accounting. Congratulations! We wish the best for him.

Community Outreach Events

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 **Sunday, January 12th starting at 6 pm.**

Women’s Fellowship Night

Come enjoy fellowship and food with ladies from the church. All ladies are invited. There will be a short devotional. Fellowship night will be at Andrea’s house. The date is **Sunday, January 26 at 6 pm.**

Women’s Bible Study

Starting **Sunday, February 23rd**, we will be having women’s Bible study. It will be a 6 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 Tressa know if you are interested and want to sign up.

Worship

We wish to thank the Advent Readers, *Ishmael & Memory Bhebhe, Gretchen Harshbarger & Rylee Harshbarger, Dan & Deidre Crutchfield, and Donna & Kenneth Reeves, Jerod & Victoria Vipperman* for the month of **December 2024**. We are looking forward to having *Tonni Bennett* as the Lay Reader for the month of **January 2025**.

To our church family,  
We are so overwhelmed by your love and giving. FCC has been such a tremendous example of caring and accepting church family that we are **so** blessed to be a part of. As we look forward to a new year may God bless you and keep you, may He empower and use our fellowship for His glory and kingdom.

*Pastor Steve & Teressa*



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