

CHURCH *Life*

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



One of West Virginia's major college schools sport the "Thundering Herd". Marco, the furry buffalo has evolved as the school mascot. The phrase was coined by the sports writer Duke Ridgley in 1925. The phrase stuck and is prominent to this day. Although the "Big Green" remains, the "Thundering Herd" portrays a vivid and powerful message.

Webster defines "herd" as a number of cattle or other large animals feeding or living together, a crowd, the common people masses. Jennifer Roling in her article titled "Theories of Herd Mentality" defines a herd as a biological imperative that causes animals to act together as if they were a single-minded organism. Wikipedia parallels as behavior in a group acting collectively without central organization. Learning about particular animal herd behavior makes for a very interesting documentary on how they migrate, procreate, and even protect their young.

Often, humans will behave in what is coined as "herd mentality". The behavior of following the crowd or not thinking for oneself would be categorized under this listing. Mrs. Roling listed two primary reasons for the cause of this phenomena; Pattern-Based model – Individuals follow the crowd, because they assume others know more than they do, or Transmission-Based model – some follow the crowd because of social norms.

The truth is that this herd mentality can be used in either a positive or negative manner. We see this effect within our schools as children will follow the crowd knowing full well the behavior that they are engaging is neither proper nor correct. We also see the effects of those who stood against the crowd and were mocked, ridiculed, and shunned. Sometimes even the courageous actions of a few were able to dissuade the negative movement of the masses.

Flipping the coin over we find many positive effects the herd mentality can have on a culture. Many harmful and destructive movements have been diluted and even halted by an effective application of a positive movement.

The psychology of herd mentality is studied and effectively applied to all modern cultures regardless of nationality or geography. The inherent strength in our global social network communications systems has transformed our world into a mass breeding ground to fertilize and cultivate an army prepared to move on command. Many jokingly comment, "If it's on the internet it must be true! Right?" News broadcasts and political speeches are often quotes as established fact and dependable. I have seen within my own extended family, social media used to manipulate and transform the thinking processes of this up and coming generation. Wokeism, coined in the early 1960's whose definition was to be awake to social injustices and problems in our culture, has become a leading social transformer within our younger generation. However, we have seen this movement, often energized through herd mentality, being used to divide and separate large portions of our population. Many young people have aggressively and vehemently rebelled against their Christian upbringing.

The youth of this generation desperately need to be taught how to think critically, the necessity to diligently search out and find the truth of a matter. We however, have not only failed to teach them, but we ourselves succumbed to the lazy man's attitude of picking the low hanging fruit unwilling to do what is necessary to find the truth ourselves. We fill our minds with senseless garbage and willingly believe what we are told. Paul wrote to his young disciple Timothy; *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly*

dividing the word of truth. 2Tim 2:15 (JKV)

When it comes to utilizing the potential of this herd mentality, the author of Hebrews states; *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds*, the necessity for us to come together that we might utilize the gifts that we have been given is reflected in the following verse, *not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.* Heb 10:24-25 This world is going to continually digress to a point where the anti-christ will easily step into power and manipulate the people. All the more as we see this time approaching, we must be courageous, standing against the overwhelming flood moving against us. The truth of the gospel must be shared in our words and actions without hesitation or apology. Right and wrong, holiness and sin, truth and lies, the Bible clearly defined these and must not be redefined nor diluted. Our church membership and citizenship in this wonderful country must be counted sacred as we diligently serve in truth and honor. We must reject human tendency to follow the crowd forsaking all that this world has to offer us, *fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...* Heb 12:2a We are the generation that will possibly face the ushering in of the end times and the great tribulation. We are the generation that may possibly see the fulfillment of the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Steve

Prayer Concerns

Week Ending April 22, 2023

Ron Hesson, Sr., Pastor Bill Pollock, Believers of Ukraine, Jerry Wimmer

Week Ending April 15, 2023,

Rosemary Sue Bullins, Dan Dunmyer, Mike Elmore, Family of Eileen Mooney, Loretta Mooney, Gary Reed

Week Ending April 8, 2023

Betty Blankenship, Pete Carter, Diane Forbes, Charlotte Lett, Rodney Williams

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
Stonerise Princeton: Gary Reed
Stonerise Princeton: Betty Blankenship*

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, May 9, 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



With Sympathy

We offer our love and sympathy to the family of:

† **Eileen Mooney** who passed away on April 14, 2023.



May 2023

Elder: Sam Conner, Larry Wimmer
Deacon: Willie Nelson, Randy Winfrey
Deaconess: Linda Kaluk, Tia Kaluk
Lay Reader: Braxton Testa

Panic Bars

Our new panic bars have been installed: (1) Straley Avenue – Office Door, (2) Eighth Street – Narthex Center Door of Triple Doors, and (3) Cloister – One of Double Doors.

Going forward, the following security procedure will be implemented. Shortly after 11:00 AM, the Straley Avenue – Office Door panic bar will be engaged. You will be able to exit by that door but not enter. The Straley Avenue – Narthex Door will be locked. The panic bar will be engaged on the Eighth Street – Narthex Center Door of Triple Doors and that door will be watched.

