

CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Princeton WV



He Is Risen

For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order that he might have not spent time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Passover. Acts 20:16 About thirty years following the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, we find Paul headed back to Jerusalem to conclude his third missionary journey. He was desiring to be there on the day of Passover, the very day that Jesus suffered and died many years earlier. Paul's ship docked at Miletus and he had called for the church leaders in Ephesus to come to him for instruction and encouragement. The following verses we see reminders of his ministry to them; *I was with you the whole time, serving the Lord with humility, I did not shrink back, teaching you publicly, I did not consider my life of any account dear to myself* vs 18-24. Paul knew, and he told them at that time, they would not see each other again.

So what did he tell them? What was his final challenge to them knowing what awaited him in Jerusalem? What was so necessary for the church that he had labored so tirelessly for? We find the answer to those questions in verse 28, *“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”* He reminds them of their responsibility toward the church and the truth that it was for the church that Jesus died.

Wait a minute, I thought He died for sinners lost to eternity because of their sins? That is correct, and as soon as they come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ they are immediately placed within His church, His bride, the expression of the kingdom of God here on the earth in this present age. To the Ephesian fellowship of believers Paul wrote this, *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.* Eph 5:25

It may seem a little nitpicky but recently I have taken to calling a local church a “fellowship of believers”. The Greek work is “ekklesia”, a calling out, assembly of believers. Often we say things such as our church, or the church down the road, when in actuality the “church” encompasses all true believers regardless of label or denomination. And the even greater truth is that Jesus died to purchase, to redeem, us from the world, Satan's dominion. Paul said, “He gave Himself up for her.”

This Easter season we will celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will spend preparatory weeks in prayer and fasting before the feast. We look to the event, often, as a special day but quickly relegate the reason for the celebration back to a holding position until Passover weekend the following year. JESUS DIED FOR HIS CHURCH! The gathering of true believers who come together to; strengthen our relationship with God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit; to strengthen our relationship and love we share with one another; and to corporately worship and study His Word. It is only through the price that He paid that we may gather in the purest sense to worship Him in “spirit and truth”.

Church cannot happen over the internet. I understand that there are some who are unable to attend and therefore church must be taken to them. However, for the majority of pajama Christians who have no real reason to forsake assembling, there is no excuse. Jesus declares, “I died for the church and you can't find the time to come?” Accuse me of meddling, I am! It's my job to declare to you the Word of God.

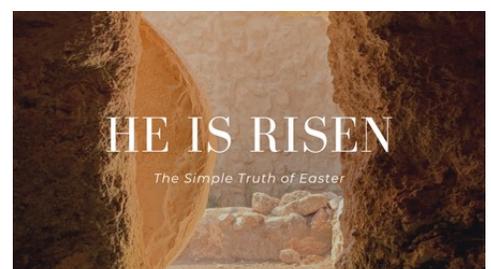
Jesus died that we might gather together, in unity and oneness of heart, to encourage and build each other up. Jesus died that we might gather together and worship the Father in spirit and truth. Jesus died that the kingdom of God

might advance strongly in the earth so the gates of hell would not stand against it, yet we often find ourselves unconcerned, uncaring, and even apathetic toward His sacrifice. Yes, when we spurn His church, we are spurning His sacrifice and counting it of little value.

We must also remember that it is His church. He is far less concerned about our preferences and traditions, which have left so many Christians divided and angry, as He is concerning the work that He has prepared for His church to do. To the gathering of believers in Ephesus Jesus speaks critically and reproves them in Rev 2:5 *Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you, and will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent.*

Church should come before work, before hobbies, before personal ambitions or desires. Church should follow a close third position behind God as primary desire and our spouses and family secondly. Because Jesus has personally invested Himself into His church, we must also. Its through the church God has chosen the avenue to grow His kingdom here on the earth in this age, but like God Himself, the church is often relegated to leftovers and a few crumbs that fall from the tables of our lives. Bride of Christ, fall in love with Jesus all over again, fall in love with His church all over again, redeem the days for they truly are evil.

Pastor Steve



Prayer Concerns**Week Ending March 25, 2023**

Rosemary Sue Bullins, Dan Dunmyer, Mike Elmore, Loretta Mooney, Gary Reed

Week Ending March 18,

Pete Carter, Diane Forbes, Judy Griffin

Week Ending March 11 2023

Emma Chandonnet, Pastor Bill Pollack, Believers of Ukraine, the Family of Mycah Shaw, Scooter Smith

In the Military:

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

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Betty Blankenship, Violet Belcher, Betty Craft, Betty Doyle, Mike Elmore, Lola Fanning, Loretta Mooney, Aster Jessee, Evelyn Jenkins

Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement Facilities:

*Stonerise Princeton: Pete Carter (Formerly Glenwood Park)
The Havens: Peggy White
The Havens: Cleo Halsey
Brookdale Salem: Eileen Mooney
Stonerise Princeton: Gary Reed*

Mark Your Calendars!**Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

*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
Phone Live Stream: 1-833-336-0457*

**Memorial Gifts Fund**

Memorial gifts have been given in loving memory of:

† **Charles Foster** by Sam & Margaret Conner

**April 2023**

Elder: Jack Kaluk, Michael Reed
Deacon: Dan Crutchfield, Randy Winfrey
Deaconess: Donna Reeves, Christina Wimmer
Lay Reader: Linda Kaluk

Panic Bars

Our new panic bars have been installed: (1) Straley Avenue – Office Door, (2) Eighth Street – Narthex Center Door of Triple Doors, and (3) Cloister – One of Double Doors.

