

# CHURCH *Life*

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



## THE BOOK

There is one force throughout history that has without question been the greatest influence in shaping our Western Culture. Historians will debate the influences of human creativity and or development of industrial advancements as the catalyst driving the forces that shaped us into what we are today, but the truth be told, these same influences were unable to alter the cultures that preceded ours in the manner with which we were molded.

Take for instance the printing press. Many will credit Johannes Gutenberg and his first western invention in AD1450 as one of, if not the greatest influencer of Western Civilization. Unknown to most, the Chinese had invented a printing press of their own and by AD 972 had printed over 130,000 pages of Buddhist's writings. They actually had invented rotating book cases to house all their writings. It was recorded by Buddhist monk Yeh Meng-te in the middle of the twelfth century, as he traveled throughout eastern China that "in six or seven out of ten temples, one can hear the sound of the wheels of the revolving cases turning day and night." (*The Book That Made Your World, Vishal Mangalwadi, Pg 79*). He goes on to note that unlike Western Culture, the Chinese press had very little effect upon their culture as it did ours.

It wasn't the processes of how written material made its way into the hands of a populace, but what the intellectual material was that transformed the thoughts, minds, attitudes, and hearts of those who read that material. By far the Holy Bible is the most popular printed text to ever make its way into the public. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone it is estimated that around ten billion copies of the Scriptures were printed. No other written work will even appear in any significant amount as compared to the Bible regardless of how far back into history one may care to travel.

Our Representative form of government that we hold dear first ap-

peared at the foot of Mt. Sinai as the nation of Israel was being established. Women throughout history have been looked upon and treated as second class citizens at best, more than likely as mere property no more valuable than a donkey or mule. Many religions and cultures continue in that belief system even in our "modern era". It wasn't until the Bible, in particular the New Testament, where women began to be treated with respect and an equal partner in this adventure we call life. *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* Gal 3:28 The social atmosphere that fostered individual responsibility, capitalism, creativeness, social reform, are all introduced and displayed for us in the New Testament Church. It is clearly evident that our Western Culture was indeed molded by the Bible and in particular when it was placed into the hands of the common citizen which the printing press undoubtedly had a role in bringing about.

Today we are watching the demise of our Western Culture and the crumbling of our way of life. We bemoan what we are seeing but fail to seriously consider the causes of this tragic turn of events. The social rejection of the Holy Bible directly correlates to the obvious crumbling of what was once a great culture and nation. We fail to recognize that the more we turn away from the instruction manual given to us by which we are to direct our lives, the further we travel from the wonderful life that that book brought to us.

Ultimately it is the blessing of our all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God that produced such an amazing way of life, and it is the Holy Bible that gave us the instruction that enabled those beautiful blessings that we enjoyed. *How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.* Psalm 119:1 *How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,*

*nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers.* Psalm 1:1-3

We would be hard pressed to find a Bible believing Christian who will not stand up and shout amen to the reading of these verses. However, we are hard pressed to find Bible believing Christians who take those verses to heart. *With all my heart I have sought Thee... Thy word have I treasured in my heart... I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies... I will meditate on Thy precepts... I shall delight in Thy statutes...* Psalm 119:10-16 What the Church prefers is to point our fingers at those ugly sinners, whose wickedness, is "bringing this calamity upon us", and fail to realize it is us and our own neglect and rebellion of God's word, causing the downfall of a once great people. If, *My people who are called by My name...* 2Chr 7:14a

So the real question is how dear do we truly hold the Bible in our hearts? What percentage of the congregation is engaged in meaningful Bible study? How much daily effort is placed upon hiding God's word in our hearts on an individual basis? How much of God's word have we hidden in our hearts through memorization and meditation? When we consider our Christian duties, how far are we individually willing to engage in a personal relationship with our heavenly Father through His Holy Scriptures which He gave to us? Why has our Western Culture abandoned the teaching and principles brought forth in the Bible? I fear the answer is that we, His church, has neglected His Word. Oh how desperately we need to return to the foundation of our faith.

Pastor Steve

**Prayer Concerns**

**Week Ending Feb. 25, 2023**

*Pete Carter, Dana Tedder, Lois Pettrey, Anthony Rose*

**Week Ending Feb. 18, 2023**

*Emma Chandonnet, Pastor Bill Pollack, Believers of Ukraine, Sylvia Spooner*

**Week Ending Feb. 11, 2023**

*Jason Anderson, Mike Elmore, Viola Hesson, Loretta Mooney, Gary Reed, Stacy Singleton*

**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*

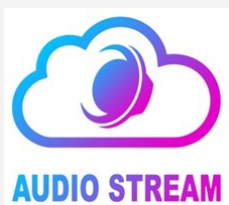
**Mark Your Calendars!**

**Tuesday, March 14, 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](http://firstchristianprincetonwv.org)  
Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV  
E-mail: [fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com](mailto: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 Linda Cheverton
- † **Charles Foster** by Barbara Leininger
- † **Charles Foster** by Lois Riemer
- † **Randal Dawson** by Larry Wimmer
- † **Randal Dawson** by Linda Cheverton
- † **Charles Foster** by Willie Mae Bowman
- † **Charles Foster** by Gayle Walthall Wise
- † **Charles Foster** by Peggy Foster Peery
- † **Charles Foster** by Betty Blankenship
- † **Charles Foster** by P & T Arrington
- † **Charles Foster** by Keith Reed
- † **Charles Foster** by Beverly Reed
- † **Charles Foster** by Larry Wimmer
- † **Charles Foster** by Randy & Drema Wall

