

# CHURCH *Life*

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



Casting Crowns lead singer Mark Hall wrote and released a song Feb 2004 titled "Who Am I". The song starts; "Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth, would care to know my name, would care to feel my hurt." What an amazing thought! This song comes back to me quite often as I am constantly reminded that the God of creation, the One; *who sits above the vault of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.* Isaiah 40:22 This same God cares about me, loves me, invests in me.

The song will continue; "Who am I that the bright and morning star, would choose to light the way, for my ever wandering heart." Not only God our Father, but Jesus our Savior also shares that concern for us with that same intensity. *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* Rom 5:8 *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 8:39 While we were still enemies of God, He still chose to sacrifice Himself for us. Who am I? How can I be so blessed?

My response to these thoughts can only begin with thanksgiving. To be given so much so freely again causes me to step back and declare, who am I? ... *Give thanks to Him and bless His holy name.* Psalm 100:4b *Therefore I will give thanks to Thee among the nations, O LORD, and I will sing praises to Thy name.* Psalm 18:49 To the Ephesian church Paul declared;

*...but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.* Ephesians 5:18b-20

I find it interesting that this thankfulness that builds within my heart often expresses itself in praise and singing. This result is quite common in the scriptures as well. *Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; come before Him with joyful singing... Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name.* Psalm 100:1-4 As we gather together in His name and enter His gates, too often this expression of joy and thanksgiving is either stifled or nonexistent. The devil would like nothing more than to distract us from one of the primary purposes for our gathering. Our focus on style and process hinders us and even forbids us to participate because we dislike the song or the instruments being used. Glory and praise that belongs to God our Creator and Jesus our Savior are being withheld behind locked lips and disgruntled faces. Who am I?

The second half of verse two goes as follows; "Who am I that the voice who calmed the sea, would call out through the rain and calm the storm in me." Many of us have storms raging within our hearts. We find ourselves like Jonah who was thrown into the raging sea. Everywhere we look storms are raging around us. We find ourselves, which I believe to be the final generation, in a world facing horrors and tribulations unlike the world has ever seen before. The birth pangs that are growing in intensity are

wearing away at the strongest of hearts. The same Jesus who calmed the storm from the back of a fishing boat, can and will calm the storms in our lives and hearts, this same Jesus who was there and spoke creation into existence can and will speak into our lives peace, joy and love.

How many of us truly understand the depths of God's love for us. How deep, how wide, how great is that love! Sadly, many of us spend the vast majority of our lives pouting and complaining, ungratefully as we fail to look closely at His great gift of love to us. We spend the vast majority of our lives living for ourselves, our dreams, our plans as we fail to look closely and His great gift to us. When we respond like Paul, and not until then, can we even begin to reciprocate that love; *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.* Gal. 2:20

Heavenly Father forgive us for our apathy, arrogance, and pride. *Create in us a clean hearts, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within us.* Psalm 51:10 Grow within us a heart of thanksgiving and praise. May all who enter the gates of Your house cry out, "truly God is in your midst". Be glorified O God!

Pastor Steve



**Prayer Concerns****Week Ending Sept. 23, 2023***Margaret Conner, Barbara Terry***Week Ending Sept. 16, 2023,***Joan Hunter. Pastor Bill Pollack, Scooter Smith, Believers of Ukraine***Week Ending Sept. 9, 2023***Memory Bhebhe, Joyce Coburn, Wendy Johnson, Family of Stephen McDaniel, Gary Reed, Mary Jane Rorre, Family of Henry Turner***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, Evelyn Jenkins***Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement Facilities:***The Havens: Peggy White  
The Havens: Cleo Halsey  
Stonerise Princeton: Gary Reed***Mark Your Calendars!****Tuesday, October 3, 2023***Church Council—7:00p.m.***Tuesday, October 10, 2023***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](http://firstchristianprincetonwv.org)**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:

† *Violet Belcher* who passed away on August 30, 2023**Memorial Gift Fund**

Memorial gifts have been given in loving memory of:

† *Marvin “Pete” Carter* by Linda Cheverton† *Violet Belcher* by Margaret Edmunds† *Violet Belcher* by Sam & Margaret Conner† *Violet Belcher* by Randy & Drema Wall† *Violet Belcher* by Joe & Elaine Simmons† *Violet Belcher* by Larry Wimmer† *Violet Belcher* by Veronica M. Taylor**OCTOBER 2023**

Elders: Michael Reed, Kenneth Reeves, Larry Wimmer

Deacons: Willie Nelson, Randy Winfrey

Deaconess: Darlene Hall, Linda Kaluk

Lay Reader: Ishmael Bhebhe

**Christian Women Fellowship**Christian Women will meet on **Thursday, October 5 at 11:00 a.m.**

We will meet in the upstairs lounge.

