

# CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



*But arise, stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; delivering you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may have forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.* Acts 26:16-18 In this passage we get the deepest insight into the conversation Jesus had with Saul of Tarsus when He appeared to him on the road to Damascus.

Saul/Paul will always keep this commission before him and can easily be found in his letters. *For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,* Col 1:13 A phrase of his ministry *that they may turn from darkness to light* is such a paramount truth as John emphasized Jesus as the *light of the world* John 8:12 *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.* John 1:4-5

The traditions of the church understand this to refer to salvation and forgiveness of sins. Unfortunately we stop there and fail to venture into all that God has prepared for us; *...I came that they might have life and might have it abundantly.* John 10:10b So many people who love Jesus with all their hearts are still living in; darkness, guilt, shame, embarrassment, rebellion, unforgiveness, bitterness, bigotry, and hatred. Many born again Spirit filled Christians are living in a frustrated fruitless state.

Unresolved baggage from our past continually besets us. As we fail to confront these core issues resorting to addictive behavior in order to medicate the wounds and pains hoping to at least find a temporary reprieve. Satan wants nothing

more than to keep us in this darkness, neutralizing our effectiveness in God's kingdom. *And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.* 2Cor 4:3-4

Far too often, men who have been sexually abused as children grow up to act out sexually in very inappropriate ways usually victimizing children themselves. Our human sexuality is a wonderful gift from God. He has created us in His image. Therefore, Satan will use every tool at his disposal to pervert the very thing that God created beautifully. Here's where the darkness enters, instead of dealing with these issues (the sexual immorality) in our lives, we cover and hide our behavior choosing rather to live in our shame and guilt.

Is the church a safe place? James 5:16a *Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed...* How many Christians reading this letter have ever felt safe enough to stand in front of their church family and confess their deepest darkest sins that they are struggling with? Pornography, adultery, homosexuality, sexual abuse of children, alcohol abuse, drug abuse, gluttony, so many things that are definitively destructive to ourselves and those around us and yet we choose to live in this darkness rather than confront and conquer them. Satan wants nothing more than this! *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.* 1Peter 5:8

Far too many of us feel utterly hopeless never even daring to believe things can get better. If Jesus truly came that we might *have life, and have it abundantly*, than He lied or we are missing the boat! *Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.* Psalm 119:105

*Thy word I have treasured in my heart that I may not sin against Thee.* Psalm 119:11

The church's answer is "pray harder, read your

Bible more, try harder" often this serves little more than putting a band-aid on an infected wound. The deep wounds and causes that are the catalysts for our addictive behavior must be rooted out and dealt with. *I acknowledged my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; and Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin.* Psalm 32:5 We must seek out believers that we can trust to walk with us pursuing godliness and righteousness. We must break the cycle of this behavior and begin to live before our children and grandchildren a life of power and love. Wives, reverence your husbands, and husbands love your wives, and do not be embittered against them. Col 3:18-19 *Put on the full armor of God that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.* Eph 6:11

I refuse to accept this reality that we are destined to live in our shame, guilt, and darkness producing nothing of value for the kingdom of God. I refuse to give place to the devil any longer. I refuse to hide in my darkness wallowing in my guilt and shame. I refuse to stand on the sidelines and watch the powerful in Jesus do all the work. *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.* Rom 8:37 *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.* 2Cor 3:17 *For you were called to freedom brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another* Gal 5:13 O God set your church free to serve You

Pastor Steve

## Prayer Concerns

### **Week Ending Feb. 24, 2024**

*John Brannon, Wendy Johnson, Stephanie Mesak, Pastor Bill Pollock, Judy Raines, Nannie Rorrer, Scooter Smith, Sylvia Spooner, Believers of Ukraine*

### **Week Ending Feb. 17, 2024,**

*Jean Foster, Charlotte Lett, Cleo Miller & Sally Miller, Gary Reed, Steve Shrewsberry, Loved ones in Israel & Palestine, Linda Underwood, Wisdom for our government*

### **Week Ending Feb 10, 2024**

*Emma Chandonnett, Bud Raines, Jeri Spooner, Family of Sheila Tennant, Family of Clarence Underwood*

#### **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  
Ridge Care Assisted Living: Ralph Repass*

#### **Mark Your Calendars!**

##### **Tuesday, March 5 2024**

*Church Council—7:00 p.m.*

##### **Tuesday, March 12 2024**

*Elders Meeting — 6:00 p.m.*

*Ministry Teams —6:30 p.m.*

*Board Meeting — 7:00p.m.*

#### **Social Media Broadcast**

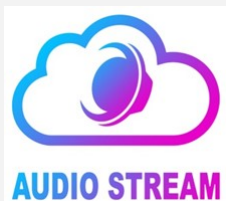
*Follow us on Facebook at First Christian Princeton WV.*

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*Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV*

*E-mail: [fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com)*

*Phone Live Stream: 1-833-336-0457*



## With Sympathy

We offer our love and sympathy to the family of:

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** who passed away on February 7, 2024

## Memorial Gift Fund

Memorial gifts have been given in loving memory of:

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** by Kenneth Tennant & Family

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** by Brenda B Raines

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** by Nancy Kirkendall

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** by Larry Wimmer

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** by Leonard & Sylvia Beckett

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** by David & June Bailey

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** by Jim & Brenda Nofsinger

† **Sheila Gay Tennant** by Sam & Margaret Conner

## MARCH 2024

Elders: Sam Conner Larry Wimmer

Deacons: Dan Crutchfield, Randy Winfrey

Deaconess: Tonni Bennett, Barbara Terry

Lay Reader: Linda Cheverton

## Christian Women Fellowship

Christian Women will meet on **Thursday, March 7, at 11:00 a.m.** We will meet in the upstairs lounge.

## Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship and fun.

## From the Archives



The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was the first widespread nondenominational youth organization in American churches, which was started by pastor Francis E. Clark to preserve the results of special meetings in connection with the Week of Prayer, January 1881. It soon spread to other churches and ultimately around the world but eventually declined as many denominations withdrew to form their own youth societies.

Our congregation was active in the movement, as reported in an article in the April 4, 1935 edition of the *Princeton Observer*. Long time members will recognize the name Wilson Carter in the list of attendees from our congregation.

“Local C. E. Workers Attend Joint Meeting in Bluefield

Members of the Christian Endeavor of the Presbyterian and Christian churches of Princeton attended a joint meeting of the Christian Endeavor Unions of Tazewell County, Virginia, and Mercer County, West Virginia, on Friday evening, in the First Christian Church of Bluefield, Va. A most interesting program was presented by members of the hostess church. Business of both unions was transacted. The Christian church of Princeton invited the Mercer County union to hold its next meeting here. The banner for the largest attendance of the Mercer County union was awarded to the Presbyterian society of this city.

Those attending from Princeton were: Christian church, Ann Lawrence, Louise Crotty, Evelyn Charlton and Wilson Carter, president; Presbyterian church, Mrs. H. T. Wilson, Mrs. A. L. Green, Misses Ora Redmon, Chloe Wolford, Florence Wilson, Katherine Mahood, Anita Vermilyea, Sara McConnell, Veta Martin, Beth Mahood, Belisa Rich, Maxine Vermilyea, and Messrs. W. R. Smith, pastor; R. F. Lucas, Wayne Collinson, Bill McClung, Bernard Massey, Joe Sturdivant, Arthur Green, Arthur Redmon, and Herbert Thompson.”



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

# March 2024

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Feb 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> </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></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Feb 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			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 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>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Apr 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						1	2
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3 <i>James Brogan; Parker Hall; Willie Nelson</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	4	5 <i>Misty Peal; Katie Coburn</i> 2:30 PM Straley Homework Session 7:00 PM Church Council	6 <i>Jennifer Wimmer, Emory Testa, Brad Ball</i> 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	7 <i>Aaron Reed</i> 11:00 AM Christian Women Fellowship 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	8	9 <i>Lora Harman; Mina Reed</i>																																																																																																	
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24 Palm Sunday 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service	25 <i>Steven Peal</i>	26 <i>Keith Duncan</i>	27 GPMA Holy Week Service TBA	28 <i>Buddy Raines</i> 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Service	29 Good Friday <i>Vickie Harry; Bill Sherwood; Jerry Tennant; Jeanie Wills</i>	30 <i>Carol Howard</i>																																																																																																	
31 <i>Michael &amp; Christie Reed</i> <i>Leona Jackson</i> Easter Sunday 7:00 AM Sunrise Service 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Worship Service																																																																																																							



### Prayer for an Easter Morning Sunrise

Lord we lift our hearts to you. As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment knowing that we are one with the risen Christ.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you. As the sunrises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful colors of promise in your Word.

Lord, we lift our prayers to you. As the dew air falls, may we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth, you sustain us, keep us and work within us always.

And so, we lift our voices to you. We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light. May we ever live to praise you! Amen



### Worship



The Handbell Choir will practice on **Thursday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m.** Even if you don't read music, you're welcome to join us. We'll work with you. You probably have more talent than you realize. Please let Barbara Forrest or Linda Cheverton now if you are interested in joining the Handbell Choir.



This Easter Special offering benefits the Zimbabwe Church Project to build the roof for the new church. The Easter Offering will be received on **Sunday, March 24 and 31, 2024.**

Maundy Thursday is part of the celebration of Easter and marks the night of the Last Supper as told in the Bible. Maundy Thursday Communion service will be on **March 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** Come, fellowship with us in this special service.



Easter Sunrise Service is on **Sunday, March 31, at 7:00 a.m.** Breakfast will be served immediately following the Sunrise service.

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Larry Wimmer*, for the month of February 2024. We are looking forward to having *Linda Cheverton* as the Lay Reader for the month of March 2024.



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



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