

CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



This past month, First Christian Church Princeton WV, has voted to disassociate from the Disciples of Christ denomination. We will continue to be a Christian church and strongly hold a philosophical attachment to the original Stone/Campbell movement.

Throughout this process I have felt a heavy weight upon me as we walked through these steps. Approaching the end of the process, the sense of heaviness had turned into a grieving almost as if I had lost a loved one. Often feeling on the verge of tears, I prayerfully sought God craving His perfect will in this matter. Evaluating these emotions, I have concluded, and feel the need to share, their causes.

Firstly, I love the history and heritage here at First Christian Church. As the railroad was coming to lower Mercer St., the fellowship of believers purchased our current property and built our first sanctuary in 1910. By 1915, they had outgrown that building and began planning for the growth of their membership. What an amazing testimony for a very prominent and foundational congregation right from the beginning of the growth of Princeton down Main Street. At that time, we were a Church of Christ/Christian Church and won't become affiliated with the Disciples of Christ denomination for a few more decades.

Secondly, there will be many

who will not understand our intent or purpose and feel that they have been insulted or demeaned. Our ultimate goal is to honor God our heavenly Father, Jesus Christ His only Son, and the Holy Spirit while showing this love to a lost and dying world. We are thoroughly convinced that the Holy Bible is His true word and the source of our instructions for following Him. We know that we are all sinners and are in desperate need of a Savior. We do not single out particular sins any more grievous than others, outside blaspheming the Holy Spirit and harming children. If sinlessness were the measuring stick for church attendance then our sanctuary would be empty on Sunday mornings. We love all sinners, but cannot in a good conscience condone sin in any form regardless of social pressures and beliefs. The Disciples of Christ denomination has consistently turned its back on the Scriptures, choosing to ignore them or change and twist their meanings. Truth is not subjective to the beliefs of the interpreter but absolute truth is consistent for all peoples all places and all times. If you would like to know more concerning these "reasons", please contact the church office and we will be happy to send them to you.

Thirdly, unity amongst believers has been of utmost importance to Jesus. His pastoral prayer in John 17 is for us to be one as He and the Father are one. However, when one party chooses to

walk away from truth and begin to follow their own vices and wisdom then fellowship is no longer possible. These issues of separation are not light or minor but carry difficult and strong repercussions. Paul's command in 2Corinthians chapter 6 is our biblical president for the actions we have initiated. The heaviness I have felt is not for our actions but for the denomination and its leadership. I will continue to pray that God will open their eyes to what they are doing and how they are causing many people to turn from truth and believe a lie. I grieve for those who will be unable to understand the reasons for our decision. I pray that they will know that they, and all, are welcome to attend FCC Princeton. They will be loved and welcomed. The church will continue to stand for truth, truth as defined in the Bible, where it will be taught and preached to the absolute best of our ability.

I also feel honored that we have an opportunity to stand for truth in this day and time. When the world seems to be headed in a downward spiral sweeping all cultures and religions with it, we can strive to remain faithful and honor God regardless of the cost. As we walk in faith, we look to see where God is working and quickly move to join Him in His work.

May God bless you, and may God bless First Christian Church Princeton WV.

Pastor Steve

Prayer Concerns**Week Ending July 29, 2023**

Gary Reed, Jeri Spooner, Barbara Terry, Teena Testa

Week Ending July 22, 2023,

Memory Bhebhe, Family of Aster Jesse, Lois Pettrey

Week Ending July 15, 2023

Pastor Bill Pollack, Scooter Smith, Believers of Ukraine

In the Military:

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

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Violet Belcher, 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*

Mark Your Calendars!**Tuesday, August 8, 2023**

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

Social Media Broadcast

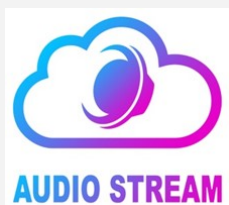
Follow us on Facebook at First Christian Princeton WV.