**Senior Breakfast**Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, October 10 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship and fun.**From the Archives**

Within recent days, the women of our congregation have returned to the usage of an old and respected name: the Christian Women's Fellowship.

In 1908, the women of the congregation met in the home of Mrs. M.W. Christie and organized our first women's group, the Ladies Aid Society, which had an important role in our early days. Through various money-making projects, these ladies raised enough money by 1916 to purchase a parsonage on Highland Avenue for the church. The Ladies Aid Society continued to do important work for many years.

Women in other churches in the denomination organized under one of three names: the Ladies Aid Society, the Women's Missionary Society, and the Women's Council. During a conference held at Turkey Run State Park in Indiana, January 8-17, 1949, a plan was formulated to unite these three organizations into a single organization. The recommended plan was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Christian Missionary Society at their regular meeting May 17-18, 1949. Subsequently, a committee was appointed to study suggestions and prepare plans and manuals for the organizational pattern and July 1, 1950, was set as the official launching date for the new organization: the Christian Women's Fellowship



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

# October 2023

*First Christian Church*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<b>1</b> Steve & Sylvia Spooner Mary Ellen Hill 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:00 PM Fall Bible Study	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Jerry & Sheila Tennant Christina Dawson Cartwright 2:30 PM -3:30 PM Straley Homework Session 7:00 PM Church Council	<b>4</b> Brad Carter, Jennifer Howard, Jennifer Stinson 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 11:00 AM 7:00 PM Children's Program	<b>5</b> Devin Honaker, Jennifer Reed O'Neal 11:00 AM Christian Womens Fellowship 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>6</b> Neal Bennett; Teresa Milam	<b>7</b>																																																																																																		
<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:00 PM Fall Bible Study	<b>9</b> Travis Harry, Terra Rose Cook	<b>10</b> 9:00 AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel 6:00 PM Elders Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Teams	<b>11</b> 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	<b>12</b> 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>13</b> Freddie & Carol Howard	<b>14</b>																																																																																																		
<b>15</b> Judy Raines 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:00 PM Fall Bible Study	<b>16</b> Erika Bowling Sutton; Kalin Falden; Randy Repass	<b>17</b> 2:30 PM -4:00 PM Straley Homework Session	<b>18</b> 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	<b>19</b> Braxton Testa 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>20</b> David Stinson	<b>21</b> David Cooper																																																																																																		
<b>22</b> Channing Anderson 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM <b>HOMECOMING 2023</b> Rev. Gary Lyons	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 2:30 PM -4:00 PM Straley Homework Session	<b>25</b> 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study & 7:00PM 7:00 PM Children's Program	<b>26</b> Kimberly Alexander 6:00 PM Handbell Choir	<b>27</b> Barbara Forrest; Melissa Richardson White 2:30 PM -4:00 PM Good News Club	<b>28</b> Beth Conner; Kaile Lester; Kendra Harman Morris																																																																																																		
<b>29</b> Operation Christmas Child Box Pick-up Ellen Hill 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service 6:00 PM Fall Bible Study	<b>30</b> Kenny Crotty; Payton Lester	<b>31</b> 2:30 PM -4:00 PM Straley Homework Session	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Sep 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>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 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>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Sep 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	Nov 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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**Discipleship**

As we have been praying for several years for God to open an avenue of ministry to Straley Elementary School, God has been gracious to answer our prayers. There are three immediate opportunities for this outreach; one, we will be helping children with their homework on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30. Snacks distribution as well as safety and child dismissal help is also needed; secondly, we will be hosting a Good News Club soon so help will be needed with that as well; thirdly, we would like to partner with First Methodist in helping to provide food to needy school children. Please pray about the opportunities and seek to get involved where you can.

**Membership**

Homecoming **Sunday is October 22nd!** Rev. Gary Lyons will be our guest speaker. There will be a lunch following the service. Tell all your friends and family! We are looking forward to seeing everyone! This is our first Homecoming in several years. Thank you *.Donna Reeves Membership*

**Outreach**

Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child boxes will be available for pick-up **Sunday, October 29th.** If you are unfamiliar with this project, please read the material that will be available with the boxes. These boxes go all over the world to needy children. Boxes must be returned to the church on **Sunday, November 12th.** The good news is that there will be **no cost** for the shipping these boxes as there has been in the past.

**Fill A Bag, Feed A Family**

In December we will help the Salvation Army with their food bank at Christmas Time. Grocery bags will be available for pick-up with a list of suggested food items. More information will be available next month.

**Worship**

We wish to thank the Lay Readers, *Haleigh Murphy* for the month of **September.** We are looking forward to having *Ishmael Bhebhe* as the Lay Reader for the month of **October.**



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



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