

CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



All four gospel writers confirm the resurrection occurred Sunday, *the first day of the week, following the Sabbath*. We find the disciples together in the same room where they celebrated Passover three days earlier with their Rabbi. The women had left at sunrise to finish preparing Jesus' body for burial and we can only imagine the sorrow, fear, and confusion they must have felt as they sat there in silence.

For the previous year and a half, Jesus had been attempting to prepare them for this moment and yet even now they did not understand. They were unable to see the results that would follow the suffering and murder of their King. From childhood they have been taught about the Messiah and what He would do; how He would restore the throne of David and establish His government that would have no end. A very familiar occurrence in those days were for self-proclaimed messiah's to establish an army, start a rebellion, only to be squashed by Rome. Surely Jesus would succeed, they were convinced by the miracles they had personally witnessed, that He was indeed the promised blessing presented in the Old Testament.

The new teaching of the kingdom of God did not fit into the structure that had been built in their thinking. *And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined.* Luke 5:37 Jesus new teaching about the kingdom would not fit into the old skins of the religious leaders nor their interpretations. Little did the disciples know how they would become the prominent key figures in the church Jesus was beginning to establish. Little did they understand how they would be spreading the Gospel throughout the known world.

It wasn't until the women returned with the surprising news of the empty tomb that the disciples were shaken from their stupor. It wasn't until Jesus appeared to them, that evening, when they began to understand His passion and the fruit that would follow. From that moment forward things would never be the same. Things could never be the same!

Mark's gospel reveals to us; *And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* Mark 15:37-38 I have a confident expectation that the temple priests immediately began sewing the veil and mending the tear. That is just like mankind! We do not like change. We do not like our status quo altered, nor our comfort zones infringed upon.

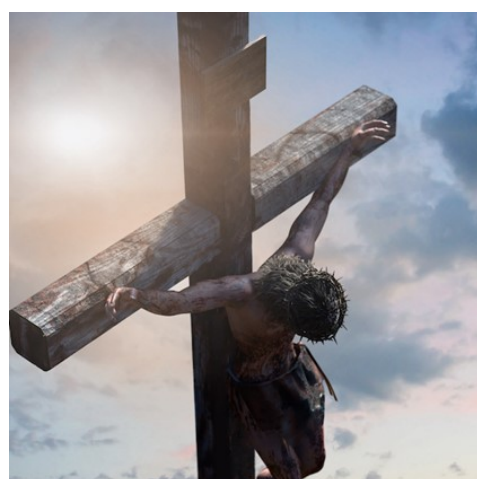
Throughout revival history, typically the established religious leadership rejected any movement of God for this very reason. Much like the Pharisees, they become uncomfortable when their position and authority come into question. The new wine that God desires to pour out cannot be contained within the old dry wineskins. However, I am confident that an old wine-skin can be softened and renewed if so desired by the work of the Holy Spirit. We find several Pharisees in church leadership in the fifteenth chapter of Acts.

Many are preaching another great awakening is about to occur. *Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and later rains.* James 5:7 They interpret this passage as the first century church is the early rains and the church just before Jesus second advent as the

later rains. If this interpretation is correct, will the current church establishment and denominations reject a great move of God because their wine-skins are too dry and brittle? Do we cling to our preferences and traditions as if they were Scripture? True moves of God will not step outside the boundaries of Scripture. Will God find other laborers because we are unwilling to be pliable in the Master's hand?

I am firmly confident the Jesus is soon to return to this earth. I believe the next prophetic event to occur is the rapture of His church and the onset of the Great Tribulation. I am very hopeful and pray for another great move of God. My heart's desire is to see many thousands and/or millions come to Christ. I seek a later rain where God pours out His Spirit on this world drawing many to their knees at the foot of the cross. Much like the disciples, I must understand that "my understanding" will not fit into God's plan. God will not conform His will to placate my template for His work. The only thing that I can beg for is that God will make my skin soft and pliable in order to hold His new wine.

Pastor Steve



Prayer Concerns

Week Ending Mar. 23, 2024

Shupikai Bhebhe, Peggy Edmonds, Deborah Leonard, Charlotte Lett, Bud Raines, Sheinenne Short, Lesa Smith, Rachel Staten, Jeri Spooner

Week Ending Mar. 16, 2024,

Family of Margueta Lilly, Family of Brian Perkins, Becky Poe, Pastor Bill Pollack Scooter Smith, Steve & Sylvia Spooner, Believers of Ukraine

Week Ending Mar. 9, 2024

Jean Foster, David Kaluk, Jack Kaluk, Family of Ronnie Hesson, Gary Reed, Steve Shrewsberry, Loved ones in Israel & Palestine, Linda Underwood, Wisdom for our government

In the Military:

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

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Betty Craft, Betty Doyle, Mike Elmore, Lola Fanning, Evelyn Jenkins

Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement Facilities:

*The Havens: Peggy White
The Havens: Cleo Halsey
Stonerise Princeton: Gary Reed
Princeton Community Health are Center: Jerry Tennant*

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Church Council—7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Elders Meeting — 6:00 p.m.

Ministry Teams —6:30 p.m.

Social Media Broadcast

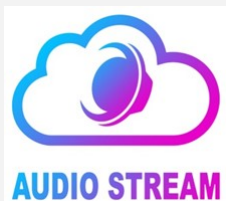
Follow us on Facebook at First Christian Princeton WV.