Remember: (1) the only access to the church after worship starts is Eighth Street – Narthex Center Door of Triple Doors, and (2) you can exit the church at any time through (a) Straley Avenue – Office Door, (b) Straley Avenue – Narthex Door, and (c) Eighth Street – Narthex Center Door of Triple Door.
Randy Winfrey

Disciples Women

Disciples Women will meet on **Thursday, May 4 at 11:00 a.m.** in the upstairs lounge.

Senior Breakfast

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

From the Archives



James Harrison Johnston, often called Uncle Jimmie, was an organizer of our congregation.

Mr. Johnston was born February 2, 1839, in eastern Virginia. He served as a private in the Confederate Army and moved to Princeton after the Civil War where he married Elvira Givens in 1868 (this union produced a total of ten children). A few years later, he moved to Narrows, VA, where he lived for 35 years, returning to Princeton in 1906. While in Narrows, he organized the First Christian Church of Narrows in 1895. He was a talented carpenter and blacksmith and helped in the construction of their first church, which was located on the edge of Narrows. This building was used by the congregation until their current facility on Memorial Boulevard was constructed in the 1950s.

He helped to organize our congregation in 1907. Although a record of his early service to the congregation has yet to be found, he probably served as lay preacher, at least part-time, until our first full time pastor, P.M. Baber, was called in 1910. Not too long after his arrival, Pastor Baber ordained Mr. Johnston and Milton Warren Christie as our first elders.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnston remained in Princeton until their passing; Elvira in 1915 and James in 1918.

Mr. Johnston was the great-great grandfather of Linda Kaluk.

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

May 2023

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
	<i>1</i> <i>Nicholas Haynes</i>	<i>2</i> 7:00 PM Church Council	<i>3</i> <i>Kristen Bailey McReynolds</i> 11:00 AM Adult Prayer Hour & 7:00PM 5:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Children's Program	<i>4</i> 12:00 PM National Day of Prayer 4:00 PM Handbell Choir	<i>5</i> <i>Patty Peck Bailey</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Adrena Okes; Annette Tilley</i>																																																																																																									
<i>7</i> <i>Cynthia Forrest Duncan; Gary Reed</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:30 PM Spring Bible Study Fellowship Dinner	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> <i>Jessica Tilley</i> 9:00AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams 7:00 PM Board Meeting	<i>10</i> <i>Billy & Lora Harman</i> 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 5:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Children's Program	<i>11</i> <i>Lawrence Reed</i> 4:00 PM Handbell Choir	<i>12</i> <i>Craig Okes</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Vicki Hayner</i>																																																																																																									
<i>14</i> Mother's Day 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	<i>15</i> <i>Memory Bhebehe</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> <i>Fred Toney</i> 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 5:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Children's Program	<i>18</i> <i>Ben Brownlee</i> 4:00 PM Handbell Choir	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>																																																																																																									
<i>21</i> <i>Devonna Coffey</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	<i>22</i> <i>Grant Bennett</i>	<i>23</i> <i>Fred Bailey</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Jared Repass</i> 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 5:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Children's Program	<i>25</i> 4:00 PM Handbell Choir	<i>26</i> <i>Randy & Drema Wall</i>	<i>27</i>																																																																																																									
<i>28</i> Pentecost <i>Ian Candler</i> 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	<i>29</i> Memorial Day <i>Loretta Mooney</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 5:30 PM Chancel Choir 7:00 PM Children's Program	<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> <table border="1"> <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></td> <td></td> <td>1 2 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>		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							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		
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Worship Junior Praise Team

On Palm **Sunday, April 2, 2023**, the congregation of First Christian Church was surprised by the newly formed *Junior Praise Team*. Singing and playing to the glory of God were *Enoch* on the piano, *Kade* on the guitar, *Braxton* on the drums, and *Uriah* on the bongo. Singers were *Channing*, *Tessa*, *Princess* and *Violet*.



FCC Safety Team

From the Safety Team

The Safety Team has applied for funding for a security camera system from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

The world and the neighborhood have changed significantly since our church was built. The days when security meant remembering to lock the church at the end of the day are long gone. On **January 19, 2023**, the Princeton Police Department did a vulnerability assessment of the building. They noted that there are many hallways and many rooms, most with unlocked doors, and recommended getting a camera system. Because of the complexity of the building, it would be very difficult to detect or find an intruder intent on theft, vandalism or doing us harm.

We have requested \$57,232 from FEMA for a total of 17 cameras plus supporting equipment and software. (Many thanks to Larry Wimmer for connecting us with a competent video systems contractor in the Parkersburg area.) If our application is accepted, we would get funding near the beginning of the federal fiscal year (**October 1**) and the project would be completed before the end of this calendar year.

Membership

Mother's Day is **Sunday, May14th**. We will be celebrating and honoring the mothers and women of the church. *Donna Reeves, Membership Ministry*


Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Linda Kaluk* for the month of **April**. We are looking forward to having, *Braxton Testa* as the Lay Reader for the month of **May**.



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Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister
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