

CHURCH Life

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for these things must take place, but that is not yet the end. Matt 24:4-6 Any serious student of the Scriptures recognize these verses and Jesus introduction to His teaching on the end of the age and His second advent. For decades I have poured over this passage reading more books than I can count from a variety of viewpoints and to this day find its secrets elusive. This month I desire to revisit Jesus' words in light of current events and some impressions I feel to date.

I remember looking back to the late 1970's and remembering at these verses and thinking of the significant changes that must take place before their fulfillment could occur. The United States that I grew up in, although had its struggles and difficulties, was at that time far different than the one my grandchildren are destined to face. In those days I recount a country that respected the church, the Bible, and God; now not only mock and ridicule but have become hostile to and vindictive to.. The changes that I imagined necessary seemed distant and almost unimaginable, but now seem clear and prophetic.

How and when did these changes occur? The proverbial boiling frog in the pot, slowly, over time, progressing almost unnoticed, the changes were taking place. As if almost impatient though, the powers that be are forcing more rapidly and purposefully a clearer image of Jesus revelation of our day and times.

We are a microwave culture. By that I mean we expect everything immediately and have very little tolerance for anything that takes over a minute to produce. Unfortunately, most things come in time, especially the good things. Our growth, body, soul and spirit come from slow unnoticeable changes. Physically we watch our children over time as they are well fed and cared for. They are educated, nurtured, and encouraged in a continuous purposeful manner, and over time a toddler matures into a strong healthy adolescent. Our spiritual growth develops in a like manner slowly over time. As we faithfully

nurture our spiritual man by growing our relationship with God through His Holy Spirit, studying and hiding His Word in our hearts, prayer, fellowship with other believers and serving Jesus Christ our Savior, we find our inner being developing from childhood to adolescence to adulthood.

Order on order, order on order, line on line, line on line, a little here, a littler there. Isaiah 28:10 Very seldom does God work in a microwave instantaneous manner. The molding of the end of the age shaping this world in preparation for the great tribulation has followed the Isaiah 28:10 spiritual principle. Slowly and purposefully the nations of the world are conforming to the prophetic utterances dictated by the Scriptures. God's timetable is sure, although at times, we find judgment being held off for a generation based upon the repentance of that nation and in particular it's leadership; Hezekiah and Josiah are good examples of this. If the United States of America, or any nation for that matter, would follow 2Chr 7:14, and truly repent, than the judgment that is about to fall upon us may be withheld for a time period providing revival the renewal by God's Holy Spirit.

Turning back to our topic, I firmly believe we are living in biblical times. These times we face on a daily basis have been prophesied in the Old and New Testaments. Starting with the restoration of Israel as a nation, the timeclock started ticking and the prophetic utterances are being systematically checked off the list. Decades earlier I tried to imagine what the fulfillment of so many prophesies and what that would look like. But for certain we are living in a global community that has chosen to reject God and His Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. A world culture that has determined to pervert all the purposes of God's creation; human sexuality, life, family, church, just to name a few, and stand opposed to those who would strive to honor God as their Creator and fulfill the destiny set aside for them by Him Ephesians 2:9-10, has determined to follow their own vices and ultimately the demonic forces under the guise of the serpent, the dragon of old, Satan himself. The position and importance the nation of Israel is and will play in the events

that are soon to unfold.

So the most important question left to be asked is not global, national, or even local, the most important question is personal, to each and every individual. Are you confident in your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you assured in your heart that you will be permitted into heaven? Do you know for certain that the Holy Spirit of God is resident within you and you are truly His child? The positive answers to these questions do not lie in our own sense of goodness or good works that we have done. The correct answer lies in our conviction of who Jesus of Nazareth is. The entire Bible works together to assure us that Jesus of Nazareth is truly the Son of God; Psalm 2, and that He is the Savior of the world, Isaiah 53. *That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;* Rom 10:9; along with, *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.* John 1:12; and *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.* John 3:16

The heart of Jesus message in Matthew 24 is not about the when or the details but the focus for true believers in Him is all about the preparedness. *Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.* Rev 22:14 *in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.* 2Tim 4:8 Are you ready to go?

Pastor Steve

Prayer Concerns

Week Ending July 20, 2024

Angel's family, Family of Samuel Wilson Carter, Wendy Johnson, Debbie Perkins, Scooter Smith, Jerry Wimmer, Sandra Wimmer, Believers of Ukraine

Week Ending July 13, 2024,

Rev. Norm Arrington, Barbara Butler, Family of Jeff Compton, Jim Miles. Loved ones in Israel & Palestine, Bud & Judy Raines, Rev. Bill Pollack, Steve Shrewsberry, Wisdom for our government

Week Ending July 6, 2024

Norma Duncan, Becky Dunford, Sally Miller, Ruth Mullens, A. J. Ruble Steve & Sylvia Spooner, Suzie, Sharon Williams

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:

*Ridge Care: Peggy White
The Havens: Cleo Halsey
Stonerise Princeton: Gary Reed*

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Church Council—7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13 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



Church Family; this month **August 2024** I will be taking a sabbatical leave. After six and a half years of serving as senior pastor the opportunity has been made available to me. During that time Teresa and I will attend a pastor's conference in Ashville NC as well as working on memoirs concerning the church construction in Mupumbu Zimbabwe. Pastor Rick Newton will be preaching and serving for emergency calls while I am gone for the month. Please encourage and support him as he serves our congregation. Please pray that God will refresh and renew our spirits in this time of seeking Him.