**March 2023**

Elder: Kenneth Reeves  
Deacon: Randy Winfrey  
Deaconess: Barbara Forrest, Barbara Terry  
Lay Reader: Dan Crutchfield

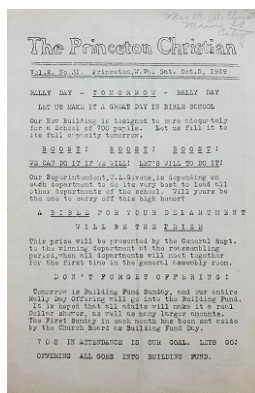
**Disciples Women**

Thank you for helping us make a change. Money was collected in January to go toward our Disciples Women’s project to help build a domestic violence shelter in Mercer County. We collected \$80.00 worth of change. We plan on collecting change every other month, so the vase will be placed in the sanctuary in March. Thanks again and remember pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters add up to a big change!

Disciples Women will meet on **Thursday March 2, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.** in the upstairs lounge.

Disciples Women’s Spring Event will be held on **Saturday March 11, 2023 from 10:30 to 2:00 at United Disciples of Christ Charleston.** The theme for the Spring Event and also the Disciples Women’s Retreat is “Never Alone”. The cost is \$20.00 per person which includes lunch and a donation to the region. Joyce Yedloskey with the Domestic Violence Coalition will be the guest speaker. If you are interested in attending please let *Linda Kaluk* or *Linda Cheverton* know.

**From the Archives**



In the late 1920s, our congregation was large enough and busy enough that it issued a weekly newsletter, *The Princeton Christian*.

The October 5, 1929, edition had articles from the denomination about mission work in India, Japan, Africa and Mexico plus an article about livestock kept by Hazel Green Academy (Hazel Green, KY) to feed students. Local news included a contest among Sunday School classes to see which one could contribute the most to increasing the total Sunday School attendance to a goal of

700, fundraising to pay for the older part of our current building, and a convention hosted by the church.

The convention, held on October 15, was the One Day District Convention of the United Christian Missionary Society. Grant K. Lewis, denomination secretary from Indianapolis, IN, led the convention. At the end of the day, a banquet for the attendees was provided the Women’s Missionary Society.



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

# March 2023

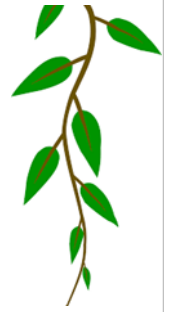
*First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

# March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 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>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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 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></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Feb 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					Apr 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							<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Adult Prayer Hour &amp; 7:00PM 7:00 PM Children's Program</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>11:00 AM Disciples Women 4:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>James Brogan; Parker Hall; Willie Nelson</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
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<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Misty Peal; Katie Coburn 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00AM Morning Service 6:30PM Men's Spring Bible Study: Kingdom Man 6:30PM Womens Spring Bible Study: Finding I Am</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Jennifer Wimmer; Emory Testa, Brad Ball</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Aaron Reed 7:00 PM Church Council</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>11:00 AM Adult Bible Study &amp; 7:00PM 7:00 PM Children's Program</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Lora Haman; Mina Reed 4:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Alliegh Torres-Miam</p>																																																																																																								
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<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Keith Duncan 10:00AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:30 PM Men's Spring Bible Study: Kingdom Man 6:30 PM Womens Spring Bible Study: Finding I Am</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Buddy Raines</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Vickie Harry; Bill Sherwood; Jerry Tennant; Jeanie Wills 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study 7:00 PM Children's Program 7:00 PM Missionary Arnold Alagao</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Carol Howard 4:00 PM Handbell Choir</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Michael &amp; Christie Reed Leona Jackson</p>																																																																																																									



**Discipleship**



**First Christian Church**

**Spring Bible Study**

7 Sunday Nights 6:30pm—8:00 pm  
March 5, 12, 19, 26  
April 16, 23 & May 7

**Women**

**“Finding I Am”**

How Jesus fully satisfies the cry of your heart.  
By *Lisa Terkeurst*

**Men**

**“Kingdom Man”**

Submitting your life to the rule and lord-ship of Christ  
By *Tony Evans*

Please join us and invite a friend!!!

Let Teresa Janning know if you would like to attend, so that we can get a study book ordered for you, office #(304) 425-2369.

CHILD CARE PROVIDED

**Pastor’s Note**

This month we are starting two separate Bible studies, one for men and the other for women. We will continue to offer our Wednesday studies at 11AM and 7PM continuing a looking into the Gospels and how Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John together paint a beautiful picture of our Lord Jesus’ ministry as He walked this earth with us. I encourage and challenge you to participate in as many of these studies as you can remembering that it is through spirit and truth that God seeks worshipers. John 4:23 It is through His Bible and His Holy Spirit that we are going to change ourselves and our community.

*Pastor Steve*

**Worship**

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Barbara Terry*, for the month of **February**. We are looking forward to having, *Dan Crutchfield* as the Lay Reader for the month of **March**.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
Permit No. 58

**First Christian Church**  
**(Disciples of Christ)**  
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Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister  
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