

CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



And this is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 1John 1:5 From Him and in Him, in verse three we understand that; ... *our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.* 1John 1:3b God declaring of Himself, “*there is no darkness at all.*” Dimness, obscurity, the root of the Greek word used there, shadiness is still difficult to pinpoint the exact expression of the term used. Other places in the New Testament where the same word is used include; *And the light shineth in darkness* John 1:5, ...*he who followeth Me shall not walk in darkness* John 8:12, *But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.* 1John 2:11 In this reference the same Greek word is used all three times. Following up on John 1:5 Jesus continues, ...*and the darkness did not comprehend it.* John 1:5b

So, ...*there is no darkness at all.* The application here is not in the physical realm, were dealing with spiritual and mental worlds. A similar scripture concerning this verse, *O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!* Psalm 34:8

First, I must acknowledge that the overflow of the spiritual and soul applications will spill into the physical world. The blessings of following and obeying Jesus Christ often produces blessings that manifest themselves in a physical tangible manner. Care must be taken to ensure that these blessing, or lack therein, do not dictate the spiritual or emotional strength of an individual. A case in point is the man born blind and Jesus’ explanation that *it was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.* John 9:3 or the

storyline of Job and his *testing* by the hand of Satan.

...in Him there is no darkness at all. Dimness, obscurity, Jesus often taught that the people were to “walk in the light” *We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.* John 9:4-5 Since God is good and always good, and never “bad”, He will always be working for what is best in us. *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.* Rom 8:28 “*At all...*”, no darkness at all and yet so often God gets blamed for all the darkness in this present world. Too often God is our target when things do not go so well for us. The argument often goes as such; “If God is all powerful, all knowing, and everywhere, then why does He allow this bad stuff to happen?” These thoughts and statements from us only serve to expose our ignorance concerning the character of God and His love for us.

To walk in Jesus, hence to walk in God as the two are the same, is to walk in light, truth, righteousness, justice, and goodness. Consequently, the context of John’s epistle will go on to declare; *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.* 1John 1:6-7 So according to John, our fellowship and church family unity will be structured around each one of us walking individually in His light. The closer we walk the more of the light we will be walking in. The teachings of Jesus interpreted to us by His Holy Spirit will serve as our instruction manual. But more than simply hearing, we are to listen and obey Him.

The spiritual state of the church does not, nor has it for many years, reflect the pattern established within the first century church. It seems we are more concerned to follow the patterns of our materialistic economic driven cultured economy hoping to squeeze a portion of Christian faith into our already predetermined busy schedule; we attend church as long as it doesn’t take too much of our time, we will give as long as we get a tax break for our donations, we will love others as long as they do not inconvenience us or get in our way. It seems too often we walk in just a little light.

There is no darkness in God at all! There is no darkness in His kingdom, nor is there any darkness in His plan. Simply put, any darkness within our lives is a result of us choosing not to walk in His light. We are either walking after our own vices or walking in the darkness of our mortal enemy. Which reveals another important point, we will not nor can we walk in perfect light as we participate in this fallen world. *If we say we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* John’s admonition only intensifies as he goes on, *If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.* 1John 1:8-10

As this age comes to a close and the wrath of God followed by the return of Jesus to this earth draws very near, may we walk in the light as He is in the light while it is still day. May we realize the seriousness of the times and be about our Father’s business.

Pastor Steve

Prayer Concerns

Week Ending April 26, 2025

Jack & Kathy Crutchfield, Buddy Raines

Week Ending April 19, 2025

Trista Geer, Wendy Johnson, Family of Thurman “Teddy” Shepherd, (Christie Reed’s brother), Whitney Signon, Scooter Smith, Believers of Ukraine

Week Ending April 12, 2025

Kay Arrington, Family of John Byrd, John Clark, Connie Scott, Steve & Sylvia Spooner, Shirley Vipperman, Wisdom for our government, Love ones in Israel & Palestine

In the Military:

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

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Betty Doyle, Mike Elmore, Evelyn Jenkins

Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement Facilities:

Glenwood Healthcare Center:
Cleo Halsey
Glenwood Healthcare Center:
Gary Reed

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Church Council

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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

YouTube: First Christian Princeton WV

E-mail: fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com



Christian Education

The adult class or the Son Seekers are continuing with the beautiful study, Max on Life. With a solid base on profound Biblical teachings, the study is response to real, important and challenging questions. Questions about family, finances, and forgiveness. Unsettling questions regarding illness, death, and eternity. The study helps you to hear what CHRIST has to say about all that. Join the class at **10:00 am every Sunday** morning and get your encouragement. *Pastor Ishmael*