September 18 through October 2 I will be in Zimbabwe on a mission trip from our church. There are several objectives we are hoping to accomplish on this trip so please pray that God will bless and direct every aspect of this work.

I began preaching here at FCC in **May 2017** and was hired as senior pastor **January 2018**. In this time I have been very honored to serve with you and watch as God blesses His church. I am looking forward to many more years as God sees fit. Our prayer is that He blesses and grows this congregation as we serve Him. *Pastor Steve*

AUGUST 2024

Elders: Michael Reed, Kenneth Reeves
Deacons: Ishmael Bhebhe, Randy Winfrey
Deaconess: Linda Cheverton, Jesse Testa
Lay Reader: TBA

Christian Women Fellowship

Christian Women Fellowship will meet on **Thursday, August 1 at 11:00 a.m.** in the up-stairs lounge.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, August 13 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship and fun.

From the Archives



The most exciting project for our congregation in recent years has been the construction of a church in Zimbabwe to house congregations that were started by our Ishmael Bhebhe after graduating from Zimbabwe Christian College (now Central Africa College). This project is remarkable for the speed of construction and the incredible generosity of our congregation.

Equally remarkable is that the project is connected to work begun decades ago by another member of our congregation, Dr. Dennis Derwood Pruett. The connection is through Zimbabwe Christian College.

After the war, he married Lucille Garten of our congregation in our church and became a member of our congregation. He received a degree in theology from Kentucky Christian College; and received his MD degree from Bowman Gray School of Medicine/Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC. While he was in school, he preached at least three revivals in our church in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

After a year's residency in surgery and a fellowship in tropical medicine, Dr. Pruett and Lucy and their four young children, David, Darel, Denise, and Daniel, boarded a merchant ship bound for South Africa, their gateway to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). After a couple of days in South Africa, they began the long and arduous journey from Cape Town to Rhodesia in the "Gollywhopper," a large four-wheel drive vehicle suitable for the rugged terrain that led to the bush country. They crossed the border from South Africa into Southern Rhodesia at Messina, where they were met by their dear friends John and Marge Pemberton, who had been fellow students at Kentucky Christian College.

During his first 20 years in Africa, Dr. Pruett and his co-workers built hospitals, clinics, church buildings, and schools and established Zimbabwe Christian College to train Africans from all over southern Africa to minister to the churches. Africans were also trained as nurses, teachers and administrators. This is the curriculum at Zimbabwe Christian College today.

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

August 2024

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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11 Lola Fanning 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 12:30 PM Annual Church Picnic	12 6:00 PM -9:00 PM Bible Citizenship Class	13 Jerod Vipperman 9:00 AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams	14 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study	15 6:00 PM Music Rehearsal	16	17																																																																																				
18 Tom & Arnette Tiley John Carter, III, Tonya Chewning, Chris Stinson Harold & Bonnie Buckner 10:00 AM Sun day School 11:00 AM Morning Service	19 6:00 PM -9:00 PM Bible Citizenship Class	20 Logan Coburn; Michelle Haynes	21 Tami Cooper 7:00 PM Adult Bible Study	22 6:00 PM Music Rehearsal	23 Jackson Ammons, Denise Reed Simmons	24 Beverly Reed																																																																																				
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Fellowship

The Annual Church Picnic will be after church on **Sunday, August 11, 2024**. Fellowship will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, and all the fixings, plus drinks and cupcakes. Please bring a side, salad, or fruit to go along with the hotdogs and hamburgers. We are looking forward to a great meal and wonderful fellowship. *The Fellowship Team*

Operation Christmas Child

Christmas in August!! A little early maybe but not too early to start thinking about Operation Christmas Child and what to put in the shoeboxes. At a meeting that I recently attended many ideas were put forth and I want to share them. Did you know that the United States sends over 10 million boxes each year and each box affects 5 people? That’s more than50 million people learning about the Gospel. Good news!!

Shoeboxes for **boys ages 5-9 and 10-14** are in short supply. Suggestions that came out of the meeting were fishing kits, which include a length of fishing line, artificial bait, hooks, lead sinkers, and bobbers. Also the organization is allowing a mini tool kit which includes pliers, screw driver, and a small bag of assorted screws. These would be considered the “wow” gift. If you can, please include hygiene products and school supplies with the “wow” gift. For the older girls, sewing kits were suggested. These can be purchased at Wal-Mart for \$1.00.

At this meeting several web sites that specialize in OCC gifts were offered. The websites are wowsupplies.com, raymongeddes.com, westernstarwholesale.com as well as Amazon.com. If you go to Amazon specify OCC products. I hope this is helpful. Any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask me.

Thanks FCC for all you do to help these children. Usually FCC donates 50 boxes. This year I’d like to challenge the congregation to donate 65 boxes. We can do it!! Boxes will be available in **October**.

Yours in Christ,
Linda Cheverton

Community Outreach

The Salvation Army is in need of certain food items. This would be a good time for FCC to do our annual food drive for them starting now and going through **August**. The food items they need are peanut butter, jelly, cereal, pancake mix, syrup, Chef-Boy-R-Dee products, dried potatoes, canned fruit and macaroni and cheese. Thank you so much for any donation. *Linda Cheverton*

Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Deidre Crutchfield*, for the month of **July 2024**. We are looking forward to having a new Lay Reader for the month of **August 2024**.



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



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