Beginning **Sunday, April 2**, the following security procedure will be implemented. Shortly after 11:00 AM, the Straley Avenue – Office Door panic bar will be engaged. You will be able to exit by that door but not enter. The Straley Avenue – Narthex Door will be locked. The panic bar will be engaged on the Eighth Street – Narthex Center Door of Triple Doors and that door will be watched.

Remember: (1) the only access to the church after worship starts is Eighth Street – Narthex Center Door of Triple Doors, and (2) you can exit the church at any time through (a) Straley Avenue – Office Door, (b) Straley Avenue – Narthex Door, and (c) Eighth Street – Narthex Center Door of Triple Door.
Randy Winfrey

Disciples Women

Disciples Women will meet on **Thursday, April 6 at 11:00 a.m.** in the upstairs lounge.

Easter Special Offering

This special offering benefits the general ministries of the church. The Easter Offering will be received on **Sunday, April 2 and 9.**

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is **Tuesday, April 11 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join the fellowship and fun.

From the Archives

Our original church building, which stood at the corner of Eighth and Straley, was dedicated on July 24, 1910 and its capacity was exceeded within a few years. The following are notes from a meeting in 1916 during the pastorate of C.N. Williams. This meeting led ultimately to the construction of our current building.

“Conditions in taking care of the people who desire to attend our church are anything but pleasant. One Mr. Burgner, proprietor of a Music Store on Mercer Street being in attendance one Sunday night, when the Church was packed and people being turned away on account of not being able to get even standing room, seeing your humble scribe and Bro. Williams on street next morning made an offer like thus. If one hundred men would raise \$10 each, total \$1000, he would give \$100.00 himself. Bro. W. got busy and majorated enough pledged to make the one thousand dollars, and on the evening of May 22nd a building committee was appointed composed of C. N. Williams, Chairman, C. W. Butler, Treasurer G. T. Epling, W. S. Reid, J. M. Myers, Mrs. Sutton and Mrs. Burwell, honorary members.”

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

April 2023

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 2 Wendy Coburn, Michelle Dye Palm Sunday 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 4:30 PM Palm Sunday Sing Graham Christian Church, Bluefield VA | 3 Daniel Fanning, Adriana Edmonds, Alison Edmonds | 4 | 5 6:30 PM Community Worship Service First United Method Church 7:00 PM Children's Program | 6 Sherri Shields 11:00 AM Disciples Women 4:00 PM Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service | 7 Good Friday 6:00 PM Holy Week Crucifixion Re-enactment on Mercer Street | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 Easter Sunday 7:00 AM Sunrise Service/Breakfast following 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service | 10 Jon S. Hawse, Zeke Hawse, Tia Kaluk | 11 Jeanie Peal, Jordan Repass, Mike White 9:00 AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams | 12 Gary & Tami Cooper Emily Bucciarelli, Matthew Lilly 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00 PM 5:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Children's Program | 13 Casey Dye, Freddie Howard 4:00 PM Handbell Choir | 14 Kenny & Judith Crotty | 15 B. J. Ball, Judy Reed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16 Chris Bumer 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Mens Study: Kingdom Man 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Womens Study: Finding I Am | 17 Jeff Brannon | 18 | 19 Michael Bayless, Wendy Peal Johnson 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Children's Program | 20 Jason & Kami Anderson James Brennan 4:00 PM Handbell Choir | 21 Karlie Alexander | 22 Cindy Coburn, Mary Jane Dye | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 Brenda McNutt 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Mens Study: Kingdom Man 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Womens Study: Finding I Am | 24 J.W. Dye David & Tia Kaluk | 25 Samantha Goode | 26 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00 PM 7:00 PM Children's Program | 27 4:00 PM Handbell Choir | 28 | 29 Kayla Alexander, Teresa Janning, Chuck Wallace | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



Membership



On **February 26th** First Christian Church welcomed into membership, Mark, Deborah and Haleigh Murphy. The Murphy family has been worshipping with us for several months and feel like family to First Christian Church. Haleigh is active with the children, helping and teaching sign language. Welcome Murphy family!



Baby Dedication Sunday

On **March 19th**, Eden Grace Vipperman was dedicated to the Lord. With Eden Grace were her parents, Jerod and Tori along with big brothers, Kade, Enoch, and Judah. Poppy Janning (aka Pastor Steve) performed the ceremony for his granddaughter. First Christian Church loves its children and welcomes this sweet girl into its care.



Worship

Join us on **Wednesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m.** at First United Methodist Church for the annual Holy Week community service! Everyone is invited to share in this joyous occasion.

Maundy Thursday is part of the celebration of Easter and marks the night of the Last Supper as told in the Bible. Maundy Thursday Communion service is on **April 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** Come, fellowship with us in this special service.

Easter Sunrise service is **Sunday, April 9, at 7:00 a.m.** Breakfast will be served immediately following the service .

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Dan Crutchfield*, for the month of **March**. We are looking forward to having, *Linda Kaluk*, as the Lay Reader for the month of **April**.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Permit No. 58

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
805 Straley Ave
Princeton, WV 24740
Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister
firstchristianprincetonwv.org



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