Website: firstchristianprincetonwv.org

Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV

E-mail: fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com

Phone Live Stream: 1-833-336-0457



Memorial Gift Fund

Memorial gifts have been given in loving memory of:

† *Sheila Gay Tennant* by Brenda McNutt

† *Sheila Gay Tennant* by Brenda Veneri

APRIL 2024

Elders: Michael Reed, Kenneth Reeves

Deacons: Ishmael Bhebhe, Randy Winfrey

Deaconess: Linda Kaluk, Darlene Hall

Lay Reader: Linda Cheverton

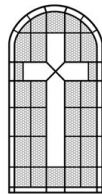
Christian Women Fellowship

Christian Women Fellowship will be preparing and serving food for Amy's House of Hope on **Thursday, June 13th**. We will be putting a vase in the sanctuary during the months of April and May for donations to help with the cost of food. We would also like to invite anyone who would like to help prepare and/or serve the food to join us. The people we serve are so thankful for a hot meal and what a blessing it is for us to serve them.

Senior Breakfast

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

From the Archives



All of us have been inspired by our beautiful stained-glass windows, which were produced and installed by Hunt Stained Glass Studios in Pittsburgh in the 1960s. Prior to their installation, the sanctuary windows had the mottled pink-purple glass that can be seen in the windows of the back stairwell.

Unfortunately, our records on the project are sparse. The side windows probably were installed in 1963-1964 and the balcony window probably was installed in 1966-1967. We don't have a quote for the project but do have some invoices that suggest the cost for the sides might have been \$2,800 per side and the cost for the balcony might have been \$2,900, for a total of \$8,500, which would be in excess of \$80,000 in today's money. This seems a bit low; possibly our records are incomplete and the cost was higher.

Many of the side windows were funded as memorials. Facing the chancel and going clockwise, the remembrances are (1) Mrs. Milton Warren Christie, (2) Mr. Milton Warren Christie, (3) The C.T. Snidow Family, (4) S.R. Arrington and R.C. Keaton, (5) John H. Hedrick. Sr., (6) By Grace Johnson, Roy Hall and Family, (7) Mr. and Mrs. David W. Johnston, (8) Millard K. Lambert, (9) The J.C. Carter Family, (10) George E. and Hattie E. Charlton, (11) In Honor of Rev. John M. Dunn, (12) H.L. Glenn, (13) Mrs. Dora Dean Chambers, (14) The S.A. Vaught Family, (15) Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Cooke & Mr. & Mrs. W.E.B. Johnston, and (16) Mr. & Mrs. L.J. Symons & Mr. & Mrs. M.V. Crawford.

Some connections between the named individuals and the congregation are known but, sadly, not all are known. However, we can report on a few of them. (2) Milton Warren Christie (along with James H. Johnston) was ordained as one of our first two elders by our first pastor, P.M. Baber. (11) John M. Dunn was a former pastor of our congregation. (12) H.L. Glenn was chairman of building committee for the sanctuary. (16) Mr. & Mrs. L.J. Symons & Mr. & Mrs. M.V. Crawford were the parents-in-law and parents, respectively, of our former pastor, Norman G. Crawford.

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

April 2024

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
	<i>1</i> Hanna Gross	<i>2</i> Wendi Coburn, Michelle Dye 7:00 PM Church Council	<i>3</i> Daniel Fanning, Adriana Edmonds, Alison Edmonds 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	<i>4</i> 11:00 AM Christian Women Fellowship 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i> Sherri Shields																																																																																																										
<i>7</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School Class 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 9:00 AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams	<i>10</i> Jon S. Hawse, Zeke Hawse, Tia Kaluk 7:00 PM Children's Program	<i>11</i> Jeanie Peal, Jordan Repass, Mike White 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	<i>12</i> Gary & Tami Cooper Emily Bucciarelli, Matthew Lilly	<i>13</i> Casey Dye, Freddie Howard																																																																																																										
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<i>14</i> Kenny & Judith Crotty 10:00 AM Sunday School Class 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	<i>15</i> B. J. Ball, Judy Reed	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> Jeff Brannon 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	<i>18</i> 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	<i>19</i> Michael Bayless, Wendy Peal Johnson	<i>20</i> Jason & Kamri Anderson James Brennan																																																																																																										
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<i>21</i> Karlle Alexander 10:00 AM Sunday School Class 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	<i>22</i> Cindy Coburn, Mary Jane Dye	<i>23</i> Brenda McNutt	<i>24</i> J.W. Dye David & Tia Kaluk 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	<i>25</i> Samantha Goode 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>																																																																																																										
<i>28</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School Class 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	<i>29</i> Kayla Alexander, Teresa Janning, Chuck Wallace	<i>30</i>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Mar 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Mar 2024							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							<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">May 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		May 2024							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	
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Discipleship

WOMEN'S SPRING BIBLE STUDY:

The Book of Numbers is a story of identity, wilderness and God. The study "With Us in the Wilderness" is a 7-session study by Lauren Chandler. Join us if you desire at First Christian Church, **Sunday, April 7 to May 19, 6 p.m.** The cost of the study guide is \$10.00. Hope to see you there.



Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Braxton Testa*, for the month of March 2024. We are looking forward to having *Linda Cheverton* as the Lay Reader for the month of April 2024.



By Sarah Geringer



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805 Straley Ave
Princeton, WV 24740
Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister
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