MAY 2025

Elders: Kenneth Reeves, Larry Wimmer
Deacons: Mark Murphy, Manny Testa
Deaconess: Tia Kaluk, Christie Reed
Lay Reader: James Folmar

Membership



Sunday, May 11th, we will be celebrating Mother’s Day. All the ladies of the church will receive a gift. There will be a special recognition for the oldest and the youngest mother. We look forward to this special day. Thank you. *Donna Reeves Membership Ministry*

Christian Women Fellowship

CWF will not meet again until **Thursday, August 7, 2025.** Place and time will be determined at a later date.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, May 13, at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship, with faith, family and friends.

From the Archive



Our fourth pastor was Reuben Mills Sims, who pastored our church from 1921 to 1926. During his pastorate, plans were drawn for the educational unit part of our building and part of the foundation was laid.

Unfortunately, our information about him is limited.

He was born February 18, 1883, in Louisa County, Virginia, to Benjamin and Virginia Swift Sims. He received a BA degree from Lynchburg College in 1906 and an MA degree from Transylvania College in Kentucky (date unknown).

He married Blanche Augusta Hanna on October 4, 1916, in Campbell County, Kentucky.

Before coming to Princeton, he pastored churches in Milton, Kentucky, Big Stone Gap, Virginia, and Martinsville, Virginia.

The 1930 census reports him as living in Bristol, Tennessee. While in Bristol, he pastored Central Holston Christian Church.

He died on February 17, 1958, in Henry County, Georgia, and was buried there.

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

May 2025

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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4 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service	5 Patty Peck Bailey	6 2:20 PM Last Day For GNC 7:00 PM Church Council Adrena Okes; Annette Tilley	7 Cynthia Forrest Duncan; Gary Reed	8 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	9 Jessica Tilley	10 10:00 AM -1:00 PM CWF Craft Day Billy & Lora Harman																																																																																				
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11 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Happy Mother's Day Recognition 11:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Game Night Lawrence Reed Morning Worship Message/Pastor Jim Stophel	12 Craig Okes	13 9:00 AM Senior Breakfast 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams 7:00 PM Board Meeting Vicki Hayner	14	15 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal Memory Bhebhe Pastor Steve & Teressa Janning	16	17																																																																																				
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25 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Women's Fellowship Night	26 Randy & Drema Wall	27	28 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program Ian Candler	29 7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	30	31																																																																																				



MOTHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025

Operation Christmas Child

On March 28th Linda Kaluk and I attended a meeting of project leaders for Operation Christmas Child in Beckley, WV. FCC and Mercer County churches are part of a 6 county group called the South East WV Team. FCC was awarded a certificate of appreciation for doubling the amount of boxes packed in 2024 from 2023.

At the meeting, we heard a testimony from a young man from Nigeria named Marvelous, who at the age of 8 received a shoebox and how it affected him. Marvelous is now part of an organization that speaks around the world about Samaritan’s Purse shoebox and what an impart receiving one has.

The South East WV group in 2024 packed 19,496 boxes. Boxes packed in the US totaled 10,547,807 and globally 11,927,439. The speaker that night encouraged us to packed 13 more boxes so that the goal of this group would reach 21,445. Can we do that? Can we pack 107 boxes, up 13 from 2024?

A website that deals only with OCC is called WOWSUPPLIES.COM and if you get on Amazon and put OCC in the search, it will show you coloring books that will fit into a box among other things. Thank you to everyone who participates in packing OCC boxes. Each box makes such a huge difference in the life of a child and the child’s family, and even their village.

Just a note on hygiene kits, soap is not allowed this year but solid deodorant is. Any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. *Linda Cheverton*

Shoeboxes will be collected in **November 2025**, before that though our next local out reach project will be a food drive for the Salvation Army in **July 2025**.

Christian Women Fellowship

Ladies craft day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** There will be several different kinds of crafts you can make. Put on your crafting hat and join us for a morning of fellowship, creativity and fun. A light lunch will be served.

Monthly Game Night

Invite your family and friends. Come join us for games and fellowship together. Game night will be **Sunday, May 11th starting at 6pm.**

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, May 25, 2025 at 6pm.**

Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Pastor Ishmael Bhebhe*, for the month of **April 2025**. We are looking forward to having *James Folmar* as the Lay Reader for the month of **May 2025**.



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

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