Website: firstchristianprincetonwv.org

Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV

E-mail: fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com

Phone Live Stream: 1-833-336-0457

**With Sympathy**

We offer our love and sympathy to the family of:

† **Marvin “Pete” Carter** who passed away on June 30, 2023.

Memorial Gift Fund

Memorial gifts have been given in loving memory of:

† **Marvin “Pete” Carter** by Randy & Drema Wall

AUGUST 2023

Elder: TBD

Deacon: Ishmael Bhebhe, Randy Winfrey

Deaconess: Linda Cheverton, Sylvia Spooner

Lay Readers: Tonni Bennett, Linda Cheverton

Let the Spirit of Truth
be your guiding Light

Disciples Women

Disciples Women will meet on **Thursday, August 3 at 11:00 a.m.**
We will meet in the upstairs lounge.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, August 8 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship and fun.

From the Archives

Our congregation's first Timothy was John Reason Sloan.

Mr. Sloan was born February 8, 1884, in Pettry, WV, to David A. Sloan and Emily Lou Cook Sloan. On April 14, 1909, he married Nannie E. Shelton of Princeton. They had one child, Nancy Sloan.

He attended Bethany College, graduating in 1916. He covered part of his college expenses by managing the college bookstore and preaching at a small church near the college. Shortly after graduation, on June 4, he and nine others were ordained at the old Bethany Church.

After graduation, he was pastor of a church in West Union, WV, before going for graduate study at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, where he was also pastor of a church.

He pastored a church in Kentucky and several churches in Virginia: Richlands, Rocky Mount (1930-1934), Vinton (1941-1942) and probably others in the Roanoke Valley.

When an incurable throat ailment made preaching impossible, he used other abilities. He worked as a contractor and was in charge of a very large construction job.

On January 4, 1959, he joined Westhampton Christian Church in Roanoke; possibly on his retirement. He and Nannie lived on Carlton Avenue across the street from Westhampton and, as they got older, were nervous about crossing the street to get to church. Jane Winfrey Holmgren, formerly of our congregation and a member of Westhampton in the 1970s, remembers helping them to cross the street.

He died May 12, 1980, in Princeton at the home of his niece Edith Anderson, who was a member of our congregation. His funeral was preached by Richard Flowers, our pastor at the time, and he was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Princeton.

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

August 2023

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jul 2023</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></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>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Jul 2023							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							<p><i>1</i></p> <p><i>Tina Jones Hartwell, Rebecca Whittington</i></p> <p><i>Bud & Judy Raines</i></p> <p>7:00 PM Church Council</p>	<p><i>2</i></p> <p><i>Shelly Bucciarelli Emerson & Diana Okes</i></p> <p>11:00 AM Adult Prayer Hour & 7:00PM</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship Music</p> <p>7:00 PM Children's Program - Amazing Creation</p>	<p><i>3</i></p> <p>11:00 AM Disciples Women</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p><i>Jean Foster</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p>
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Disciples Women

We were blessed to serve Amy’s House of Hope on June 29, 2023. We fixed Cowboy Pie (that is what we named it), ground beef, onions, pork and beans top off with cornbread mix and baked. Salad and doughnuts were also served. We prepared enough to feed 200. Several of the dinners went to The Towers. Teressa invited those in attendance to attend church with us on Sunday. We had a couple of people show up. What an honor to feed their physical bodies but more important their spiritual bodies were fed as well.

For our **July** meeting we had lunch with Cleo Halsey and Peggy White at the Havens. The Havens provided the food and a room for us to meet. Barbara Forrest shared a devotional and we sang several of the old hymns. No hymnals were necessary for Cleo and Peggy, they knew every word. We had a wonderful time of fellowship just sitting around and talking. We plan on doing this on a quarterly basis.

Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Linda Cheverton*, for the month of **July**. We are looking forward to having *Tonni Bennett and Linda Cheverton* as the Lay Readers for the month of **August**.



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



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