

CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



INDEPENDENCE DAY

This July 4th our wonderful country will be celebrating its two hundred and forty seventh birthday. Seven years following our declaration of independence we won that freedom when British General Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown. The United States of America has truly been an amazingly blessed nation. Not only was the newly discovered land populated by those seeking to worship the One true God in freedom, but those who fought for and established the governance of this great land put their faith in God and His Word.

Although attempts have been made to silence the voices of our nation's founding fathers through the rewriting of history and intentional negligence of our educational system, their beliefs and words can still be found in the archives of this great land. Even the Declaration of Independence declares; "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them to another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them..." Here we find the very justification for the declaration of separation from England as founded upon the truth of not only God's existence but His character and laws as well.

A large portion of our younger generations are not only unaware of the existence of our fathers such as; George Washington, James Madison, George Mason, John Witherspoon, Benjamin Franklin, and many, many more, but also their undeniable faith in the sovereign King of the universe. In his first inaugural address, George Washington stated; *In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own; nor those of my fellow-citizens at large, less than either: No People can be bound to*

acknowledge and adore the invisible hand, which conducts the Affairs of men more than the People of the United States. Invoking the necessity to declare it is God who has established and blessed the forming of this great nation, he goes on to pronounce the imperative truth for obedience to this same God; *Since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven, can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained.* Our first president will conclude his address with the following words, *Having thus imparted to you my sentiments, as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave; but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the human race, in humble supplication that since he has been pleased to favour the American people, with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquility, and dispositions for deciding with unparelled unanimity on a form of Government, for the security of their Union, and the advancement of their happiness; so this divine blessing may be equally conspicuous in the enlarged views—the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.* Declaring dependence upon God for the success of this nation was the final thought he chose to leave with the people.

Besides the nation of Israel, the United States of America is the only other peoples who were established upon the providence of the Creator of the universe and His Word. We, like Israel, have covenanted with God for His; direction, protection, and blessing. We, like Israel, have broken covenant with Him as we have chosen to walk away from; truth and honor, goodness and holiness, the God of creation.

The madness and insanity being

dictated from the upper levels of government all the way to the pulpits found in our churches, Paul's words ring true, *Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for ...Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts...* A few verses later he reiterates, *For this reason, God gave them over to degrading passions...* And further still, *And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind...* Rom 1:21-32 The spiritual principles outlined in the Scriptures are playing out before our very eyes. *Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come, the return of Jesus Christ, unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.* 2Thes 2:3 Although there have been many apostasies throughout history, the "great" refers to a final concluding falling away of the church at the end of the age. Perhaps we are witnessing this prophesied event in our day and time.

Whether this is the great one or not, we are being forced to a point of decision. Just as in Jesus' final days of ministry where He was forcing a decision for or against Him, today we are being brought to the same place. Will we stand for Christ Jesus and truth, His Word, in spite of cultural unpopularity, ridicule, and perhaps persecution? Will we determine beforehand that, regardless of the consequences, we will serve the Lord? Will we pick up our cross and follow Jesus?

We must not bow at the altars of the gods of this world. We must not compromise the truth of the Holy Bible, whether in principle or practice. It comes to the point where we say, "I will love God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my strength."

Pastor Steve

Prayer Concerns**Week Ending June 24, 2023**

Pastor Bill Pollack, Scooter Smith, Believers of Ukraine, Byron Wilhelm

Week Ending June 17, 2023,

Paula Cook, Samantha Goode, Judy Johnson, Marti Miles, Gary Reed, Barbara Terry

Week Ending June 10, 2023

Pete Carter, Family of Paula Dickenson, Mike Malone

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, 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
Stonerise Princeton: Gary Reed*

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

*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

Phone Live Stream: 1-833-336-0457

**Memorial Gift Fund**

Memorial gifts have been given in loving memory of:

† **Betty Blankenship** by Scott & Jolie Blankenship

† **Betty Blankenship** by Larry Wimmer

† **Betty Blankenship** by Sam & Margaret Conner

† **Betty Blankenship** by Kenneth E. Mooney

JULY 2023

Elder: TBD

Deacon: Dan Crutchfield, Randy Winfrey

Deaconess: Cindy Brannon, Drema Wall

Lay Reader: Linda Cheverton



Let's celebrate our independence by spreading love, hope, and encouragement. Wishing you a great joy and well-being on this **4th of July 2023**.

Disciples Women

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

Senior Breakfast

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

From the Archives

Frank Leslie Stuck was our pastor from 1932 to 1943. He was born on October 13, 1904, in Washington, PA. After a semester as an electrical engineering major at Tri State College in Angola, IN, he transferred to Bethany College with the intent of becoming a minister. While at Bethany, he met Iva M. Driggs and subsequently married her on December 23, 1925. After graduation, his first fulltime pastorate was in Confluence, PA, where the couple's three daughters were born. His next pastorate was in Mannington, WV. To supplement income there, he sold cars on the side and learned to build and repair radios.

At the time of his arrival in Princeton in 1932, in the midst of the Great Depression, the church's financial situation was dire; a debt of \$13,000 and many members were unemployed. Over time, the debt was paid in full, membership grew, the church was put on a firm financial standing and fundraising was started for our current sanctuary. In 1935, the congregation sent him to the Second World Convention of Christian Churches, held in Leicester, England. (The First World Convention was held in Washington, DC, in 1930. A picture from that event is in our narthex.)

Pastor Stuck's interest in radio led to some interesting results. Our services were broadcast on WHIS radio station in Bluefield and he built and installed hearing aids in the church for hard of hearing members.

He was active in the community and was a popular speaker at community events.

After leaving us, he pastored churches in Jacksonville, FL, and Lakeland, FL, then finally a church in Bristol, VA, where he died of a heart attack in 1949.

His funeral was preached by his friend John M. Dunn, who was our pastor from 1943 to 1956.

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

July 2023

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">Jun 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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <thead> <tr><th colspan="7">Aug 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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </tbody> </table>						Jun 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		Aug 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	1
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2 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	3 Sandra Wimmer	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed Church Council TBA	5 11:00 AM Adult Prayer Hour & 7:00PM 5:30 PM Worship Service Music 7:00 PM Children's Program - Amazing Creation	6 Kourtney Paige Stephens 11:00 AM Disciples Women/Upstairs Lounge 4:00 PM Handbell Choir	7 Kenneth & Donna Reeves Ishmael & Memory Bhebhe	8 Hatcher Anderson, Haley Coburn																																																																																																		
9 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	10 David Osborne	11 Steve & Jeanie Peal Senior Breakfast/Cracker barrel Pauline Hill 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams 7:00 PM Board Meeting	12 Robin Beamer, Debbie Rawn 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 5:30 PM Worship Service Music 7:00 PM Children's Program - Amazing Creation	13 John & Mary Jane Dye 4:00 PM Handbell Choir	14	15 Mark Brock, Doug Feuchtenberger																																																																																																		
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Discipleship

We aren't doing a traditional **Vacation Bible School** this year. However, we are doing some fun activities that will include ministry, fellowship, and Bible study. Starting in **June on Wednesday night at 7:00pm**, we will begin a study called Amazing Creation. We will explore how we can connect with God, every day, in nature. Using the book of Psalms as our guide, we will experience a closer connection with God as we explore His creation. Each night will also include an outside project or fun activity that highlights different aspects of creation.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS — AMAZING CREATION

- June 7 Amazing Land
- June 14 Amazing Sky
- June 21 Amazing Plants
- June 28 Amazing Water
- July 5 Amazing Mountains
- July 12 Amazing Birds & Insects
- July 19 Amazing Fish
- July 26 Amazing Animals
- Aug 2 Amazing Humans
- Aug 9 Amazing Planets
- Aug 16 Amazing World
- Aug 23 BACK TO SCHOOL BASH**

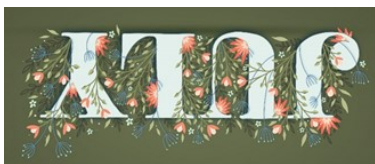


Membership

We celebrated Father's Day on **Sunday, June 18th**. All the men received a gift. The oldest father was Sam Conner and the youngest father was Jarod Vipperman. They received a gift card. Congratulations! Thanks to Shirley White, Cindy Brannon, Tonni Bennett and Kenneth Reeves for helping me.
Donna Reeves Membership Ministry


Worship

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Permit No. 58

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



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